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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H – Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram*
A blow against social justice

Denying application of reservation in promotions has largely confined SC and STs to lower cadre jobs.

P1a → C, D
P10 → B, T
P8 → H

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Mukesh Kumar & Anr Vs the State of Uttarakhand & Ors

1. Article 16(4) & 16(4A) do not confer fundamental right to claim reservation in promotion
2. Article 16(4) & 16(4A) - enabling provisions
3. State is not bound to make reservations for members of SC & ST for promotions

4. Quantifiable data to be collected to provide reservation - inadequate representation
5. Mandamus cannot be issued by Court to provide reservation

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Questions by Author

1. Whether reservation in promotions a FR?

Article 16 - Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment.

(4) Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State.

Article 16 (4A) - Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for reservation in matters of promotion, with consequential seniority, to any class or classes of posts in the services under the State in favour of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes which, in the opinion of the State, are not adequately represented in the services under the State.

2. Reservations → absence of equal opportunities for Backward classes
   - historic injustice by virtue of birth

   - Art 16(2) & 16 (4) → complementary to each other

3. Article 142 - Enforcement of decrees and orders of Supreme Court and orders as to discovery, etc.—

(1) The Supreme Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it, and any decree so passed or order so made shall be enforceable throughout the territory of India in such manner as may be prescribed by or under any law made by Parliament and, until provision in that behalf is so made, in such manner as the President may by order prescribe.

4. Whether quantifiable data is a must?

Article 16 (4A) - Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for reservation in matters of promotion, with consequential seniority, to any class or classes of posts in the services under the State in favour of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes which, in the opinion of the State, are not adequately represented in the services under the State.

- "Opinion of state" → domain of state to provide reservation

- No mention of "quantifiable data" in Constitution
Q. Critically examine the recent Supreme Court’s judgment (February 2020) on reservations and reservation for promotion to the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, with reference to the scope for reservations for the Backward Classes provided in Indian Constitution. (250 words, 15 marks)

Conclusion

- Judgement should be challenged in Constitutional bench
News

- Delay in notifying the appointment in appointment of CIC & CVC, even after the decisions of appropriate selection panels.

Central Vigilance Commission

- Established in Feb 1964, on the recommendations of Committee on Prevention of Corruption, through a resolution

- Now, a statutory body under CVC Act, 2003

- Apex vigilance institution in the country, free of control from any executive authority - only responsible for the Parliament

- Monitors all vigilance activity under the C.Govt and advises various authorities in C.Govt organizations in their vigilant work
• ‘Designated Agent’ to receive written complaints and recommend action under Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers’ (PIDPI) resolution

• Primarily responsible to inquire or cause inquiry or investigation into offences alleged to have been committed by certain categories of Public Servants under Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA), 1988

• vested with powers of superintendence over the CBI’s functioning as far it relates to PCA, 1988

Central Vigilance Commission’s jurisdiction under the Act

(1) Members of All India Services serving in connection with the affairs of the Union and Group ‘A’ officers of the Central Government;

(2) Chief Executives and Executives on the Board and other officers of E-8 and above in Schedule ‘A’ and ‘B’ Public Sector Undertakings of the Central Government;

(3) Chief Executives and Executives on the Board and other officers of E-7 and above in Schedule ‘C’ and ‘D’ Public Sector Undertakings of the Central Government;

(4) Officers of the rank of Scale V and above in the Public-Sector Banks; (5) Officers in Grade ‘D’ and above in Reserve Bank of India, NABARD and SIDBI;

(5) Managers and above in respect of General Insurance Companies;

(6) Senior Divisional Managers and above in Life Insurance Corporation of India; and

(7) Officers drawing salary of Rs. 8700/- per month (pre-revised as on 12.09.2007) and above on Central Government DA pattern, as may be revised from time to time, in societies and local authorities owned or controlled by the Central Government.

Source: cvc.nic.in

Appointment Procedure of CVC & VCs

• Section 4, CVC Act, 2003
  ➢ Selection Committee
    ✓ Prime Minister
    ✓ Minister, MHA
    ✓ Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha

• appointed by the President by warrant under hand & seal

• Term of Office
  ➢ 4 years or till they attain 65 years of age whichever is earlier for CVC & VCs
  ➢ Central Vigilance Commissioner - not eligible for reappointment
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. Both the Central Vigilance Commission and Central Information Commission are statutory bodies.

2. The term of office of Central Vigilance Commissioner and Central Chief Information Commissioner is the same.

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
SDG Target 5.6 and its two indicators

**Target 5.6**

Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

**5.6.1**

Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care.

**5.6.2**

Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 years access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Arrange the following countries from East to West.

1. Mauritania
2. Laos
3. Nicaragua
4. Argentina
5. South Africa

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

a) 3, 4, 1, 5, 2
b) 2, 1, 5, 4, 3
c) 2, 5, 1, 4, 3
d) 2, 5, 1, 3, 4
UN rights body to move SC on CAA

MEAs says world body has no right to file petition on Indias internal matter

In an unprecedented and unprecedented step, the United Nations (UN) has announced that the Special Rapporteur for Human Rights OHCHR has decided to challenge the Indian government’s decision on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in India's top court. This decision follows a recent statement by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, urging India to withdraw the CAA, which has sparked widespread protests across the country.

The OHCHR has been monitoring the situation in India and has expressed concern over the impact of the CAA on the country’s human rights landscape. The OHCHR has also highlighted the challenges faced by individuals who have been denied citizenship under the new law.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

1. 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

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

1. Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.
2. Important International institutions, agencies and fora— their structure, mandate.

News

- OHCHR plans to file a petition in Supreme Court — to implead in petitions challenging CAA
- Amicus curiae — providing relevant and applicable human rights standards and norms
- MEA → OHCHR has no right
- Criticised by experts

OHCHR

- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Human Rights)
- Created in 1993 — leading UN entity on human rights
- Part of UN Secretariat
- Mandate to promote and protect all human rights for all people
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is also known as United Nations Human Rights Council.

2. Despite being a principal organ of United Nations, OHCHR is a part of UN Secretariat.

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
Growing numbers
India cannot be complacent while dealing with the possible spread of COVID-19

On Monday and Tuesday, India reported three new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases—one each from Delhi, Hyderabad and Jaipur (an Italian tourist) bringing the total number to six. While the first three cases, reported from Kerala, were in young adults who had arrived directly from China, the two new cases were Indians who had arrived from Italy and Dubai, Italy and the UAE have reported local transmission of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), thus marking all the five as imported cases. Detection of the three cases is no surprise considering that hundreds of passengers have arrived in India from China and other countries where local transmission of the virus has been ongoing for the last couple of weeks. On Tuesday, the Health Ministry said that six people in Agra who had come in contact with the COVID-19 index case in Delhi have been "detected with high viral load" and kept in isolation. Their samples have been sent to the Pune-based National Institute of Virology for confirmation. If even one of the six is confirmed to be positive, it would indicate local transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and will automatically change the status of virus spread in the country. The silver lining is that it highlights the ability of the system to trace and test people who have come in contact with the index case. Community transmission should not come as a surprise in light of the fact that the six confirmed cases had come in contact with many people before their infection status was confirmed.

The Health Ministry's Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) network is in hot pursuit to trace people who have come in contact with the six people whose samples have been sent for confirmation. Already, about 20,000 arriving passengers have been put under community surveillance of the IDSP network. Care should be taken to ensure that people under community surveillance do not flee, as was the case in Kerala when two adults under observation for coronavirus left the country unannounced. While thermal screening at airports and seaports does help in detecting people with a fever so that further screening and testing can be performed to ascertain the infection status, it is essential that people who have arrived in the country seek immediate medical care and testing when symptoms show up days. The median incubation period after infection is three days; the incubation period can also last more than three weeks as per one study. Infected people do not show symptoms during the incubation period and hence thermal screening at airports and seaports will be unable to detect such cases. It is therefore heartening that universal screening of passengers arriving from 12 countries is being undertaken. It is also important that people and health-care providers are made aware that molecular testing does not have very high sensitivity and hence may turn up false negatives. It is hence essential that at least two negative tests are obtained before a person is certified as being uninfected.

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

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.
**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme**

- under NCDC, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- India wide network platform to trace and monitor disease outbreaks

**Mandate**

- Integration & decentralization of disease surveillance
- Human resource – Training of surveillance officers
- Use of ICT
- Strengthening public health laboratories

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**Practice Question – Prelims**

Q1. Consider the following statements about Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP).

1. IDSP is an IT enabled disease surveillance system for epidemic prone diseases.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

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 – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following pairs.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bovine species</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Kangayam</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banni</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punganur</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nili Ravi</td>
<td>Punjab</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Which of the given above pair(s) is/are correct?
   a. 1 and 3 only
   b. 2 and 4 only
   c. 2, 3 and 4 only
   d. 1, 2 and 3 only

Urine and dung of Kangayam cattle yield rich dividends for agriculturists

Products find use in drip irrigation and insecticides

Dr. R. A. S. S. Shankar
Assistant Professor

S.No Name State
1 Kangayam Andhra Pradesh
2 Umblachery Tamil Nadu
3 Pulikulam Tamil Nadu
4 Bargur Gujarat
5 Punganur Andhra Pradesh
6 Gir Gujarat
7 Kosali Chattisgarh
8 Ghumusari Odisha
9 Tharparkar Rajasthan
10 Vechur Kerala

S.No Name State
1 Jaffarabadi Gujarat
2 Banni Gujarat
3 Murrah Haryana
4 Nili Ravi Punjab
5 Ongole Andhra Pradesh
6 Chilika Odisha
7 Toda Tamil Nadu
‘Drones will help paddy farmers in Kerala’

E.A. MARTIN

If wishes were horses, Ker-
alla’s dream of substantially
raising paddy production in the State would take
wings with drones that have come to dominate ac-
tivities ranging from every-
day photography to survey
of plant health.

Deploying drones will help paddy cultivation sub-
stantially at a time when farmers are pressed to find
labourers and are fighting mounting costs. It is a tech-
nology application to be en-
couraged for the future, said
Shinoj Sabramanyam, head
of the Ernakulam Krishi Vi-
gyan Kendra (KVK), referring
increase to technology
adoption by farmers.

K.M. Lalju, a farmer and
automobile mechanic in one
of Ernakulam’s rice belt Ka-
rumalloor, is at the centre of
media attention after he
used a drone on Sunday for
ferilizer application on an eight-are paddy plot.

“It took about two hours
for the work to be done. The
work would have taken
about two days if done man-
ually,” he said. A scientist
from the Department of
Agriculture involved in field
work said the results of the
use of the drone should be
visible within a few weeks. A
positive outcome would en-
courage more farmers to re-
sort to induction of the new
technology to man their
fields, which were crying
attention for want of labour
and rising costs. He said Ka-
rumalloor had about 1,000
acres of paddy fields that
could be brought under the
use of the new technology.

Mr. Subramanyam said an
experimental drone deploy-
ment for fertilizer applica-
tion at Chottanikkara recent-
ly showed good results. The
farmers were happy with the
outcome, he said.

Devan Chandrasekharan
of Rovonize Systems, a start-
up providing drones and backup facilities, said farm-
ers reacted positively to the
new technology.
PRACTICE QUESTIONS DISCUSSION

Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Consider the following statements.

1. Both the Central Vigilance Commission and Central Information Commission are statutory bodies.

2. The term of office of Central Vigilance Commissioner and Central Chief Information Commissioner is the same.

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 – Prelims

Q4. Arrange the following countries from East to West.

1. Mauritania
2. Laos
3. Nicaragua
4. Argentina
5. South Africa

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

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

Q5. Consider the following statements.

1. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is also known as United Nations Human Rights Council.

2. Despite being a principal organ of United Nations, OHCHR is a part of UN Secretariat.

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. Critically examine the recent Supreme Court’s judgment (February 2020) on reservations and reservation for promotion to the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, with reference to the scope for reservations for the Backward Classes provided in Indian Constitution. (250 words, 15 marks)
Practice Question – Prelims

Answers

Q1. Option ‘c’ – Both 1 and 2
Q2. Option ‘b’ – 2 and 4 only
Q3. Option ‘a’ – 1 only
Q4. Option ‘c’ – 2-5-1-4-3
Q5. Option ‘d’ – Neither 1 nor 2

LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE

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