The Hindu News Analysis – 25th September 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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*C – Chennai; D – Delhi; T – Thiruvananthapuram; B – Bengaluru; H – Hyderabad
Manual Scavenging

- Practice of manually cleaning, carrying, disposing or handling the human excreta from dry latrines and sewers in any manner.
  - Tools → Buckets, brooms, baskets
- Manual Scavengers - poorest & most disadvantaged communities in India

Legislations

  - Applicable in 1st instances in few states and UTs (Article 262(1))

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.
- Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- 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.
**Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013**

- **Basis:**
  - Uphold the dignity of the individual
    - Part III - Right to live with dignity (Implicit Right)
  - Moral duty of the State to protect the weaker sections
    - Article 46 - Promote the interests of the weaker sections and protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation

**Key features:**
- Prohibits the construction and maintenance of insanitary toilets
- Prohibits the engagement or employment of any individual as a manual scavenger
- Violations → Imprisonment/Fine/Both
- Prohibits a person from being engaged or employed for hazardous cleaning of a sewer or septic tank
- Offences → Cognizable and non-bailable

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**National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)**
- Constituted on 12th August, 1994 as a Statutory body
  - The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993
    - Lapsed in 2004
    - NCSK → Non-Statutory body
  - Under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
  - Tenure → Extended through Government Resolutions

**Composition**
- Chairman
- 4 members (1 female)
- Secretary
- Supporting Staff

**Functions**
- Recommend specific programmes of action to Central Govt. towards elimination of inequalities of Safai Karamcharis
- Study and evaluate the implementation of programs and schemes relating to social and economic rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis
Investigate specific grievances and take suo-motu notice of matters relating to non-implementation of

* Programmes/schemes
* Decisions/guidelines/instructions
* Measures for social and economic upliftment
* Provisions of any law

Study and monitor the working conditions of Safai Karamcharis and make recommendations

Monitor the implementation of "The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013"

National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation

- "Not for Profit" company
- Works under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Provides financial assistance & skill development trainings to ensure the socio-economic upliftment of Safai Karamcharis

News

- Chairman of NCSK

Delhi Govt. has given compensation only to 46/64 sewer death victims

Delhi Govt. has not taken enough steps to stop sewer deaths

Data Point:

- Survey → Conducted by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (At the behest of NITI Aayog)
  → 170 districts in 18 states
  → 54,130 people involved in manual scavenging (Upto 15th July 2019)
  → Insanitary Latrines → 26.06 Lakh

Despite the Census recording a significant number of service latrines in these States, the number of manual scavengers was not reported.
Another chance in Afghanistan

Donald Trump’s calling off of Taliban peace talks is in India’s advantage. No outreach to the outfit could secure it.

PAPER II

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.

- India and its neighborhood- relations.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests, Indian diaspora.

PAPER-IV

General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.

- History of US - Afghanistan relations
  - 1979: Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
    - Mujahideens supported by US, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia
  - 1989: Victory for Mujahideens
    - Emergence of Taliban
  - 2001: 9/11 attacks in USA
    - US Invasion of Afghanistan
- US - Taliban peace talk - called off
- Situation back to the beginning

- Impact on Afghanistan
  - More bloodshed
  - Afghanistan government - not unhappy
  - If deal with Taliban in future - need commitments on its domestic behaviour

- Implications for India:
  - US - Taliban deal: Would have strengthened Taliban and Pakistan
  - Pakistan - use Taliban for anti-India activities
  - Non-negotiated withdrawal of US - disastrous
  - Best for India - Negotiated deal
  - Taliban in power - Indian assets in Afghanistan under pressure
City vendors to get legal status
CM announces implementation of Street Vending Act

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
New Delhi
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday announced that the Capital would soon implement the Street Vending Act, 2014, which will provide legal protection to street vendors and hawkers. The government has decided to form a committee to look into the issue. The government has taken steps to ensure that they are notified to give legal status to street vendors. They will also have to have proper permits and certificates. The CM said that street vending was not prohibited, it is also led to traffic jams and pollution, however, if done properly, it can be a boon for the economy. The CM also said that the "Ghori Act will be implemented from the 1st of January. The Act will allow hawkers to vend in a specified area after getting a certificate from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)."

Hawkers' body protests
A body of hawkers, who have been protesting in front of the MCD office, said that they were not opposed to the implementation of the Act, but they wanted it to be implemented properly. They said that if the Act is not implemented properly, it will lead to traffic jams and pollution.

Impact on Kashmir:
- Taliban elements in Kashmir - similar to 1989
- More Kashmiri youth to militancy

Future talks with Taliban - should involve guarantees to deter its undesirable behaviour

India should engage in talks with Taliban without hurting Afghan Government
Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014

- Enacted to protect the rights of urban street vendors and to regulate street vending activities
- Rights and obligations of the street vendors
  - Rights and duties of street vendors
  - Maintenance of cleanliness and public hygiene
  - Maintenance of civic amenities in vending zones
  - Maintenance charges
- Regulation of Street vending
  - Survey of street vendors and protection from eviction or relocation
  - Issue of vending certificates
    - Category - Criteria - Validity and renewal
- Provisions of this act not applicable to any land, premises and trains owned and controlled by the Railways
- Section 22 - Town Vending Committees (TVC)
  - State Govt shall issue rules for constituting a town vending committee in each local authority
    - More than one TVC if necessary
    - TVC for each zone/ward if necessary

Composition of Town Vending Committee

- Members nominated by the State Govts. who represent the local authority
  - NGO and community based organisation
  - Representation shall not be less than 10%
    - Street vendors Not less than 40%
      - 1/3rd - woman vendors
- Main function
  - Regulation of street vending activities
- Section 26(3)
  - Each town vending committee shall carry out social audit of its activities under the Act/Rules or schemes made under the Act

News

- Delhi → 1st to implement the Street Vendors Act, 2014
- All Town Vending Committees has been constituted by Delhi Government
- Disadvantages of not streamlining street vending
  - Traffic hindrances
  - Street vendors → Considered illegal activities
    - Harassment by Police or civic body officials
  - Extortion of money from street vendors
- Each TVC → 30 members
  → 12/30 members - Street vendors (40%)

- Section 3 of the Street Vendors Act, 2011

- TVC shall conduct a survey of all the existing street vendors within the area of its jurisdiction

- Delhi Govt. has asked civic bodies to conduct surveys
  - Expected to be completed in one or two months

- Street vendors to be given certificates

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Senior citizens savings scheme needs full tax break, says SBI report

'Such a move will protect returns and have minimal impact on fiscal deficit'

**SPECIAL COVERAGE**

Even as some banks are planning to link deposit rates with central benchmark rates, floating lending rate to reduce, a report by State Bank of India (SBI) suggested full tax breaks for senior citizen savings scheme to protect returns.

According to the report, authored by Sourav Kanti Bhattacharyya, the scheme is demand driven. Hence, if such deposits are taxed at the same rate as other deposits, the government's net advantage will be limited.

The report estimated that senior citizens saved deposits in FY19 will constitute 24.6% of the consumption expenditure in FY19. With interest rates down and if deposit rates are linked to repo rate similar to loan rates, the net advantage for government will be limited.

The report estimated that these deposits on the current interest rate is 8.4%. However, the interest on such deposits is fully taxable.

**PAPER IV**

**General Studies-II: Technology, Economic Development, Bio diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management**

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
- Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.
• RBI: Personal loans to be linked to any one of the external benchmark rate of RBI. Eg: Repo rate.
• Public Sector banks linking lending rates to repo rate.
• Plan to link deposit rates to benchmark rate.
  - Economic slowdown - reduced repo rate to infuse more money - linking savings to repo rate will reduce interest return.

SBI Suggested: Full tax break for Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS)

- SCSS - Senior Citizens up to Rs.15 Lakh deposit
  - Current interest rate - 8.6%
  - Tenure: 6 years + can be extended for three more years.
  - Interest earned - 'taxable'
  - At present - 141 million senior citizen term deposit accounts.
  - Total deposit - Rs.14 lakh crores.
  - 7% of GDP of India.

• Interest income from SCSS deposits
  - 5.6% of Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE)
  - PFCE - Consumption expenditure of households + non-profit institutions serving households.

• Corporate tax cut → Revenue loss of Rs.1.45 Lakh Crore
  - Increase in fiscal deficit to 3.6% for FY 2019-20 from 3.3% target.
  - Full tax rebate to SCSS earnings - very less revenue loss to govt - Rs.3092 Crore.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements about National Commission for Safai karmacharis.

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

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. Article 252 of Indian Constitution mentions the power of parliament to legislate

a) a matter in the state list in the national interest.
b) any matter in the state list if a proclamation of emergency is in operation.
c) any law for giving effect to international agreements.
d) any law for two or more states by the consent of those states.

Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding town vending committees.

1. They are constituted as per the provision of Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.
2. Street vendors are not the members of this committee.
3. This committee is mandated to carry out social audit of its activities under the above mentioned Act or the rules or the schemes made as per the above mentioned Act.

Which of the above statements is/are not correct?

a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) None of the above

Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. Consider the following statements:

1. Under the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, a senior citizen can deposit up to 50 lakh rupees.
2. The interest earned under SCSS is taxable.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 or 2
Practice Question – Prelims
Q5. Consider the following statements.
1. The tax that is levied on the book profit of a company is called as Minimum Alternate Tax.
2. Surcharge denotes an additional tax levied on the amount of the income tax.
3. Cess is a permanent tax that is levied by the Government of India and usually this is for a specific purpose.
Which of the above statement(s) is or are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

Practice Question – Prelims
Q6. Consider the following statements with respect to the Corporate Social Responsibility.
1. All the companies registered under Companies Act should mandatorily set aside certain proportion of their average net profits in every financial year for activities for the Corporate Social Responsibility Policy of the company.
2. The Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013, lists the activities that may be included by companies in their Corporate Social Responsibility Policies.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Question – Mains
GS – II
Q. Discuss the impacts of the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan on India.