The Hindu News Analysis – 12th December 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; T – Thiruvananthapuram; H – Hyderabad
Richard Branson to meet Uddhav to seek clarity on Mumbai-Pune hyperloop

Virgin Group founder says need to see if new govt is as keen on project as old one

Virgin Group founder Richard Branson will meet Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Thursday to discuss the proposed Mumbai-Pune Hyperloop project that will connect Pune to Mumbai.

The hyperloop project, which will cost over Rs. 10,000 crores, is currently being planned under the aegis of the Maharashtra government. The project is expected to reduce travel time between the two cities to 20 minutes.

Mr. Branson was in the city to meet Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and discuss the project.

"The project is at a very early stage and we are just in the process of gathering information and understanding the feasibility of the project. We want to ensure that we are making the right decisions," Mr. Branson said.

The hyperloop project will use pods that will travel at supersonic speeds, reducing travel time between the two cities to just 20 minutes.

Mr. Branson also said that the project will be funded through a combination of public and private funding.

"We want to make sure that we are making the right decisions and that the project is feasible," Mr. Branson said.

The project is expected to be completed within three years.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)

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

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-IV


- Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
- Science and Technology—developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

Hyperloop Technology

1. Magnetic Levitation
   - a) Floating using magnetic properties
   - b) Accelerating through electric propulsion

   Reduces ground-contact friction

2. Use of low-pressure, vacuum sealed environment

   To be built on columns/tunnelled below ground

![Hyperloop Transportation](image-url)
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Hyperloop Transportation System.

1. It is operated using the magnetic levitation principle.
2. It uses Iron Calorimeter Detector.
3. A hyperloop project has been approved by the Maharashtra State Government for direct connectivity between Mumbai and Pune.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 2
(d) 1, 2 and 3
States of persecution

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill provides for citizenship to minority ‘persecuted religious communities’ from six countries: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar. These communities are defined as people who face religious persecution or discrimination in their countries of origin. The bill aims to grant citizenship to these communities to facilitate their settlement and integration in India.

Migrant numbers associated with 800 Bangladeshi immigrants, many of them have been targeted for their religious beliefs. Among them, 250 people were religiously persecuted under the Bhutanese constitution. The bill also provides for the settlement of refugees from the state of Tibet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Migrants in India (2019)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>1,914,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>1,404,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>3,33,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>3,50,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>1,28,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>4,9,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tibet</td>
<td>3,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>6,342</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-II

General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

- Role of women and women’s organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

- Effects of globalization on Indian society.

Persecution, International migrants, Refugees, UNHCR

Persecution: Unfair or cruel treatment over a period of time on the grounds of race, religion, political, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, social status or political beliefs etc.

Migration

- Voluntary process
- In search of better economic opportunities
- Can return to their home safely

Refugees

- Defined and protected in international law
- People outside their country of origin because of feared persecution, conflict, violence, or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

- UN Refugee Agency
- Dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better-future for refugees
- Guardian of the UN Convention on Refugees
India signed neither 1951 UN Refugee Convention nor its 1967 Protocol

As per UN Convention, ‘refugee’ are “unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion”

Pew Research Centre

- non-partisan fact tank
- operates from Washington D.C.
- releases two important indices → GRI & SHI

Government Restrictions Index (GRI)

- measures laws, policies and actions by the officials that restrict religious beliefs and practices

Social Hostilities Index (SHI)

- measures religious hostility by private individuals, organisations or groups in the society

10-point scale
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. ‘Government Restrictions Index (GRI)’ is released by
a) Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
b) Pew Research Centre
c) Reporters Without Borders
d) UNHCR
**Heavy Metals**

* Heavy metals – metals with high atomic number, atomic weight and density > 5 g/cm³

* Industries effluents with heavy metals → Water bodies → Heavy Metal Pollution

* 35 metals considered dangerous for human health; 23 are heavy metals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Metal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antimony</td>
<td>Gallium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arsenic</td>
<td>Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bismuth</td>
<td>Thallium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cadmium</td>
<td>Lead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerium</td>
<td>Tin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chromium</td>
<td>Vanadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobalt</td>
<td>Nickel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>Platinum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Major lethal effects to human health – few heavy metals – lead, cadmium, mercury and arsenic

* Large amounts → causes acute or chronic toxicity

* Health Conditions

  ▶ Reduced mental and central nervous functions
  ▶ Modified blood composition
  ▶ Damage to vital organs

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**S. No.** | **Pollutant** | **Major sources**
---|---|---
1. | Arsenic | Arsenic containing fungicides, pesticides and herbicides, metal smelters, by products of mining activities, chemical wastes
2. | Cadmium | Cadmium producing industries, electroplating, welding. Byproducts from refining of Pb, Zn and Cu, fertilizer industry, pesticide manufacturers, cadmium-nickel batteries, nuclear fission plants, production of TEL used as additives in petrol
3. | Chromium | Metallurgical and chemical industries, processes using chromate compounds, cement and asbestos units
4. | Copper | Iron and steel industry, fertilizer industry, burning of wood, discharge of mine tailings, disposal of fly ash, disposal of municipal and industrial wastes are the sources of copper in the atmosphere
5. | Iron | Cast iron, wrought iron, steel, alloys, construction, transportation, machine manufacturing
6. | Lead | Automobile emissions, lead smelters, burning of coal and oil, lead arsenate pesticides, smoking, mining and plumbing
7. | Mercury | Mining and refining of mercury, organic mercury’s used in pesticides, laboratories using mercury
8. | Nickel | Metallurgical industries using nickel, combustion of fuels containing nickel additives, burning of coal and oil, electroplating units using nickel salts, incineration of nickel containing substances
9. | Zinc | Zinc refineries, galvanizing processes, brass manufacture, metal plating, plumbing

**News**

* Central Water Commission has released ‘Status of Trace and Toxic Metals in Indian Rivers 2019’

* Study conducted in 67 rivers of 20 river basins
River Basins

Major Basins
1. Indus
2. Godavari
3. Krishna
4. Cauvery
5. Mahanadi
6. Pennar
7. Brahmani - Baitarani
8. Ganga - Brahmaputra - Meghna

Composite Basins
1. Subarnarekha
2. East Flowing rivers between Mahanadi & Pennar
3. East Flowing rivers between Pennar & Kanyakumari
4. Area of Inland Drainage in Rajasthan Desert
5. West Flowing rivers of Kutch & Saurashtra including Luni
6. West Flowing rivers from Tapi to Padri
7. West Flowing rivers from Padri to Kanyakumari
8. Minor rivers draining into Myanmar & Bangladesh

* Outcomes:
- One-third of water quality stations safe
- Two-thirds of water quality stations polluted by one or more heavy metals
- Metals
  - Arsenic, Mercury - within safe limits
  - Iron - common contaminant
  - Other contaminants
  - Lead
  - Chromium
  - Copper
  - Nickel
  - Cadmium

Central Water Commission
- Premier Technical Organisation in the field of water resources
- Functions under Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Came into existence in 1945 as 'Central Waterways, Irrigation & Navigation Commission'
- 1951 - renamed as 'Central Water & Power Commission' after its merger with Central Electricity Commission
- 1974 - Water wing of CW & PC - Separated as Central Water Commission
Previous Year Question – Prelims

Q. As per the NSSO 70th Round “Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households”, consider the following statements.

1. Rajasthan has the highest percentage share of agricultural households among its rural households.
2. Out of the total agricultural households in the country, a little over 60 percent belong to OBCs.
3. In Kerala, a little over 60 percent of agricultural households reported to have received maximum income from sources other than agricultural activities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. The Central Water Commission has its beginning even before the Independence.
2. National Water Academy functions directly under the guidance of the Chairman of Central Water Commission.

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
A.P. Cabinet clears Disha Bill to ensure rape verdicts in 21 days

State government will table legislation in the ongoing session of Assembly

A. P. Disha Bill, 2019

A.P. Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2019

A.P. Special Court for specified offences against women & children Bill, 2019

Article 21 → Right to Life and Personal Liberty

→ Includes Right to Justice

→ Speedy delivery of justice ensures trust in judicial systems

→ Slowmotion Syndrome

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.

- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of the schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

- Reasons for delay
  1) Delay in disposal due to high pendency
  2) Judge to Population ratio → Poor
  3) Disappointing infrastructure in lower courts
  4) Provision for adjournment

- Features of these Bills
  1) Death penalty for rape and gang rape
  2) Expedite justice delivery → judgment in 21 days
To amend IPC, 1860 and CrPC, 1973

- Section 354 of IPC: Assault on women with an intent to outrage her modesty
- Section 354 E - Harassment of women through social media
- Section 354 F - Molestation / Sexual assault of children

PRACTICE QUESTIONS DISCUSSION
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. ‘Government Restrictions Index (GRI)’ is released by
   a) Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
   b) Pew Research Centre
   c) Reporters Without Borders
   d) UNHCR

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements.
   1. The Central Water Commission has its beginning even before the Independence.
   2. National Water Academy functions directly under the guidance of the Chairman of Central Water Commission.

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

Q3. As per the Central Water Commission’s ‘Status of Trace and Toxic Metals in Indian Rivers, 2019’, consider the following statements.

1. Iron is the most common contaminant found in Indian rivers.
2. The concentration of sodium chloride is very high in all the rivers in India.
3. Two-third of water quality monitoring stations sampled for the survey was found polluted by one or more heavy metals.

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

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

Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. Consider the following statements with reference to the Hyperloop Transportation System.

1. It is operated using the magnetic levitation principle.
2. It uses Iron Calorimeter Detector.
3. A hyperloop project has been approved by the Maharashtra State Government for direct connectivity between Mumbai and Pune.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 2
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Practice Question – Prelims
Answers

1. Option (b) - Pew Research Centre
2. Option (c) – Both 1 and 2
3. Option (c) – 1 and 3 only
4. Option (a) – 1 and 3

LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE

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