Reinforcing caste hierarchies (Editorial)

On Stand-up India, State fails to achieve target

A shot at economic logic (Editorial)

National repository of photographs mooted

Rajya Sabha too clears Aadhaar Bill

Practice cum Revision - MCQs

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.
- Economic and Social Development—Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

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.
- mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

PAPER-IV

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
- Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Backward People embracing it</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>reservation demands by landowning castes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>politically and economically dominant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marathas demanding reservation in jobs and educational institutions</td>
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<td>inclusion in socially and educationally backward communities by Maharashtra Govt</td>
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<td>3rd attempt repeatedly struck down by courts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dominant Castes demanding quota - rich, landowning, politically influential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marathas (Maharashtra)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jats (Haryana)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patidars (Gujarat)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kapus (Andhra Pradesh)</td>
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<td>economic growth did not bring communities upward enough</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agricultural community - benefitted from Green and White Revolutions</th>
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<tr>
<td>traditional source of livelihood fragile due to agrarian crisis</td>
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Determining the validity for demanding quota:
- Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS)
- compared different castes
- Marathas own or cultivate land than other social groups
- low per capita consumption expenditure than other forward castes
- greater accessibility to electricity than scheduled castes and scheduled tribes
- Access to flush toilets more
- Average years of education 6.58 years
- Marathas second only to Brahmins - better than other social groups

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<tr>
<th>Main motivation to quota - access to govt jobs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marathas already have access higher than other forward castes and OBCs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 rounds of IHDS examined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>whether position of communities deteriorated NO!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. per capita expenditure improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probability of being poor same</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probability of owning/cultivating land declined</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Factors for underlying Anxiety:
- Feels vulnerable |
| transformation of Indian economy |
| declining importance to agriculture |
| growth of corporatised agriculture |
| water shortages |
| lower levels of casualization of labour force |
| discontent among powerful farming communities |
| power slipping away |
| feeling ill-prepared to shift to urban, formal sector livelihood opportunities |
Author's views:

• Answer for grievances is reservation? NO!
• Reservations shrinking
  → Privatisation
  → OBC’s and SC, STs lagging behind
• Leads to diluting of entitlement for disadvantaged and discriminated communities
  → 10% quota → not to move to caste-free system
• Will reinforce obnoxious hierarchies of caste system

Conclusion:
• Indian polity should weaken caste system, not embolden or reinforce them

Stand-Up India Scheme:

• Scheme for financing women entrepreneurs and also the entrepreneurs from Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes
• Launched in 2016
• Objective:
  → Facilitate Bank loans between Rs.10 Lakh and Rs.1 Crore to borrowers, at least one person belonging to Scheduled Castes, or one person belonging to Scheduled Tribes, or one woman, per bank branch for setting up a Greenfield enterprise
  → Greenfield enterprise - 1st time business in manufacturing, services or trade sector
  → In case of non-individual enterprises, 51% of the shareholding and controlling share should be held by entrepreneurs either from SC/ST or women
• Eligible entrepreneurs can avail composite loans (Working Capital + Term loans)

• Scheme will be operated by all the branches of Scheduled Commercial Banks in India.

• Web portal to guide the entrepreneurs

• Scheme is managed by Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance

• Union Budget 2019-20: 'Stand-Up India' scheme has been extended up to 2025

News:

• Tamil Nadu lagging behind targets set up under Stand-up India Scheme

• Progress Report by State level Bankers Committee
  - FY 2018-19 - Rs. 157 crore loans disbursed
  - FY 2017-18 - Rs. 133 crore loans disbursed

• SCBs should actively implement the Scheme

African Continental Free Trade (AfCFTA):

• Signed at 13th Extra-Ordinary Summit of the African Union in Niamey, Niger Republic

• 54/55 member states - Signatories
  - 55/55 member states - Ratified

• Cross-border free trade from July 2020
  - Customs duty will be eliminated for 90% of tariff lines

• Creation of African Common Market of 1.2 billion people and over 3.4 trillion US Dollars

• Will be the World’s largest Free Trade Agreement
  - will have a global impact
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Challenges of AfCFTA:</th>
<th>Opportunities for AfCFTA:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Unsuccessful functioning of African Union since its inception (Organisation of African Unity, founded in 1963) | 1. AfCFTA - Economic Integration  
   - Self-reliance in trade |
|   - African Unity Project - Failure | 2. AfCFTA should gain knowledge and experience from the region's economic blocks (Communities) of Africa |
| 2. Africa - low manufacturing base | 3. AU - failed to achieve its objectives due to inefficient planning  
   - Various political, organisational and logistic challenges |
|   - ½ of Africa's total trade happening within Africa |  - But AU has prepared an extensive roadmap for AfCFTA  
   - Protectionism trend present across the world  
     - USA - China Trade War  
     - Brexit  
     - Stalemates at WTO and UNCTAD |
| 3. Slowdown in world trade |  - Incremental tariff reduction  
   - Protectionism trend present across the world  
     - USA - China Trade War  
     - Brexit  
     - Stalemates at WTO and UNCTAD |
|   - 2019 - 2.4% (expected); 2018 - 3.0% |  - Elimination of non-tariff barriers  
   - Africa's share - only 3%  
   - Supply chain  
   - Dispute Settlement |
| 4. Political will is necessary to overcome logistical and financial challenges and customs formalities |  - AU has organised 1st Intra-African Trade Fair, Cairo in December 2018 |
|   - Informal trade needs to be stopped |  |
| 5. Population of Sub-Saharan Africa will double by 2050 - to nearly 8 billion AfCFTA is relevant |  |

**India's Gains from AfCFTA:**

- India-Africa trade relations  
  - Annual Merchandise trade - $70 billion  
  - 1/6th of India's global trade  
- India is Africa's 3rd largest trade partner  
- Despite stagnation in India's global exports, India's exports to Africa have increased  
- Still Africa's demands are unfulfilled  
- African economy set to become formal and transparent  
- India should increase the economic relations with Africa
• Indian companies can co-produce in Africa.

AJCFTA → New opportunities for India in FMCG, infrastructure and connectivity projects

• India can help African Union Commission to prepare the required architecture for AJCFTA

• India can identify and engage with African transnational corporations strategically

• India can utilise the Indian diaspora in Africa

• Africa must sign a India–African Free Trade Agreement with India.

National repository of photographs mooted

SPEAKER: MISSIONARY VIEWS

The Central government needs to create a “repository of photographs of criminals in the country” and wants to put a system in place to track missing children and unidentified dead bodies through facial recognition.

Hindi invited

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has unveiled the Centralized Facial Recognition System (CFRS) that would even capture face images from CCTV feed and generate alerts if a black

beach is found”. To begin with, a repository of 1.5 crore (15 million) images is being planned. The data protection bill is yet to be passed by parliament for the bill document referred to in this context

A senior Home Ministry official said the primary objective was to track missing children and identify unclaimed bodies through the AADhaar database or by using facial recognition technology.

“This repository shall not only facilitate a national level searchable platform of facial images and the data needs to be protected following threats to unauthorised access to data bases/applications, accidental modifications or deletions, confidentiality, integrity and availability breaches of data during data transport and physical storage, encryption-decryption engines”, the document uploaded by the NCRB on the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology’s website said.

“The CFRS was also in the process of being approved by the cabinet, though the process was yet to be followed up by the authorities”, the document said.

The system would also enable handheld mobile oiling applications to capture a face on the field and get the matching result from the biometric server.

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.

• Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

• Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, success stories, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

PAPER IV


• Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

• basics of cyber security;
**News:**
- National Crime Records Bureau has invited bids for the Automated Facial Recognition System
- Automated Facial Recognition System (AFRS)
- Automated identification & verification of persons
  - from digital images, photos, sketches, video frames, and video sources
- Comparison of selected facial features of the person with the already existing image database
- Conceptualised by NCRB
- A Centralised web application will be hosted at NCRB Data Centre, Delhi
- An effort to modernise police force, information gathering, criminal identification, verification and dissemination of information among various police organisations/units

**Importance:**
- Availability of relevant and timely information
  - for investigation, tracking, and detection of criminals
- Facilitates easy recording, analysis, retrieval, sharing of information
- Creation and maintenance of database of photographs in digital form to effectively meet the challenge of criminal identification and verification
- Great investigation enhancer
  - Identification of missing children/persons
  - Unidentified dead bodies
  - Unknown traced children or persons

**Stakeholders:**
- MHA/NCRB - Create repository of photograph of criminals
  - detect crime patterns and modus operandi
- State Police

**Functions:**
- Foundation for a national level searchable platform for facial images
- Logical algorithms, user-friendly and simple graphical user interface
- Capture face images from CCTV feed and generate alerts if matched with blacklisted person

**Match suspect/criminal photograph with existing database**
- Passport
- MoWCD ⇒ ‘Khoya Poya’
- CCTNS
- NAFIS
- ICJS and Prisons
- Add photographs from newspapers, raids
- Sent by people, sketch

**Information Security & Data Protection**
- Unauthorised Access
- Accidental modification
- Confidentiality, Integrity, and Availability
  - data transport/physical storage
- Encryption/Decryption engine
Rajya Sabha too clears Aadhaar Bill

Opposition raises concerns over delay in enacting law on data protection

The Aadhaar and other laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019:
- Has amended:
  - Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016
  - Indian Telegraph Act, 1885
  - Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002
- Aadhaar Act, 2016 → Passed as Money Bill

Money Bill:
- Money bill can be introduced only in Lok Sabha
- Money bill → Lok Sabha (Passes with simple majority) → Presidential Assent
  - Rajya Sabha send recommendations within 14 days of receipt of the Bill
  - If a particular bill is not passed, then decision of Speaker of Lok Sabha is final

Aadhaar Act, 2016:
- Enacted to provide good governance, efficient, transparent and targeted delivery of subsidies, benefits and services
- Expenditure – From Consolidated Fund of India
- Money bill as per Article 110(1)(c) of Indian Constitution

2019 Aadhaar Amendment Bill Provisions:
- Voluntary use of Aadhaar by citizens as a proof of identity to open bank accounts and get mobile connections
- Individuals cannot be denied services on the grounds of authentication of Aadhaar not being done
- Authentication of offline verification of Aadhaar number can be performed only with the informed consent of Aadhaar number holder
- Option to children of Aadhaar Number holders – to cancel their Aadhaar number once they have attained the age of 18 years
- To establish “Unique Identification Authority of India Fund”
- Rs. 1 Crore penalty and jail term for private entities who are violating provisions in Aadhaar data

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
Objections Vs Claims:
- Opposition parties - Questioned the government's intention on clearing the Bill without bringing a law on data protection
- Government → to bring in a comprehensive law on data protection
  - Aadhaar - completely safe and sound with all necessary encryption

Practice Question – Prelims
Q1. Consider the following statements regarding 'Stand up India'.
   1. It is a scheme for financing women entrepreneurs and also the entrepreneurs from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
   2. The scheme is managed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Which of 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.
   1. A money bill can be introduced in both the houses of the Parliament.
   2. If any question arises whether a Bill is a Money Bill or not, then the decision of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is final.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
   c) Both 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Mains
GS-II
Q1. “Indian polity should weaken the caste system, not embolden or reinforce it”. Discuss in the context of Quota for new communities.

Practice Question – Mains
GS-II
Q2. “India-Africa enjoys cordial relations in all aspects but has not materialised in terms of potential it offers”. Discuss African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) in the context of the above statement.

Practice Question – Prelims
Answers
Q1. Option - a) 1 only
Q2. Option - b) 2 only