<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>News Articles</th>
<th>Page Number*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>India’s enduring document of governance (Editorial)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>‘IBC for NBFCs a credit positive for Indian banks’</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Democracy backers sweep Hong Kong polls</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hong Kong’s protest vote (Editorial)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Turtle survival rides on Assam’s towels</td>
<td>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; T – Thiruvananthapuram; H - Hyderabad; D – Delhi
India’s enduring document of governance

The Constitution’s durability arises from the basic commitment and experience to its makers even in the 1940s.

As the above diagram shows, the MEAN LIFESPAN OF THE CONSTITUTION is as follows:

- Latin America: 12.4 years
- Africa: 10.2 years
- Western Europe: 32 years
- Asia: 19 years
- OECD Countries: 32 years
- India: 70 years and counting

*Editorial

• On the longevity / endurance of the Indian Constitution
• At the time of the birth of Indian Constitution, constitutional experts did not expect it to survive long

→ Sharp Critic – Sir Ivor Jennings

• Far too large and far too rigid; and too unwieldy to be moulded into something useful through judicious interpretations

*Research study quoted by the author

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Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance
- History of India and Indian National Movement
- 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.

• Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
Civilspedia - Shankar IAS Academy

* Study Outcomes

  - Constitutions, in general do not last very long
  - Mean life span of Constitutions across the world → 17 years

* What does Constitutions around the world generally do?

  - Ring fence the power; limit the power of authorities created under the Constitution
  - Defines a nation and its goals
  - Defines patterns of authority
  - Means to setup government institutions

* Primary Mechanisms of Constitutional Changes

  - Formal amendments to the text
  - Informal amendments that result from interpretative changes

* Factors influencing the Constitutional lifespan

  - Occurrence of shock and crisis (war) or the threat of imminent breakup of the country

* Structural attributes of the Constitution

  - Detail
  - Enforceability
  - Adaptability

* Structural attributes of the State

* Specificity of the Constitution

* Inclusiveness of the Constitution's origins

* Adaptability to changing conditions

Civilspedia - Shankar IAS Academy

**Author’s View**

* Reasons why India’s Constitution is stable

  - Fractionalised environments
  - Length of the Constitution
  - Specificity
  - Drafting committee has addressed most of the concerns

Drafting Committee of Indian Constitution

* 9th Dec 1946 – First meeting of Constituent Assembly

* 29th Aug 1947 – Appointment of Drafting Committee

* Members

  - Alladi Krishnaswami
  - N. Gopalan
  - B. R. Ambedkar (Chairperson)
  - K. M. Munshi
  - D. P. Khaitan

* 26th Jan 1950 – Constitution of India came into force

* 26th Nov 1949 – Adoption of the Constitution of India

Civilspedia - Shankar IAS Academy
Editorial → Author's Views (Contd)

* Drafting Committee made sure that the Constitution is inclusive & specific

⇒ ‘Excellent balance between redundant verbosity and confounding ambiguity’

* Drafting Committee made sure that the fundamental rights and judicial review are the sheet anchors of the Constitution

⇒ “The life of the law has not been logic. It has been experience.”

- Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes

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Turtle survival rides on Assam’s towels

Gamutou, woven with images of endangered turtles, are aiding conservation

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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-IV


- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
Gamochas or Gamosas
- Handwoven white cotton towel with red border and floral motifs
- Cultural symbol of Assamese people
- GI tag
- Gamosas for conservation of endangered freshwater turtles
- Gamosas woven with turtle images to spread conservation
- Assisted by International NGOs

Biswaanath Wildlife Division of Kaziranga National Park
- High biodiversity
- Impact on fishing families
- Revenue to be used for helping these families
  + Conservation of rare turtles

Assam Roofed Turtle
- Freshwater turtle

Distribution: Northeastern India (Assam), Northeastern and Southeastern Bangladesh

Conservation Status:
- IUCN Red List - Endangered
- CITES - Appendix II
- Indian Wildlife (Protection) - Schedule I Act, 1972

Threats → Logging of trees
  → Silktation
  → Capture for food
  → Pet trade
  → Incidental capture in fishing gear
‘IBC for NBFCs a credit positive for Indian banks’

Enables orderly resolution: Moody’s

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The government’s recent move to amend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code to enable resolution of non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) is a credit positive for Indian banks, rating agency Moody’s said on Monday.

“Amendment of the IBC [Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code] in the country’s bankruptcy code is credit positive for India’s banks that are NBFCs’ largest lenders because the IBC rule provides for the orderly resolution of a stressed company. Until now, the only resolution framework for NBFCs was through liquidation,” Moody’s said.

Following the amendment, RBI said bankruptcy proceedings would be initiated for Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. Moody’s noted that since July 2019, banks and other creditors to Dewan had been unsuccessful in trying to restructure its liabilities.

“We expect the RBI to selectively approach the IBC to resolve NBFCs with severe liquidity or solvency issues, or to resolve companies whose weak corporate governance is deterring potential buyers,” it added.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 227 of IBC 2016</th>
<th>NBFCs comes under IBC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)

* Registered under Companies Act 1956 (Now 2013 Act)
* Business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares etc.
* Does not include institutions whose primary activities are agricultural activity, industrial activity etc.

How NBFCs are different from Banks?

* NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits
* NBFCs → Not a part of payment and Settlement system → cannot issue cheques drawn on itself

Deposit Insurance facility not available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Category of Financial Service Provider</th>
<th>Appropriate Regulator [clause (a) of sub-clause (1) of rule 3 of the Rules]</th>
<th>Dealing with third-party assets [rule 10 of the Rules]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>Non-banking finance companies (which include housing finance companies) with asset size of Rs.500 crore or more, as per last audited balance sheet</td>
<td>Reserve Bank of India</td>
<td>To be notified separately</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NBFCs with asset ≥ Rs. 500 Crore
A credit positive for Indian Banks

* Largest lenders to NBFCs

Eg: DHFL – first NBFC to come under IBC

Financial regulator: RBI

* RBI to focus on stressed NBFCs

* NBFCs facing severe liquidity issues will be taken to IBC

In future

* Systemically important financial institutions might be brought under IBC
Hong Kong

- Located on the South Coast of China.
- Equator (or) Tropic of Cancer is not passing through it.
- The British East India Company made the first successful sea venture to China in 1699.
- Hong Kong’s trade with British merchants developed rapidly.

Hong Kong was ceded to Britain in 1842 under the Treaty of Nanking.

- In 1997, China assumed sovereignty of Hong Kong under the “one country two systems”
- Hong Kong, a Special Administrative Region of the China.
- The rights and freedoms of people in Hong Kong are based on the impartial rule of law and an independent judiciary.
- Head of the government: Chief Executive.

Economy

- Low taxation and minimum government intervention.

At Present

- For the past six months, Hong Kongers were protesting against the proposed Extradition Bill and also demanding greater democracy and autonomy.
- Recent elections to District Councils, pro-democracy parties captured 17 of the 18 Councils.
- These election results would put more pressure on the govt. to take a more conciliatory approach to resolve the ongoing crisis.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements with reference to the Assam Roofed Turtle.
1. It is a freshwater turtle.
2. It is found only in the Indian state of Assam.
3. It comes under ‘Critically Endangered’ category in the IUCN Red List.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 and 3 only
   c) 1 and 3 only
   d) 1 and 2 only

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC).
1. NBFCs includes any institution whose principal business is that of agriculture activity, industrial activity, purchase or sale of any goods or providing any services and construction of immovable property.
2. The Central government in consultation with RBI can bring the financially stressed NBFC with an asset size of Rs 500 crore or more under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.
3. Section 227 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code enables the Centre to bring financial service providers under the IBC for the purpose of their insolvency and liquidation proceedings.
Which among the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1 and 2 only
   b) 2 and 3 only
   c) 1 and 3 only
   d) 1, 2 and 3
Practice Question – Prelims
Q. ‘One country, two systems’ often seen in news refers to
   a) Israel
   b) Palestine
   c) Hong Kong
   d) Syria

Practice Question – Mains
GS – II
Q. The Constitution of India is an enduring document of governance. Discuss.

Practice Question – Prelims
26-11-2019
1. Option ‘a’
2. Option ‘b’
3. Option ‘c’