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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H – Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram
Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)

- 3rd generation launch vehicle - after SLV, ASLV
- First Mission - PSLV D1 - in 1993 - unsuccessful
- 1st Successful mission - PSLV D2 - 1994
- 1994 - 2017: 48 Indian + 209 foreign satellites
- To deliver Satellites to Low Earth Orbits
  - Earth observation satellites to Sun-synchronous orbits
  - Low Earth Orbits:
    - No atmospheric drag → Suitable for communication satellites

- Polar Orbits → Orbital path goes near the poles - 90° inclination
- Sun-synchronous → passes over a given point of Earth’s Surface

- Features of PSLV:
  - 4 stages
    - 1st, 3rd - Solid rocket motors
    - 2nd, 4th - Liquid rocket motors
- Most recent launch: PSLV C47 - Cartosat 3 + 13 others
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to PSLV.

1. It is a 3rd generation but three stage launch vehicle.
2. Chandrayaan – 1 mission was launched by PSLV and Mars Orbiter Mission was launched by GSLV.

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

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

Important Facts:

- Two failures → PSLV-D1 in 1993 → PSLV-C39 in 2017
- Important Missions
  * PSLV C11 : Chandrayaan 1 - 2008
  * PSLV C25 : Mars Orbiter Mission - 2013
  * PSLV-C37 : Cartosat 2 + 103 satellites

50th flight of PSLV: PSLV C48
- Scheduled for 11th Dec, 2019
- RISAT - 2 BR1 + 9 small satellites
- RISAT: Radar Imaging Satellite
- PSLV - QL:
  4 Solid strap on motors / boosters
- PSLV - XL:
  6 Solid strap on boosters
Will be frank with Delhi to avoid misunderstandings, says Gotabaya

India and other countries must invest more in Sri Lanka if they want to provide an alternative to Chinese investment.

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Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks) Duration: Two hours
- Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-II
General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.
- History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redistribution of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.—their forms and effect on the society.

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.

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News:

1. Avoiding misunderstanding:
   - Relation with China - Concern friendly
   - Relation with Pakistan - alternative to Chinese investment

2. Port and Oil farm projects in Trincomalee
   - 2017 MoU for cooperation in Economic Projects in Sri Lanka
   - India's cooperation on infrastructure projects in Trincomalee
   - jointly operating & managing oil storage tanks under 50-year lease agreement

India announced $400 million for development projects in Sri Lanka

3 Rights for Tamil-majority areas:

- North & East - most backward
- View of Mr. Gotabaya - focus on development, not on political issues
- Political issue - Devolution of Power
  - 13th Amendment to Sri Lankan Constitution (1987)
  - Creation of "Provincial Councils (PCs)"
  - Based on Indo-Sri Lankan Accord, 1987 - Mechanism to address Tamils issue, etc.

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4. Moving towards more Parliamentary System:
   * 19th amendment to Sri Lankan Constitution
     - Two-term limit for President

5. Hambantota Port Agreement
   * Between Sri Lanka & China
   * Lease for 99 years
   * Concern for India
     - China’s presence in Indian Ocean
   * Mr. Gotabaya’s View → full control to Sri Lankan government

6. Cooperation with India on National Security issue
   * IS is a global threat
   * India & other countries have more information

Practice Question – Mains
GS - II

Q. ‘The time has come for India and Sri Lanka to build a strong contemporary relationship involving global and strategic partnership that will have a great significance for Asia.’ Comment. (10 marks, 150 words)
Fractured verdicts and the Governor’s role

Maharashtra State Legislative Assembly:
* Total Seats: 289 [Elected- 288; Nominated-1]

1. Nominated Members
   - Do not participate in the Election to the office of the President of India and in the Election of members to Rajya Sabha
   - Do participate in the Trust Vote / Vote of Confidence

2. Required Majority: 145

3. Not even a single party has got majority - Hung assembly - Situation in Maharashtra

Governor:
* Invites the leader who commands majority to form the government
* Exercises hidden or situational discretion in this matter (Article 163)
* Required to act upholding the principles of democracy
Sarkaria Commission on Inter-State relations

* Guidance to Governors in inviting leaders to form Govt.
  ➔ Order of Preference:
    1. Pre-poll alliance
    2. Single largest party with others’ Support
    3. Post-poll alliance - all partners joining the government
    4. Post-poll alliance - some joining the government, some giving support from outside

Supreme Court:

* ‘the floor test in the legislative assembly is the only constitutional forum for testing the strength of a ministry’
  ➔ 1994 - S.R. Bommai vs Union of India

* ‘there is nothing wrong in post poll adjustments’
  ➔ 2006 - Rameshwar Prasad and Others vs Union of India

* Ordered ‘Composite Floor Test’
  ➔ Feb 1998 - Jagdambika Pal vs Union of India & Others

Practice Question – Mains
GS - II

Q. What do you mean by a Pre-poll alliance? Discuss the ways in which a Governor can execute his discretion in making invitations to form a stable Government in states, when there is a hung assembly. (150 words, 10 marks)
Why are there objections to the Transgender Persons Bill?

The story so far: Parliament has made it law the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019, which had been framed for the welfare of transgender persons. The Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on August 5 this year, a month after its introduction in the House, and the Rajya Sabha cleared it on November 26, with a last minute move to refer it to a Select Committee being defeated in a voice vote. The community had organised protests across the country, singing changes to the Bill, claiming that in the form in which the Central government had conceived it, it showed a poor understanding of gender and sexual identity.

What were the objections to the Bill?

Activists had problems right from the beginning, starting with the name. “Transgender” was restrictive, they argued, and it showed a lack of understanding of the complexities in people who do not conform to the gender binary. Moreover, they argued that the Bill had serious flaws, because of this and lack of comprehension about gender, some activists also wrote an alternative Bill, changing the name to “gender fluid”, and also removing references to the word “transgender”.

The Bill was meant to be a consequence of the directions of the Supreme Court of India in the NEERI vs. Union of India case judgment, mandating the Central and State governments to ensure legal recognition of all transgender persons and prescribe measures for their welfare. Activists backed this decision in 2018, noting the Union government for failing to live up to the opportunity to ensure that fundamental rights are sanctioned to all people independently of whether they have undergone sex reassignment surgery or not and also that they were not denied justice because of their non-binary gender.

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-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.

Pg. 14 → C, D, H, T

Pg. 12 → B

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019:

* Historical Perspective:

1. Tamil Nadu Transgender Welfare Board - 2008

2. 2013 - Expert Committee under Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

3. Transgender - highly marginalised, vulnerable - lag behind on human development

4. SC judgement: NALSAT Union of India - 2014

- Equal application of fundamental rights
- Right to Self identification
- Centre and States → measures for welfare
**Objections:**

1. Transgender → restrictive term
2. Section 5: Certificate by District Magistrate
3. Affirmative actions - inadequate
4. Members of the community were not consulted
5. Ignored the demand for Council of Intersex persons
6. Section 18 - Offences and Penalties

**Way Forward:**

1. Proactive actions by National Council for Transgender Persons
2. Government must accommodate genuine concerns of the community

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**PRACTICE QUESTIONS DISCUSSION**
Practice Question – Prelims
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d) Neither 1 nor 2 - Answer

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Q. ‘The time has come for India and Sri Lanka to build a strong contemporary relationship involving global and strategic partnership that will have a great significance for Asia.’  Comment. (150 words, 10 marks)
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Q. What do you mean by a Pre-poll alliance? Discuss the ways in which a Governor can execute his discretion in making invitations to form a stable Government in states, when there is a hung assembly. (150 words, 10 marks)