### The Hindu News Analysis – 07th December 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>News Articles</th>
<th>Page Number*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rajya Sabha discusses Bill to scrap poll spend limit</td>
<td>10 10 12 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Coir banking a lot on geotextiles, says Isaac</td>
<td>- 5 - -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Climate warnings (Editorial)</td>
<td>8 8 10 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Audit for FDI norms must for e-com firms</td>
<td>13 13 15 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>‘No Indian study links pollution to mortality’</td>
<td>10 10 12 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Practice cum Revision - MCQs</td>
<td>@end of the video</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi ; H – Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram;
Rajya Sabha discusses Bill to scrap poll spend limit
Several members raise concerns

M.V. Rajeev Gowda

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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

PAPER-III

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

- Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
- Salient features of the Representation of People’s Act.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Private Members' Bill</th>
<th>Government Bill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduced by a Member of Parliament other than a Minister</td>
<td>Introduced by a Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflects stand of opposition party on public matter</td>
<td>Reflects policies of the Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less chance to be approved</td>
<td>Greater chance to be approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rejection does not imply anything</td>
<td>Rejection implies the want of Parliamentary confidence in govt., may lead to its resignation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drafting is responsibility of member</td>
<td>Drafted by concerned department in consultation with law department</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### News

- **Representation of People (Amendment) Bill, 2014**
  - Amends RPA, 1951
  - Proposes to remove per candidate’s expenditure limit

- **Spending limit**
  - Rule 90, Conduct of Election Rules, 1961

- **Amendment to section 77(3) of RPA, 1951**
  - “The total said expenditure shall not exceed such amount as may be prescribed”

### Issue with expenditure limit

- Legitimately raised money cannot be spent
- Cost of election spending increasing
- Exceeding limit $\rightarrow$ disqualification

### Advantages (if amended)

- Promotes open and publicly visible expenditure
- Curbs the use of black money
Coir banking a lot on geotextiles, says Isaac

**Aim** is to produce 30,000 tonnes of coir geotextiles in 2020-21.

**Great emphasis** will be given to increasing the production of coir geotextiles to meet the growing demand. The Ministry of Finance and Coir Ltd. through its National Coir Board (NCB) has released Rs. 27 crore from the State Coir Regional Centres (SRCs) for this purpose. The Centre has already released Rs. 10 crore for the States. The production is expected to increase from 18,000 tonnes in 2016-17 to 22,500 tonnes in 2018-19. The Minister of State for Finance, Shri R. Jayant Sinha, said that this initiative is expected to increase the production of coir geotextiles by 15,000 tonnes in 2020-21.

**Textile**

- **Grows from the Latin word** ‘tezere’, which means ‘to weave’

**Geo-textile**

- **Is a permeable textile material used** to improve the soil characteristics
  - It has the ability to separate, filter, reinforce, protect and drain, when used in association with soils.

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**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.
- **General Science.**

**Part B—Main Examination**

**PAPER-IV**

**General Studies-III:** Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- **Science and Technology—developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.**
- **Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.**
- **Conservation**, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

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**News**

- **Great emphasis will be given to increasing** the production of coir geotextiles to revive the coir industry.

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**Two types**

1. **Synthetic**: Polymers
2. **Natural**: Natural fibres (coir or jute)

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**Functions**

- **Filtration**
- **Drainage**
- **Reinforcement**
- **Cushion**
- **Waterproofing**
- **Separation**
Uses

- Construction of the roads, railway works, erosion control blankets

![Coir Stitched Blanket in India](image1.jpg)

Coir

- Coir or coconut fibre is the thickest and most resistant of all commercial natural fibres
- Coir, because of its low decomposition rate, advantage for making durable geo-textiles

Coir Kerala - 2019 (8th Edition)

- Kerala Govt., at Alappuzha
- to promote coir and natural fibres
- to promote coir geo-textiles as an alternative to synthetic geo-textiles.

Challenges

- Need for modernization of the coir sector
- Need for the protection of the traditional coir workers
- stiff competition from the synthetic geo-textiles
- shortage of coconut fibre to meet the growing demand of the coir geo-textiles.
Climate warnings

Planned emission cut fall short of what needs to be done to contain global warming

The important impacts of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the impact of higher greenhouse gas emissions on local, national and the international level, further suggests that the task before countries over coming to Madrid for the UN conference. The members Nations of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change have been trying to thrash out measures under Article 4.6 of the Paris Agreement to combat carbon emissions, and to make it a legally binding commitment to reduce emissions. The IPCC scientists, whose research helps the international community decide on actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, are worried that even under the most ambitious scenario, human health, biodiversity, food security and food systems face a serious threat from climate change. In the case of oceans and forests on land, accelerated rates of loss of life, particularly in women, children and the elderly will continue to increase, as will the spread of diseases that will become more common. The loss of food and water security is also a major concern, particularly for those who already live in fragile areas.

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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.

Part B—Main Examination

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-IV


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

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Special Report on Climate Change and Land

- World’s land and water resources are being exploited → “unprecedented rates”
  - combined with climate change → dive pressure on human ability to feed itself.
- Climate change
  - exacerbates land degradation
    - Low lying coastal areas, river deltas, dry lands and permafrost areas
    - through rainfall intensity, flooding, dry spells, etc.
  - shifting climate zones due to global warming
  - Affecting food security

- Half billion people → live in places experiencing desertification
- Soil lost, faster than its formation

The Ocean and Cryosphere in Changing Climate

- Changes in ocean and cryosphere → Extreme threat
- Rate of ocean warming → doubled since 1993
- Changes in ocean due to
  - increased temperature
  - ocean acidification
  - marine heat waves
  - extreme El Nino and La Nina events

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- Accelerated rates of loss of ice
  - Greenland, Arctic & Antarctic → sea level rise
  - Affects health of species of fish
  - Affect countries with long coastline → population in danger

**Author’s view**
- Member nations of UNFCCC trying to finalise measures under Article 6 of Paris Agreement
  - Commodification of carbon emissions cut
  - Reducing emissions - financially attractive.

**Suggestions**
- Provide liberal and transparent funding to developing countries
  - Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities principle
- Augment NDs under Paris Agreement
Audit for FDI norms must for e-com firms

Local traders have flagged big discounts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The government has issued new rules that make it compulsory for e-commerce companies with foreign investments to submit an audit report every year, showing that they have been in compliance with the FDI rules for the sector.

According to a notification amendmenting the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, dated December 5, e-commerce companies have to obtain a statutory auditor report by the end of September each year for the preceding financial year.

Against Sl. No. 15,2,3, for entry (9), the following entry shall be substituted, namely, "an e-commerce marketplace entity with FDI shall have to obtain and maintain a report of a statutory auditor by 30th of September every year for the preceding financial year, certifying compliance of the e-commerce guidelines;" the new rules stipulate.

The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion last December issued a clarification to the existing rules pertaining to foreign direct investment in e-commerce companies. One of the main provisions clarified was that vendors that have any stake owned by an e-commerce company cannot sell their products on that e-commerce company's portal.

Another provision said any vendor who buys 25% or more of its inventory from an e-commerce group firm will be considered to be controlled by that firm and thereby barred from selling on its portal.

This provision was aimed at ensuring vendors in which marketplaces, such as Amazon, have a stake do not sell the bulk of their products to a third-party vendor who then goes on to sell those items on Amazon's marketplace.

The rules were also designed to ensure that the e-commerce marketplaces themselves did not influence the prices of the products on sale by providing deep discounts.

Traders' bodies such as the Confederation of All India Traders have repeatedly approached the government over the past year complaining about how e-commerce firms had been allegedly flouting rules even after the clarification, with deep discounts.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.

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


- Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.

Cities and Towns: Significant Rivers

1. E-Commerce: Buying and selling of goods and services over digital and electronic network

2. E-Commerce entity incorporated under

- Companies Act 1956/2013
- FEMA, 1999

3. Types

- Inventory based model: Inventory owned by e-commerce entity sold to customers
- Marketplace based model: Provides an IT platform for buyer and seller

4. FDI in e-Commerce

- 100% under automatic route in marketplace based model
- Not permitted in inventory based model
- Violations—covered under FEMA, 1999
- Grant notification

  - E-commerce companies receiving FDI need to get statutory auditor report by the end of September

- 2018 notification by DPIIT

  E-commerce entity providing a marketplace will not exercise ownership or control over the inventory i.e. goods purported to be sold. Such an ownership or control over the inventory will render the business into inventory based model. Inventory of a vendor will be deemed to be controlled by e-commerce marketplace entity if more than 25% of purchases of such vendor are from the marketplace entity or its group companies.

  - To provide level playing field for all vendors

- Need for a comprehensive e-Commerce policy

  - Draft guidelines on e-Commerce by Dept. of Consumer Affairs
‘No Indian study links pollution to mortality’
Union Health Ministry-funded study published a year ago says otherwise

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI
There were no Indian studies that showed a “direct correlation” between pollution and mortality, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said in the Lok Sabha on Friday.

Exactly a year ago, on December 6, 2018, the India State Level Disease Burden Initiative (ISLDBI) – which consists of at least 100 health professionals – reported that one in eight deaths in India were attributable to air pollution and that “...the average life expectancy in India would have been 1.7 years higher had the air pollution levels been less than the minimal level causing health loss”.

Prakash Javadekar made the statement in the Lok Sabha on Friday.

The ISLDBI studies are funded by the Union Health Ministry, and involve the Public Health Foundation of India, the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). They were part of the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017 and appeared in the peer-reviewed Lancet Public Health.

Mr Javadekar’s remarks were in response to a question by Kuldeep Gangi of the All India Trinamool Congress, who wanted to know if the Minister was “aware” that the life expectancy at birth of Indians was being “shortened” by 1.7 years owing to environmental pollution.

He replied that the government was “proactively” taking some steps to mitigate pollution from vehicles, industries, human and domestic activities.

ISLDBI

- launched in 2015
- to address the knowledge gap in local health status and trends
- Collaboration of Indian Council of Medical Research, Public Health Foundation of India, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation plus experts

- 15 LDBI
- National Health Profile - 2019
- Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI)
  - 69.47% of morbidity due to communicable diseases
  - 27.21% of mortality
- Need proactive steps by government to mitigate pollution

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

• Current events of national and international importance.

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.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. With reference to the Private Member’s Bill, consider the following statements:

1. It is presented only in Rajya Sabha.
2. The bill is drafted by the concerned department in consultation with law department.

Which among the above statements 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 statements with reference to ‘Geotextiles’.

1. Geotextiles are synthetic or natural permeable textile material.
2. They are used to improve soil characteristics.
3. They are used in road construction.

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

a) 1 only  
b) 2 and 3 only  
c) 1 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2 and 3
Practice Question – Prelims
Q3. Consider the following statements.

1. Paris Agreement’s central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

2. Achieving about 40 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity, from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030 is one of the Nationally Determined Contribution target of India.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Practice Question – Prelims
Q4. Consider the following statements regarding e-commerce in India.

1. In the Marketplace based model of e-commerce, an inventory of goods and services is owned by e-commerce entity and is sold to the consumers directly.

2. At present 100% FDI under automatic route is permitted in marketplace based model of e-commerce.

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

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

Practice Question – Prelims
Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the India State Level Disease Burden Initiative (ISLDBI).

1. One of the objectives of the initiative is to provide systematic knowledge of the health status and trends in different parts of India.

2. This is a collaborative effort between the Indian Council of Medical Research, Public Health Foundation of India and works with the support from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

3. It releases the National Health Profile every year.

Select the correct statement(s) from the following codes.

a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 2 and 3 only  
c) 1 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2 and 3

Practice Question – Prelims
Q1. Option ‘d’ - Neither 1 nor 2
Q2. Option ‘d’ - 1, 2 and 3
Q3. Option ‘b’ - 2 only
Q4. Option ‘b’ - 2 Only
Q5. Option ‘a’ - 1 and 2 only