<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>News Articles</th>
<th>Page Number*</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Back to the blackboard (Editorial)</td>
<td>10 8 10</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Indian lungs under extreme stress</td>
<td>9 7 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Economic slowdown may lighten India’s carbon burden</td>
<td>9 7 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Activists call for city’s inclusion in National Clean Air Programme</td>
<td>2 - -</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Practice cum Revision - MCQs</td>
<td>@end of the video</td>
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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H-Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram
Back to the blackboard

NEET puts the poor at a disadvantage, but the focus must be on quality of school education.

A

iting out of sheer panic cannot be the ideal response to a crisis. Recent data from Tamil Nadu

achieved availability through the Madras High

court showed a close link between coaching classes and securing a medical seat. Some have already given in to

the temptation of a knee-jerk response and called for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) to be

cancelled, shunning the need for a calibrated response to what is undoubtedly a worrisome situation. As per

data submitted to the Madras High Court by the govern-

ment of Tamil Nadu, the bulk of the students who se-
cured MBBS seats in the state in 2019 had taken coach-
ing classes to prepare for the exam. Only 1.6% of all

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks) Duration: Two hours

- 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.
- Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States.
- 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.
- Issues relating to poverty and hunger.

PAPER-V

General Studies- IV: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude
- Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections.
- Probit in Governance: Quality of service delivery.

Problems:

- Large amount of money needed to attend classes
  - not affordable for everyone
  - puts medical education out of reach of poorer sections of society

Public and state government’s calling for cancellation of exam.

Author’s View:

- Root cause → Quality of education in rural & urban areas
  - Annual Status of Education Report, 2018
  - Very less increase in learning levels of students in upper primary

National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET)

* Conducted by National Testing Agency
  → for MBBS or BDS courses

Controversy:

* Attending Coaching classes → Clearing exam + Securing Medical Seat
* Data presented to Madras HC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Govt Colleges</th>
<th>Self-financing/ Private Colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>With Coaching</td>
<td>3,033</td>
<td>1,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without Coaching</td>
<td>48 (1.6%)</td>
<td>52 (3.15%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

06-11-2019
National trends:
- Basic math levels - low
- Additional ‘value added’ in math skills for each year of schooling - low
- Experience of subsequent cohort is unchanged over time

\[ \frac{1}{4} \text{ children leaving class 8 without basic reading skills} \]

Suggestions:
- Quality education by well-trained teachers → at initial years of schooling for strong foundational skills
- Make learning meaningful & fun
- State governments can provide ‘free’ NEET Coaching classes
'Indian lungs under extreme stress'

Acute respiratory infections affect children the hardest, say experts

![Graph showing the percentage of respiratory infections in India]

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)  
Duration: Two hours

- Current events of national and international importance.
- General Science.

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.

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**National Health Profile - 2019:**

- Released by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

  - Information on major health indicators

  - High fatality due to PARI in
    - Andhra Pradesh
    - Tamil Nadu
    - Karnataka
    - Uttar Pradesh
    - Kerala
### Acute Respiratory Infection:

* Prevents normal breathing
* Beginning: Viral infection in nose, trachea or lungs
* Prevents body from getting oxygen
* Symptoms:
  1. Early → Runny nose, cough, sore throat, etc.
  2. Later → High fever, chills, dizziness, low blood oxygen level, etc.
* Particularly dangerous for children, older adults, people with immune system disorders
  - WHO - ARI kills 2.6 million children annually worldwide

#### Cause:

1. **Breathe polluted air**
2. **Pollutants enter respiratory system**
3. **Inflame linings of bronchial tubes and lungs**
4. **Leads to respiratory illness**
   - Chronic bronchitis
   - Emphysema
   - Asthma, etc.

### Why children are most vulnerable?

- Breathe more rapidly than adults
- Nervous system and immune system are still developing
- Unaware of risks, unable to make choices
- Breathe through mouth

### High risk of ARI for pregnant women and baby

- More care in the first trimester
- Intrauterine inflammation
- Developmental disabilities

![Diagram showing fetal development](https://www.mrnorphin.com)
News:

- Economic slowdown may lighten India's carbon burden

Carbon Brief:

- UK based website
- Specialises in data-driven articles and graphics to improve the understanding of climate change, both in terms of the science and the policy response

Green Peace International:

- Independent global campaigning non-governmental organisation
- to protect and conserve the environment and to promote peace across the globe
- HQ: Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Voice of the people and is concerning climate change, deforestation, ocean pollution and food supply
International Energy Agency (IEA)

* Founded in 1974 by OECD
* HQ: Paris, France
* Initially designed to help countries coordinate a collective response to major disruptions in the supply of oil, such as crisis of 1973
* Publishes “World Energy Outlook”

Focus Areas:
- Energy Security
- Economic Development
- Environmental Awareness
- Engagement worldwide

Carbon emissions increased by 2% in the first eight months of 2019 as compared to the same period of the last year

Reason: Slower growth in coal-based power generation

Activists call for city’s inclusion in National Clean Air Programme

Pollution levels in city were high on Tuesday too

The city witnessed high levels of air pollution on Tuesday too with the Central Pollution Control Board’s (CPCB) Manali station recording 210 micrograms/cubic metre of PM2.5, Velachery station 220 micrograms/cubic metre and Madur 240 micrograms/cubic metre. With the wind remaining still and the break in monsoon, pollutants remain suspended in the air without being dispersed.

A scene at Swami Vivekananda Salai on Tuesday. 

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)  Duration: Two hours
- Current events of national and international importance.
- 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.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

PAPER-IV

- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
**News:**

* Very high levels of PM 2.5 in Chennai
  - Safe limit: National Air Quality Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AQI Category (Range)</th>
<th>PM$_{2.5}$ 24-hr</th>
<th>PM$_{2.5}$ 24-hr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good (0-50)</td>
<td>0-50</td>
<td>0-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory (51-100)</td>
<td>51-100</td>
<td>31-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately polluted (101-200)</td>
<td>101-250</td>
<td>61-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor (201-300)</td>
<td>251-350</td>
<td>91-120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very poor (301-400)</td>
<td>351-430</td>
<td>121-250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe (401-500)</td>
<td>430+</td>
<td>250+</td>
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**Possible reasons for high air pollution:**

* SILAM Model - dust and smoke from Delhi reaches Tamil Nadu
* Due to weather conditions - Temporary in nature
  - No wind circulation
  - Break in Monsoon
  - Pollutants not getting dispersed

**Solution:**

* Chennai should be included in National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)
  - Now only Tuticorin from Tamil Nadu under NCAP

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**National Clean Air Programme (NCAP):**

* Time bound national level strategy to tackle air pollution.

* Cut the concentration of coarse & fine particles of PM in atmosphere

* A collaborative - participatory approach
  - Central Ministries
  - State Governments
  - Local bodies, etc.

* Goal:
  - 20-30% reduction of PM 2.5 & PM 10 by 2024; base year - 2017

**Objectives**

1. Stringent implementation of mitigation measures
2. Evolve an effective air quality monitoring network
3. Augment public awareness and capacity building

**NCAP** -> A 5 year action plan -> 2019-24
May be further extended
Practice Question – Prelims
Q1. In the context of “National Health Profile- 2019”, consider the following statements:

1. Non-communicable diseases dominates over the communicable diseases in the total disease burden of India.
2. The decadal sex ratio in India has continuously decreased since the census year 1901 till 1991.
3. Acute respiratory infection is the second largest cause of morbidity and mortality in 2018 among communicable diseases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) None of the statements.
b) All except 1 and 2
c) All except 2 and 3
d) All except 1 and 3

Practice Question – Prelims
Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

1. Its objective is to reduce the concentration of coarse and fine particles of particulate matter in the atmosphere through a collaborative and participatory approach of relevant Central Ministries, State Governments and local bodies.
2. NCAP has at least 2 non-attainment cities from each State of India.
3. It was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) All the statements
d) 1 and 3 only
Practice Question – Prelims
Q3. “CarbonBrief” often in news refers to
   a) Inter-governmental organisation dealing with steps to reduce carbon emissions.
   b) UK-based website covering the latest developments in climate science, climate policy and energy policy.
   c) UN organization covering the latest developments in climate science, climate policy and energy policy.
   d) both (a) and (b).

Practice Question – Prelims
Q4. “World Energy Outlook” is released by
   a) World Economic Forum
   b) International Energy Agency
   c) International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
   d) International Solar Alliance

Practice Question – Prelims
Answers
1. Option ‘c’ - All except 2 and 3
2. Option ‘d’ - 1 and 3 only
3. Option ‘b’ - UK-based website covering the latest developments in climate science, climate policy and energy policy.
4. Option ‘b’ - International Energy Agency