# News Analysis – 13th June 2020 – Shankar IAS Academy

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Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)  Duration: Two hours

- 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-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.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
News - UGC encourages Universities to adopt MOOCs offered on SWAYAM platform - to be considered for credit transfers in the coming semesters.

SWAYAM

- Initiative of MHRD
- Designed to achieve three cardinal principles of Education Policy: access, equity and quality.
- Objective - to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged. - to bridge the digital divide for students who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution, and students who have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy.
- Hosts courses taught in classrooms from Class 9 till post-graduation - can be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time.

Domains:

- AICTE - NITTTR Courses
- Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT)
- Architecture and Planning
- Education
- Engineering and Technology
- Humanities and arts
- Law
- Management and Commerce
- Maths and Sciences
- NPTEL Domain
- School

*Author: Such online courses and online classes can only be a temporary alternative and should not be made permanent

✓ MOOC-based e-learning platforms reinforces a top-down teacher-to-student directionality of learning

- Not apt to practice dialogue, debate, disagreement, and friendship
- Not apt for hands-on testing of ideas, opinions, interpretations, and counterarguments.

✓ online learning or digital learning can only be a tool to promote engagement of learners in a physical classroom.
Ground Zero Article:

- Pre-requisites of online learning
  - computer or a smartphone.
  - internet connectivity and mobile network connectivity.
  - seamless electricity to support internet modem and to charge the devices

- Uninterrupted Power Supply arrangements or Inverter arrangements.

- Difficulties in this regard are faced by both teachers and students, mainly in rural areas, North East, remote areas, J and K, Ladakh, hill and tribal regions

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Private schools have suspended live online classes up to class 5 - after the state government prohibited both publishing of live online classes, and pre-recorded videos.

- Online classes should not substitute classroom teaching as it might affect students' mental well-being.
- Opinion about online learning is divided among the parents.
  - Lack of pre-requisite infrastructure,
  - Difficulty to cope up with online live classes,
  - Digital divide among parents.

Schools suspend online classes, start surveys

They seek feedback from parents.

Private schools on Friday suspended online classes for pre-primary and lower primary classes after the state government prohibited not just live online classes, but also pre-recorded videos. Many schools, which had been conducting online classes for over two weeks, have now asked parents to take part in a survey on the issue.

One such survey by a City-affiliated school in the Lingarajapura area sought parents' feedback on the online classes. The survey had a question on whether the child had suffered from a lack of pre-requisite infrastructure, difficulty to cope up with online live classes, and the digital divide among parents.

Parents were also asked if the online classes were helping the child and whether the homework assigned was excessive.

Tusharini Sharma, principal of Harvard International School, said they have already started receiving emails from parents demanding that online classes be brought back.

Opinion on online learning remains divided, with parents both for and against online classes. Some parents said that online classes were good for the child and that the homework assigned was excessive. Parents were also asked if the online classes were helping the child and whether the homework assigned was excessive.

Universal Service Obligation Fund of Dept. of Telecommunications:

- Utilized exclusively for meeting the Universal Service Obligation
- Provision of Universal ICT Service to all uncovered areas, rural areas, remote, hilly and tribal areas of the country – capable of meeting the needs of the country’s economy.

Practice Question – Mains

GS – II

Q. Discuss the possible factors that inhibit Indian education system from conducting live classes online to various learners?

(250 words, 15 marks)
Experts from AIIMS, ICMR part of L-G’s panel to tackle COVID-19

Bajjal reviews containment zone management strategies with Centre, Delhi govt.

Bajjal, who assumed charge of the post on June 4, has been keeping up with the latest developments in the capital, focusing on the pandemic’s impact on the city. He has also been meeting with experts and officials from various departments to discuss strategies for managing the crisis.

Bajjal reviewed the management of containment zones with the Delhi Police and other officials. He also discussed the role of the municipal corporation in managing the crisis.

The Delhi government has been working closely with the central government to ensure that the capital is adequately prepared to deal with the pandemic. Bajjal has been focusing on the containment strategy in the city, ensuring that all necessary measures are being taken to control the spread of the virus.
News

1. Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) of Delhi has constituted an advisory committee of eminent experts — to chart the way forward and providing measures to enhance the medical infrastructure.

2. The North Delhi Municipal Corporation Doctor’s Association wrote to the L-G of Delhi

   √ Salaries for months of March, April and May have not been paid to doctors working at hospitals of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation

3. L-G seems to have taken over COVID-19 management in the Capital

   As the death toll in Delhi has gone beyond 1200 and daily cases — the highest single-day tally of 2137 cases were reported on Friday
Union Territories
- Article 239 to 241 in Part VIII
- Every UT is administered by the President acting through an administrator appointed by him
  - The President can specify the designation of an administrator
    - Lieutenant Governor or
    - Chief Commissioner or
    - Administrator
- Lieutenant Governor - Delhi, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh
- Administrator - Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep

PART VIII
THE UNION TERRITORIES
239. Administration of Union territories.
239A. Creation of local Legislatures or Council of Ministers or both for certain Union territories.
239AA. Special provisions with respect to Delhi.
239AB. Provision in case of failure of constitutional machinery.
239B. Power of administrator to promulgate Ordinances during recess of Legislature.
240. Power of President to make regulations for certain Union territories.
241. High Courts for Union territories.

Administration of NCT of Delhi
- A Union Territory under the President with a legislative assembly
- The President exercise his control through the Lt. Governor
- 69th Constitutional Amendment Act in 1991 – inserted Articles 239AA and 239AB
  - provided for a Legislative Assembly for Delhi
  - The government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991 was framed
Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi

• 70 Members – directly elected
• Has the power to make laws with respect to all the matters in the State List or in the Concurrent List – except Public Order, Police and Land and Entries 64, 65 and 66 of State List in so far as they relate to the said Entries 1, 2 and 18.
• Chief Minister of Delhi is appointed by the President
• The President appoints others ministers on the advice of the Chief Minister

List II—State List

1. Public order (but not including 3[the use of any naval, military or air force or any other armed force of the Union or of any other force subject to the control of the Union or of any contingent or unit thereof] in aid of the civil power).
2. Police (including railway and village police) subject to the provisions of entry 2A of List I.
18. Land, that is to say, rights in or over land, land tenures including the relation of landlord and tenant, and the collection of rents; transfer and alienation of agricultural land; land improvement and agricultural loans; colonization.
64. Offences against laws with respect to any of the matters in this List.
65. Jurisdiction and powers of all courts, except the Supreme Court, with respect to any of the matters in this List.
66. Fees in respect of any of the matters in this List, but not including fees taken in any court.

Lt. Governor and Chief Minister of Delhi

• The Chief Minister and his Council of Ministers aids and advises the Lt. Governor in the exercise of his functions in relation to matters on which Legislative Assembly has power to make laws
• Since portfolios like land, police and public order fall under the domain of the Centre – Lt. Governor is a representative of Centre – he holds more power than a Governor of a state.

Key observations made Supreme court in 2018

• The chief minister is the executive head of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi with respect to the powers under of Article 239AA (4)
• The Lieutenant governor is bound by the aid and advice of the council of ministers
• Lieutenant Governor must follow the decisions of the cabinet on all matters where the legislative assembly has the power to make laws
• Except for issues of public order, police and land, the Lt. Governor is bound by the “aid and advice” of the elected Government
• Article 239AA : When there is a difference of opinion between the Lieutenant governor and the council of ministers in Union territory of Delhi, the administrator may refer the matter to the President and act according to the decision of President
CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

239AA. Special provisions with respect to Delhi.

(4) There shall be a Council of Ministers consisting of not more than ten per cent. of the total number of members in the Legislative Assembly, with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Lieutenant Governor in the exercise of his functions in relation to matters with respect to which the Legislative Assembly has power to make laws, except in so far as he is, by or under any law, required to act in his discretion:

Provided that in the case of difference of opinion between the Lieutenant Governor and his Ministers on any matter, the Lieutenant Governor shall refer it to the President for decision and act according to the decision given thereon by the President and pending such decision it shall be competent for the Lieutenant Governor in any case where the matter, in his opinion, is so urgent that it is necessary for him to take immediate action, to take such action or to give such direction in the matter as he deems necessary.

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the ‘National Capital Territory of Delhi’:

1. The Legislative Assembly can make laws on all the matters of State List and Concurrent List.
2. The Chief Minister is appointed by the Lieutenant governor (L-G).
3. In case of difference of opinion between the L-G and Ministers including Chief Minister, the decision of L-G prevails.

Which of the statements given above are incorrect?

a) None of the Above
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) All the above
**News**

• The Lonar lake, Buldhana district, Maharashtra has recently turned pink.

✓ Experts believe – mixing of Dunaliella algae with halobacteria might have formed the red-orange coloured beta pigment.

✓ Dunaliella – unicellular, bi-flagellate, green algae.

➢ Commonly observed in salt lakes in all parts of the world from tropical to temperate to polar regions

➢ Often impart an orange-red colour to the water – chloroplast accumulates large quantities of β-carotene.

➢ Halobacteria – halophilic microorganisms – grow in extremely high salinity environments.

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**Part A—Preliminary Examination**

**Paper I** - (200 marks)  
Duration : Two hours

• Current events of national and international importance.

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**Part B—Main Examination**

**PAPER-III**

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

- Salient features of world’s physical Geography.

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

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

• Lonar crater lake is a lake of lagoon in the Deccan plateau in Maharashtra.
• Saline and alkaline lake created by a meteorite impact about 52,000 years ago.
• Discovered by British Officer J. E. Alexander in 1823.
• Has a mean diameter of 1.2 kilometres and about 137 metres below the crater rim.
• Surrounded by ancient temples, natural beauty and rich biodiversity.
  ✓ Examples: Gomukh temple, a temple resembling the erotic sculptures of Khajuraho.
• Bird watcher’s paradise – region surrounding the Lonar crater was declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary.

• Lonar lake is a notified national geo-heritage monument.
  ✓ Geodiversity: The diversity found in geological formations of the earth such as rocks, fossils, minerals and geological processes that create distinctive formations.
  ✓ Geoheritage: A certain uniqueness or value is attributed to geodiversity.
  ✓ Geological Survey of India has declared 26 sites as ‘National Geological Monuments’.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Geological Monuments are areas of geo-heritage, declared by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

2. The Lonar Lake, created by a meteorite impact, is the only national geological monument in Maharashtra.

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

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Reserves surge $8.2 bn in a week, exceed $500 bn for the first time

RBI builds war chest even as rupee declines 6% in 2020

India’s foreign exchange reserves crossed $500 billion for the first time as the Reserve Bank of India builds up a war chest even as the rupee has been the worst performer among emerging market currencies since the COVID-19 outbreak was declared a pandemic in March.

The latest data from the RBI showed that India’s forex reserves surged by $11.2 billion during the week ended June 15 – the biggest weekly jump since September 2005 – to $500.062 billion. The increase in reserves was mainly due to a rise in foreign currency assets, which increased by $6.6 billion in the week.

Currency dealers said the sharp increase was due to foreign currency inflows this month, which were used by the central bank to boost its war chest during uncertain times.

We grew more confident of our standing call of the RBI buying forex (FX) at every opportunity to guard against contagion,” economists at IDBI Securities wrote in a note to clients.

Forex spurs FPIs: “The RBI’s FX policy has reversed the Yuan Reddy policy of building high FX reserves to insulate against contagion. Experience suggests that higher FX reserves paradoxically lead to higher FPI inflows by comforting investors. We estimate the RBI should conservatively build up $500 bn of reserves, the economists wrote.

| Pg – 13 | B, H, I |
| Pg – 15 | C, D |

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News

• India’s forex reserves surged by $8.2 billion during one week to reach the $500 billion mark.

✅ Reasons:

➢ Gains made by rupee as dollar depreciated against all major currencies

➢ RBI intervention in the currency market for acquiring dollar.

Foreign Exchange Reserve

• Forex consist of

✅ Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs)

✅ Gold Reserves

✅ Special Drawing Rights (SDR) in (International Monetary Fund)

✅ Reserve Tranche Position in the IMF.
1. **Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs)**
   - Constitute the largest portion in forex reserve.
   - FCAs are maintained as a multi-currency portfolio – comprises of major currencies such as US dollar, Euro etc.

2. **Special drawing rights (SDRs)**
   - An artificial currency instrument created by the IMF in 1969 and is used for internal accounting purposes.
   - Value of the SDR is calculated from a weighted basket of major currencies- such as U.S. dollar, Euro etc.
   - SDR interest rate provides the basis for calculating the interest rate charged from the member countries when they borrow from the IMF.
   - It is the interest rate paid to members for their remunerated creditor positions in the IMF.

3. **Reserve Tranche Position**
   - Reserve tranche is basically an emergency account that IMF members can access at any time without agreeing to conditions or paying a service fee.
   - It is a portion of a member country’s quota, that can be withdrawn free of charge at its own discretion.

4. **Gold Reserves**
   - The gold reserves are maintained by RBI and its value is expressed either in US Dollars or Indian Rupee.
   - India is the 10th largest country in the world in terms of gold reserves.

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**Practice Question – Prelims**

Q. With reference to the foreign exchange reserve of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Foreign Currency Assets, which is a multi-currency portfolio comprising of major currencies, constitute the largest portion in forex reserve.
2. Special Drawing Rights is a portion of a member country’s quota in IMF, that can be withdrawn free of charge at its own discretion.
3. Reserve Tranche Position is an artificial currency instrument created by the IMF, whose value is calculated from a weighted basket of major currencies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) None of the above
The Ministry of Earth Sciences has developed the “iFLOWS-Mumbai” – a state-of-the-art flood warming system with in-house expertise and coordination with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BCM).

• One of the most advanced Integrated FLOOD WARNING systems.
• Will predict floods 6 to 72 hours in advance – enabling the city to take due precautions.
• The system uses rain gauge data and local data – data on land use, land topography, drainage systems, water bodies in the city, tide levels, infrastructure and population.
• Comprises 7 modules – Data Assimilation, Flood, Inundation, Vulnerability, Risk, Dissemination Module and Decision Support System.
• Urban flooding is common in Mumbai city from June to September.
• iFLOWS-Mumbai will boost the city’s resilience by providing early warning for flooding.

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Which of the following statements with reference to ‘iFLOWS-Mumbai’, recently seen in news is/are correct?

1. It has been developed by Ministry of Science and Technology in coordination with Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai.
2. It is an advanced flood warning system which will help Mumbai city to take precautions in advance.

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. With reference to the foreign exchange reserve of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Foreign Currency Assets, which is a multi-currency portfolio comprising of major currencies, constitute the largest portion in forex reserve.

2. Special Drawing Rights is a portion of a member country’s quota in IMF, that can be withdrawn free of charge at its own discretion.

3. Reserve Tranche Position is an artificial currency instrument created by the IMF, whose value is calculated from a weighted basket of major currencies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) None of the above
Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements with reference to the ‘National Capital Territory of Delhi’:

1. The Legislative Assembly can make laws on all the matters of State List and Concurrent List.
2. The Chief Minister is appointed by the Lieutenant governor (L-G).
3. In case of difference of opinion between the L-G and Ministers including Chief Minister, the decision of L-G prevails.

Which of the statements given above are incorrect?
(a) None of the Above
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) All the above

Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Which of the following statements with reference to ‘iFLOWS-Mumbai’, recently seen in news is/are correct?

1. It has been developed by Ministry of Science and Technology in coordination with Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai.
2. It is an advanced flood warning system which will help Mumbai city to take precautions in advance.

Select the correct answer from the code given below.
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Geological Monuments are areas of geo-heritage, declared by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
2. The Lonar Lake, created by a meteorite impact, is the only national geological monument in Maharashtra.

Which of the statements given above 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 possible factors that inhibit Indian education system from conducting live classes online to various learners? (250 words, 15 marks)
Practice Questions – Prelims
13-06-2020
Answers
Q1. Option – a – 1 only
Q2. Option – d – all the above
Q3. Option – b – 2 only
Q4. Option – b – 2 only

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