## The Hindu News Analysis – 01\(^{st}\) January 2020 – Shankar IAS Academy

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<th>News Articles</th>
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<td>Ominous glow (Picture)</td>
<td>14 12 14 12 12</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>SC bats against transfer of community resources</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Centre unlikely to fund Cauvery project</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>In the grip of terror (Editorial)</td>
<td>10 8 10 8  -</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Practice cum Revision - MCQs</td>
<td>@end of the video</td>
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One-fifth of country’s forests prone to fires: study

North eastern and central India are the most vulnerable regions, says ISI

One-fifth of India’s forests are prone to wildfires, says a joint study by the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) and the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) released on Friday. The study has so far covered 31 forest divisions in these regions and is the first comprehensive assessment of wildfire risk in the country. It concludes that one-fifth of India’s forests are in a high-risk category for wildfires, and points to climate change and human activities as the major factors driving such risks across the country.

The study, the second phase of the national forest fire risk assessment project, was released under the Ministry of Forest, Environment & Climate Change. The data shows that the central Indian region including Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and parts of Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh is at the highest risk of wildfires. As per the report, in the last 10 years alone, these regions have witnessed more than 12,000 wildfires.

Dorab Hotel, former chairperson of the National Green Tribunal, has welcomed the report, saying it should be used to conserve the country’s rich biodiversity. “It is a wake-up call to the government and the people of the country. We should take this seriously and act accordingly,” he said. The report, which is an outcome of a comprehensive assessment of the risk of wildfires, was released on the occasion of World Environment Day.

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.

PAPER II

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

- Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

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.

PAPER IV


- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
- Disaster and disaster management.

- Forest fires → Wildfires or Bushfires
  - uncontrolled fire which occurs in field, grass and bush, forest

- Consequences of forest fires
  - loss of biodiversity
  - major driver of damage caused to forest → loss of forest and ecosystem services.

- Side effects → increasing spread of weeds, soil erosion → loss of regeneration

National Action Plan on Forest Fires, 2018

- To reduce incidents of fire by informing, enabling and empowering forest fringe community

- incentivising them to work in tandem with State Forest Departments

- To reduce vulnerability of forests against fire hazards

- enhance the capabilities of institutions in fighting fires

- accelerating the recovery
9 Strategies – Establishment of “Centre of Excellence on Forest Fire Management” at FSI.

FSI to provide forest fire alerts

→ Collaborative arrangement → NASA - ISRO
→ ISRO - FSI

Comparison between the two satellite systems viz. MODIS and SNPP-VIIRS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>MODIS</th>
<th>SNPP-VIIRS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sensor</td>
<td>36 spectral bands (channel 21, 22, 31)</td>
<td>5 HR Imagery channels (I-bands), 16 moderate resolution channels (M-bands), and a D/N Band (M13 and M15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satellite</td>
<td>Aqua and Terra</td>
<td>Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership (SNPP) satellite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Launch</td>
<td>Dec 1999 and May 2002</td>
<td>Oct 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algorithm</td>
<td>Contextual</td>
<td>Thresholding and Contextual (Hybrid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equatorial Pass</td>
<td>Terra: 10:30 am &amp; 10:30 pm; Aqua: 01:30 am &amp; 01:30 pm</td>
<td>01:30 am and 01:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolution</td>
<td>1 km x 1km</td>
<td>375m x 375m &amp; 750m x 750m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Work flow of near real time forest fire monitoring
**Forest fire Points (FFP) identified during 2004 - 2017 → 4,77,758**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Forest Fire Prone Classes</th>
<th>No. of Grids</th>
<th>Forest Cover* (in sq km)</th>
<th>% of Total forest cover</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Extremely fire prone</td>
<td>665</td>
<td>25,617</td>
<td>3.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Very highly fire prone</td>
<td>2,259</td>
<td>59,500</td>
<td>6.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Highly fire prone</td>
<td>3,701</td>
<td>75,952</td>
<td>11.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Moderately fire prone</td>
<td>5,496</td>
<td>96,422</td>
<td>14.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Less fire prone</td>
<td>57,489</td>
<td>4,20,625</td>
<td>63.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>69,617</td>
<td>6,58,116</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Forest Cover in the above table excludes Trees Outside Forest (TOF) area.

**Map showing forest areas under different fire prone classes**

**Reasons for forest fires**
- Man-made
  - Slash and Burn/ Jhoom/ Jhum cultivation
  - Leaving burning bidis, cigarettes, other inflammable materials in forest.
- Natural → Thunderstorm, etc.
Security beefed up ahead of Bhima Koregaon anniversary

Bhima-Koregaon village prepares for historic day

Security beefed up in village as locals expect to congregate for 202nd anniversary of battle.

News

- 202nd anniversary of the Bhima-Koregaon battle, which was fought on 1st January 1818.

Maratha Kingdom

- was founded by Shivaji (1637 - 1680)
- with Raigad as its capital.
- Poona as its capital in later years
- Third battle of Panipat (1761)

Marathas vs Ahmad Shah Abdali
**Anglo-Maratha wars (1777-1818)**

- Three Anglo-Maratha wars
- Reasons
  - Growing interference of British in the internal matters of the Maratha Confederacy
  - British greed for territorial expansion
  - To check the power of the Marathas

- First Anglo-Maratha war (1775-1782)
  - Ended with Treaty of Salbai

- Second Anglo-Maratha war (1803-1805)
  - Marathas lost majority of their territory

- Third Anglo-Maratha war
  - Main causes
    - Growing desire of the Marathas to get back their lost territories
    - Excessive British control
  - British East India Company emerged victorious and crushed the rule of Marathas.

**Bhima-Koregaon Battle**

- Part of 3rd Anglo-Maratha war
- Battle fought at the Bhima-Koregaon village on the banks of river Bhima.
- Fought between the forces of the Peshwa and the British East India Company on 1st January 1818
- The British Army comprised primarily of Dalit soldiers and Peshwa army had an upper caste domination.

- Dalit dominated British troops defeated the Peshwa army
- It has become a symbol in Maharashtra for celebrating Dalit pride.
- 1st January 2018: 200th anniversary of the victory of the Bhima-Koregaon battle
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Anglo-Maratha wars.

1. Chatrapati Shivaji led Maratha forces in the first Anglo-Maratha war.
2. One of the reasons for the Anglo-Maratha wars is the growing influence of the British East India Company in the internal affairs of the Maratha Confederacy.
3. Bhima-Koregaon battle was part of the third battle of Panipat in which Maratha forces were defeated.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?
(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
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.

PAPER-II
General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.
- Role of women and women’s organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

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.
- Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

Swachh Bharat (Urban)
- 100% Open Defecation Free Status
- 100% Solid Waste Management
- Implemented by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoH&UA)
- Dec 2019 → Urban India achieved ODF Status

Swachh Survekshan
- Conducted by MoH&UA every year since 2016.

Swachh Survekshan 2020
- Annual Survey (Jan 4 - 31, 2020)
- Swachh Survekshan league → part of Swachh Survekshan (85% weightage)

Swachh Survekshan 2020 Weightage

Evolution and Journey of Swachh Survekshan

+ 25% of SS League 2020 Weightage will be added in final SS-2020
Swachh Survekshan League 2020
- Conducted in 3 quarters
  - April - June 2019 → Q1
  - July - September 2019 → Q2
  - October - December 2019 → Q3
- Focus → ‘Service level progress’ of Solid Waste Management
- Transportation and Collection
- Processing and Disposal
- Sustainable sanitation
- Capacity Building

Ranking categories (Population wise)
- Cities
  - > 1 Lakh
  - < 1 Lakh

- > 10 Lakh
- 1-10 Lakh
- < 1 Lakh
- Zone
- Population

Ranking for Cantonment Boards
- Composite ranking of cities from all categories

BBMP eyes better swachh ranking

The civic body recently got the Open Defecation-Free tag

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is leaving no stone unturned to ensure higher ranking under Swachh Survekshan 2020. For the first time, the civic body has got the Open Defecation Free (ODF) tag, which has provided impetus to the BBMP to work towards getting a better ranking.

In 2019, the BBMP’s ranking stood at 39. It was 22 in 2018 and 301 in 2017. The surprise inspections for Swachh Survekshan 2020 are likely to be held any time in January or February.

On Monday, Mayor M. Goutham Kumar chaired a meeting, along with BBMP Commissioner B.H. Anil Kumar, to ascertain the steps taken by the civic body towards getting a better ranking.

Other measures
Senior BBMP officials told The Hindu that the civic body had focussed on ensuring visual cleanliness, including clearing black spots. With the ODF tag, the civic body would now work towards the ODF+ tag.

That apart, the civic body had taken steps to treat leachate. Introduces biometric attendance for all pourakarmikas, appointed marshals to check indiscriminate dumping of waste, besides providing handheld machines to levy spot fines. Steps have also been taken to set up a state-of-the-art smart control room for solid waste management. The tender for the same had already been floated.

“We hope that these steps will positively help the BBMP get a better ranking this time around,” said a senior official.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements about ‘Swachh Survekshan’.

1. It is a nationwide survey to rank cities and villages based on various sanitation and cleanliness parameters.
2. It is conducted by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India.
3. For Swachh Survekshan 2020, the concept of ‘continuous Survekshan’ has been introduced.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

SC bats against transfer of community resources

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

PAPER V
General Studies-IV: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude
- Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics - in private and public relationships.
- Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
- Probity 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.
- Community resources - resources that can improve the quality of life of an entire community
- Fundamental Duties - Article 51A
  - Article 51A(g): Duty of citizen to protect and improve natural environment and to have compassion for living creatures.
- Directive Principles of State Policy
  - Article 48A: State shall endeavour to protect and improve environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife

**News**

- Supreme Court: GoI has no right to transfer invaluable community resources for commercialisation - grossly illegal
  - Common areas should be protected to safeguard Article 21 of the Constitution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article 21: Right to life and personal liberty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maneka Gandhi case 1978 - Law should be reasonable, fair and just - due process of law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right to Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Not for animal existence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- What makes life meaningful, complete and worth living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eg: Right to decent environment, Right to livelihood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Depriving villagers of existing source of water and creating an alternative site — "Mechanical application of environmental protection" |
- Authorities and powerful people should not encroach upon common lands for personal aggrandisement.
Q. ‘Not just the Government, but each and every one of us are under constitutional and moral obligation to preserve community resources’. Elaborate.
Nandanthal Vaazhi Cauvery
- Project of Tamil Nadu
- Nandanthal Vaazhi Cauvery - Eternal Cauvery
- To abate pollution, conserve and rejuvenate Cauvery on the line of Namami Gange
- Features
  - River front development
  - Sewage Treatment Plants
  - River Surface Cleaning
- News
  - Centre unlikely to fund the project.

Cauvery River (Kaveri/Ponni)
- Origin: Talakaveri, Brahmagiri Hills - Western Ghats, Kodagu
- Divides TN into north and south
- Mouth: Poompunar (KaveriPoompattinam), Bay of Bengal.

- Catchment area - more than 81,150 sq. km, spread over Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry.
- Tributaries:
  (a) Left - Harangi, Hemavathi, Arkavati
  (b) Right - Kabini, Bhavani, Lakshmanaganga, Nagayal & Amaravathi
- Important waterfalls - Sivasamudram, Hogenekkal.
- Important dams
  - Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS)
  - Mettur
  - Grand Anicut/Kallanai

originally by Chola King Karikalan
Q. With reference to river Teesta, consider the following statements:

1. The source of river Teesta is the same as that of Brahmaputra but it flows through Sikkim.
2. River Rangeet originates in Sikkim and it is a tributary of river Teesta.
3. River Teesta flows into Bay of Bengal on the border of India and Bangladesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. With reference to river Cauvery, consider the following statements.

1. It originates in the Brahmagiri Hills in the Western Ghats and it is an intra-state river.
2. The Grand Anicut located in Cauvery was originally built by Chola King Karikalan.
3. Arkavati, Bhavani and Noyyil are its tributaries.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 only
News

- The massive truck bomb attack in Somalia's capital Mogadishu killed many people.
- Indicates the resurgence of terrorist threats in Somalia.
- Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility – al-Qaeda-linked terrorist group.

Al-Shabaab and their rise in Somalia:

- About Somalia:
  - Ethnically homogenous but clan-fractured country.
  - Gained independence around 1950 from colonial powers.
  - 1969: Bloodless coup under President Siad Barre installed.
  - 1969-1978: Popularity and support from both Soviet Union and western institutions.

- Late 1970s-1980s: Increasingly oppressive; withdrawal of support.
- 1991: Barre fled the capital.
- Inter-clan fighting intensified.

- Al-Shabaab rise:
  - By exploiting the anarchy during 1994-95, Al-Shabaab rose and spread fast across Somalia.
  - US & African Union troops ousted the group.
  - Created a new conflict:
  - Al-Shabaab attacked Govt. and people through terror strikes.
By 1998: 'Puntland' declared itself as an autonomous state.

By 2007: African Union troops landed in Somalia to fight against Islamist insurgents.

Somalia Government

- Federal in structure, established in 2012
- 6 federal member states

Problems engulfing the Somalia:

1. The conflict between Farmaajo's Federal Govt. at the centre and the Govts of Somalia's six federal states.
2. The Islamist Al-Shabaab Insurgency
3. Standoff between Puntland & Somaliland

Geography of Somalia

- Located in the Horn of Africa
- Ethiopia - to the west
- Gulf of Aden - to the north
- Kenya to the southwest.
Practice Question – Prelims
Q. Somalia has common borders with,
a) Ethiopia, Djibouti and Eritrea
b) Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya
c) Ethiopia, Uganda and South Sudan
d) Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements with reference to the Anglo-Martha wars.

1. Chatrapati Shivaji led Maratha forces in the first Anglo-Maratha war.
2. One of the reasons for the Anglo-Maratha wars is the growing influence of the British East India Company in the internal affairs of the Maratha Confederacy.
3. Bhima-Koregaon battle was part of the third battle of Panipat in which Maratha forces were defeated.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?
(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Practise Question – Prelims

Q2. With reference to river Cauvery, consider the following statements.

1. It originates in the Brahmagiri Hills in the Western Ghats and it is an intra-state river.
2. The Grand Anicut located in Cauvery was originally built by Chola King Karikalan.
3. Arkavati, Bhavani and Noyyil are its tributaries.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) 1  and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 only
Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Consider the following statements about ‘Swachh Survekshan’.

1. It is a nationwide survey to rank cities and villages based on various sanitation and cleanliness parameters.
2. It is conducted by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India.
3. For Swachh Survekshan 2020, the concept of ‘continuous Survekshan’ has been introduced.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. Somalia has common borders with,

a) Ethiopia, Djibouti and Eritrea
b) Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya
c) Ethiopia, Uganda and South Sudan
d) Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan
Practice Question – Mains
GS – II

Q. ‘Not just the Government, but each and every one of us are under constitutional and moral obligation to preserve community resources’. Elaborate.

Practice Question – Prelims
Answers

1. Option (b) – 1 and 3 only
2. Option (b) – 2 and 3 only
3. Option (a) – 1 only
4. Option (b) – Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya