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The Hindu News Analysis – 02nd November 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H – Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram;
Health emergency declared in Delhi

Schools in the capital have been ordered closed till November 5 due to severe pollution levels.

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-III

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

- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

PAPER-IV


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

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News article

- Pollution levels in Delhi and NCR - Severe.
- Schools to be closed
- Public Health Emergency declared in Capital by Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPAC)
- Delhi and NCR - a "gas chamber"

Reasons for severe air pollution

- Stubble Burning
  - Acc. to CPCB, its contribution to pollution has gone up by 45%.
  - High Particulate matter concentration in air.

- Combination of accumulated toxins because of local pollution - Cracker burning - Diwali

- Extremely adverse weather
  - Temperature inversion in winter
    - Warm air rests above cooler air
    - Traps the smog closer to the ground

⇒ EPAC - air quality in Delhi and NCR - 'Severe +'
Parali Pradhushan action plan

1. Odd-Even scheme for vehicles
2. Distribution of N-95 Category masks
   ▶ designed to filter out at least 95% of dust and mold in the air
   ▶ do not protect against chemical vapors, gases, carbon monoxide, gasoline, asbestos, lead or low oxygen environments
3. Laser show - banning bursting crackers
4. Water sprinkling, mechanised sweeping
5. Special measures for 12 hotspots

6. Two environment marshalls per ward to prevent polluting actions

7. Delhi Tree Challenge

Severe plus pollution level

- National Air Quality Index
  ▶ Air quality status in a single number, nomenclature and colour

<table>
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<tr>
<th>AQI Category</th>
<th>AQI Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>0 – 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>51 – 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>101 – 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>201 – 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Poor</td>
<td>301 – 400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>401 – 500</td>
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Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

- Notified by MoEF&CC through EPAC
- January 2017
- When air quality reaches moderate, poor, very poor, severe as per NAAI, action plans in GRAP are to be taken
- Specifies actions for controlling Particulate Matter (PM) emissions, preventing PM levels from going beyond ‘moderate’ AQI Category
- New category - “Severe + or Emergency” when
  \[ PM_{2.5} \geq 300 \mu g/m^3 \]
  \[ PM_{10} \geq 500 \mu g/m^3 \]

Actions need to be taken

- Stopping entry of truck traffic to Delhi
- Stopping construction activities
- Introducing Odd-Even scheme for private vehicles
- Other additional steps by the Task Force working to control air pollution
Burning of stubble down 40%, SC told

Special schemes, having a total outlay of Rs 11.64 crore, have been rolled out to tackle air pollution.

CIVILS ENVIRONMENT

The Delhi government has informed the Supreme Court that it will install smoke-busting devices at all the borders of the national capital to check the entry of smoke. The court has given directions to North Eastern States and their NEHGs to install smoke-busting devices at all the borders. The court has also noted that the Delhi government has already sanctioned Rs 11.64 crore for these schemes.

Another scheme that has been rolled out is the installation of smoke-busting devices at all the borders of the city. The court has also noted that the Delhi government has already sanctioned Rs 11.64 crore for these schemes.

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Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)

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- 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.

- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

PAPER-IV


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

News

- CPCB - Contribution of Stubble burning to pollution has gone up to 45%.

- MoEF&CC to Supreme Court - incidents of stubble burning in three neighbouring states of Delhi and NCR have come down by 41% since 2016.

- Reduction in Stubble burning in 2018 compared to 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Reduction</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.P.</td>
<td>44%</td>
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</table>

- Special central schemes
  - to tackle air pollution
  - in-situ management of crop residue
  - promotion of mechanisation in agriculture
  - 50% subsidy to individual farmers for machines to manage crop residue
  - 80% discount for setting up Custom Hiring Centres

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Home Ministry retains final say on AFSPA in J&K, Ladakh

The Act has been in force in these areas since 1990.

SPECIAL OVERVIEW

The Cabinet Secretariat on Friday notified rules regarding the Union Home Ministry as the authority that would decide on the imposition of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The act, which imposes severe force to conduct operations anywhere and anytime without a warrant, has been in force in Jammu & Kashmir since May 5, 1990.

A special notification in the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019, the Union Territories of J&K will have a Legislative Assembly, but Ladakh will not have one. While the Lieutenant Governor of the two Union Territories were sworn in on Thursday, there have been no indications as yet on the Assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir.

Earlier, before the force of AFSPA was bifurcated and downgraded, it was the Home Ministry or the Governor that was the designated authority for notifying the AFSPA.

Friday’s notification also renamed the Department of Jammu and Kashmir in the Ministry as the Department of Jaunama, Kashmir, and Ladakh Affairs. The notification also included the Hindi translation of the name in Devanagari script—“Jaunama, Kashmir, and Ladakh Kshetra.”

The government said the department would be responsible for all matters relating to the two Union Territories, including coordination with the J&K government and managing the Line of Control between India and Pakistan, but excluding those matters with which the External Affairs Ministry is concerned.

All matters falling within the purview of the Union Government in terms of the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 (S.I. No. 200) relating to both the Union Territories, except all matters as have been specifically assigned under these rules to any other Ministry or Department of the Government of India, the notification said.

In Ladakh, the Department of Ladakh, Kashmir, and Ladakh Affairs would be responsible for all matters enumerated in the state list and Concurrent List in any subject, except all matters as have been specifically assigned under any other Ministry or department of the Government of India.

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, Policy, Social Justice, and International relations.

- Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.

PAPER-IV


- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019

1. Designated Authority to notify ‘disturbed areas’ in official gazette
   - [Sec. 3, AF (J&K)SPA, 1990]
   - Bifurcation
   - Erstwhile J&K State
   - UT of J&K
   - UT of Ladakh

2. Governor of J&K (or)
   - C. Govt (Min. of Home Affairs)
   - C. Govt (MHA)

[Recent notification by the Cabinet Secretariat]
AF (J&K) SPA, 1990
- Empowers Armed Forces
  - to conduct operations anywhere in order to maintain public order
  - to arrest anyone without warrant
  - to enter and search any premises without warrant
  - to stop, search and seize any vehicles carrying any suspicious person who is a proclaimed offender

Department of Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh Affairs
- Erstwhile Dept of Jammu and Kashmir
- Comes under Ministry of Home Affairs

- Deals with
  - UTs of J&K, Ladakh
  - Administration of AF (J&K) SPA, 1990
- Deals with all matters which falls under the purview of the Union Government (Based on the provisions of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019)
- Includes counter-terrorism within J&K
- Coordination with other ministries/depts in respect of subjects/matters that are specifically allotted
- Excludes subjects/matters that concerns Ministry of External Affairs

- Ladakh - Responsible for all matters that are enumerated in State list and Concurrent list, except those matters that have been specifically assigned to any other Ministry or Dept. of Govt. of India.
Beijing can slap tariffs of $3.6 bn on U.S. goods: WTO

Anti-dumping duties caused loss to China

A World Trade Organization arbitrator on Friday authorised China to slap tariffs on U.S. imports worth up to $3.58 billion annually in a years-long dispute over U.S. anti-dumping practices, a trade official said.

China had asked the WTO for permission to hit the U.S. with more than $7 billion in tariffs in the case.

But the WTO ruling said it had determined that the illegal U.S. anti-dumping practices had caused “nullification or impairment of benefits accruing to China” to the tune of $3.57 billion, and that Beijing could impose tariffs on goods not exceeding that amount per year.

The decision marks the first time the WTO has authorised China to impose tariffs in a trade dispute. Beijing still needs to formally request the right to impose that or a lesser sum in tariffs, but it would take opposition from every WTO member to block such a request.

In this specific case, China alleged that the United States, in violation of WTO rules, was continuing a practice known as “zeroing”, which calculates the price of imports compared to the normal value in the U.S. to determine predatory pricing.

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.

• Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests. Indian diaspora.

Dumping - Price discrimination where the price of a product is less than the price of that product in the market of importing country.

World Trade Organization

- Intergovernmental body
- HQ: Geneva, Switzerland
- Global organization dealing with the rules of trade between the nations
- WTO allows governments to act against dumping

Anti-dumping duty is to neutralize the impact of cheap imports in the imported country.

Present case: US—China

- Against the anti-dumping duty imposed by U.S. on Chinese imports.
- U.S. is practicing arbitrary anti-dumping methodologies. Ex: Zeroing
- China is to slap compensatory sanctions on U.S. imports.
Joblessness rises to 3-year high

The rate for October is at the highest level since August 2016, says CMIE

Out of work

The graph shows the change in joblessness from January 2016 to when CMIE began tracking unemployment.

Out of work

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Out of work

The graph shows the change in joblessness from January 2016 to when CMIE began tracking unemployment.

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.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

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

- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

PAPER-IV

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

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

Unemployment rate

- Proportion of labour force without a job + actively looking for a job

Labour force = Employed + Unemployed

- October 2019 - 8.5%
  - Highest since August, 2016
  - Urban unemployment: 8.9%
  - Rural unemployment: 8.3%

State-wise data (for October 2019)

- Highest - Tripura (17.2%), Haryana (13.2%)
- Lowest - Tamil Nadu (1.1%), Andhra (1.2%), Uttarakhand (1.5%)

Periodic Labour Force Survey (2017-18) by MoSPI

- July 2017 - June 2018
  - Unemployment: 6.1%
  - Highest since 1972-73

- 5.2% decline in growth of core sectors in September 2019

Worst performance in last 14 years
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements about Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

1. It specifies action plans that are required for controlling Particulate Matter Emissions from various pollution sources and to prevent PM10 and PM2.5 levels to go beyond the ‘severe’ National Air Quality Index category.

2. It has been notified by the Central Pollution Control Board.

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

Q2. Consider the following statements about the Armed Forces (Jammu & Kashmir) Special Powers Act, 1990.

1. This Act can be imposed on the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir only.

2. The Department of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Affairs under the Prime Minister’s Office deals with the administration of this Act.

Which of the above statements is/are not correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. “Anti-dumping duty”, often in news refers to
   a) It’s a duty imposed on domestic goods by the domestic country.
   b) It’s a duty imposed on imported goods by the importing nation.
   c) It’s a duty imposed by the exporting country on the exported goods.
   d) It’s a duty imposed on exported goods by the importing nation.

Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. Consider the following statements.
   1. As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey 2017-2018, the unemployment rate in India during 2017-2018 is 6.1%.
   2. The Periodic Labour Force Survey 2017-2018, was released by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

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

Answers

1. Option (d) – Neither 1 nor 2
2. Option (c) – Both 1 and 2
3. Option (b) – It’s a duty imposed on imported goods by the importing nation.
4. Option (a) – 1 only