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U.S. kills top Iranian General in air strike
President Trump authorized drone attack on Major General Qassem Soleimani near Baghdad airport

An influential commander

- General Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Baghdad on Friday, was one of Iran’s most powerful military leaders, a mastermind of the Islamic Republic’s regional strategy. He founded and directed the Revolutionary Guards’ Quds Force.
- The Quds Force was formed to confront what the Islamic Republic said was “Israel’s occupation of our holy land.” Soleimani was killed by a drone strike as he rode in a car in the heavily internationalized neighborhood of Baghdad, according to the White House.

Who was Qassem Soleimani?

He was the main architect of Iran’s recent foreign interventions.

News Analysis

The attack comes as tensions between the U.S. and Iran have escalated in recent weeks, with both countries blaming each other for a series of events, including a drone strike that killed a top Iranian military commander, General Qassem Soleimani, near Baghdad airport.

Iran vows revenge after U.S. kills General

Tens of thousands of angry Iranians take to the streets of Tehran, chanting “Death to America”

How was the operation carried out?

- The attack was carried out using a drone, which is a precision-guided missile.
- The drone targeted Soleimani’s car, which was surrounded by a group of the Quds Force members, at the time of the attack.

Defender of revolution

General Soleimani was a revered figure in the Islamic Republic, where he was seen as a hero who defended Iran from its enemies. He was also a key figure in Iran’s region’s diplomacy and military strategy.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

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

- India and its neighborhood relations.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests, Indian diaspora.
Road to conflict

Tensions between Iran and the U.S. have been steadily escalating with Washington tightening sanction, Tehran resuming nuclear activity and a series of incidents in the Gulf of Oman.

On April 8, 2019: Washington declares Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps a terrorist group. Its Quds Force, which operates abroad, is also put on the blacklist.

May 12: Four ships, including three oil tankers, are damaged in mysterious attacks in the Gulf that the U.S. blames on Iran.

June 13: Two tankers, Norwegian and Japanese, come under attack in the Gulf of Oman.

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Killing the commander

December 30: The U.S. carries out air strikes against bases of a pro-Iran group in Iraq, in retaliation for an attack on U.S. interests.

Dec 31: Pro-Iran protesters storm the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad expressing fury over the strikes.

Jan 3, 2020: A U.S. strike kills commander Qassem Soleimani, the Quds Force chief, in Iraq.

The Pentagon says Trump ordered the “assassination” of the chief of the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

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Qassem Soleimani — Iranian Major General & Head of Quds Force

Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis

— Top Iraqi Militia Commander

— Killed in a US drone attack

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

formed after 1979 revolution

Quds Force — Specialised in foreign missions, training pro-Iran militias

Architect of Iran’s spreading military influence in West Asia

Known for fight against IS

now assassinated by US

Iran’s Supreme leader vowed harsh revenge

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Proxy war/Shadow war

Major power instigates or supports a party to a conflict
*A small part in actual fighting

West Asia Scenario

Saudi Arabia
Iran
Israel
Hezbollah
USA
Hamas, etc.
UAE, etc.

similar to cold war politics

Bracing for global impact after Soleimani’s assassination

This was a missed opportunity for the United States and its allies. The international community was divided on how to respond, and the assassination could have led to further instability in the region.

India expresses concern over Soleimani’s killing

MEA warns against escalation of tensions in region

Iransan's Deputy Foreign Minister said that India's action could lead to a dangerous situation and called for calm.

Oil, safe haven bonds surge on U.S. strikes

Oil prices jumped nearly $3 a barrel and gold, the yen and safe-haven bonds all rallied on Friday, after the U.S. killing of Iran's top military commander in an air strike in Iraq ratcheted up tensions between the two powers.

The Middle East-focused oil markets saw the most dramatic moves with Brent crude futures leaping as much as 4.5% to $69.20 a barrel intraday, their highest since September, though the impact was felt across almost every asset class. Europe's STOXX 600 and Wall Street futures both fell around 1% as New Year optimism evaporated.
Global impacts

1) Soleimani - A state actor, unlike terrorists ↓
   Iran might retaliate ↓
   weaken West Asia

2) Attack on oil tankers and oil facilities ↓
   Impact on global oil supply

India’s Reaction

Ministry of External Affairs expressed concerns – peace and stability in West Asia is important for India.

India’s bilateral relations with USA & IRAN

- Raisina Dialogue
  - Annual multilateral conference
  - ORF + MEA

- Strategic partners
  - India
  - USA
  - Iran
  - Oil
  - Chabahar port

- Strained relationship

Impacts on India

- India needs a stable West Asia
  * 2/3rd of India’s oil imports from the region
  * Eg: 1990 Iraq invasion of Kuwait

- Millions of Indian expatriates in West Asia

- Radicalisation of Shia population in India

- Iran’s influence on US-Taliban peace talks
Practice Question – Mains
GS – II

Q. ‘West Asia has become the hotbed for proxy war between major regional powers’. In the light of the above statement, explain the concept of proxy war and explain its impacts on India. (250 words, 15 marks)
Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy

Sea of ASHAs descend on Bengaluru

They are demanding monthly honorarium of Rs 2,000 and payment of MCTS incentive.

Protesters bring children along

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENT

Some ASHAs brought their kids to the protest site, Freedom Park, as they said they were not able to give them food and water, and some of the children had to stand in empty vessels.

Although the Karnataka Rural Women's Federation has been demanding better services for field workers, this has been going on for the past one year. The health department has been promoting the issue but has not been able to provide adequate support.

ASHA

⇒ Accredited Social Health Activist
⇒ All are women activists for Health
⇒ Community-based functionaries

Roles & Responsibilities of ASHA

ASHA will take steps to create awareness and provide information to the community on determinants of health.

She will counsel women on birth preparedness, importance of safe delivery, nutritional health, breastfeeding and complementary feeding, care of the young child, etc.

ASHA will mobilize the community and facilitate them in accessing health and health-related services.

She will arrange escort/accompany pregnant women & children requiring treatment/admission to the nearest pre-identified health facility.

ASHA will provide primary medical care for minor ailments such as diarrhoea, fever, and first aid for minor injuries. She will be a provider of Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) under Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme.

She will inform about the births and deaths in her village and any unusual health problems/disease outbreaks in the community to the Sub-Centres/Primary Health Centre.

She will promote construction of household toilets under Total Sanitation Campaign.
As per NHFW(MoHFW, GoI)

| ➞ ASHA – not a paid employee |
| ➞ not entitled to pay or honorarium but eligible for compensation for various services by her under schemes of Central Govt and State Govts |
| ➞ compensation is generally based on tasks (tasks-based incentives) |

Mother and Child Tracking System

| ➞ a comprehensive system – facilitates in ensuring timely delivery of full spectrum of health care services to pregnant women and children up to 5 years of age |
| ➞ to help reducing IMR and MMR |

ASHA – Soft

| ➞ online monitoring and payment system |
| ➞ facilitates health department to capture beneficiary wise details of services provided by ASHA |

---

Measures/Steps taken by Central Government

| ➞ Since October 2018, ASHA, are entitled for Rs 2000/- as routine & recurring incentives under NHM (earlier Rs 1000/month) |
| ➞ Social security for ASHA, |
| ➞ premium burden totally taken care by Central Government |
| ➞ Schemes |
| • PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana |
| • PM Suraksha Bima Yojana |

Issues before the Governments

| ➞ Adequate Income security {fixed monthly honorarium/income & other pay benefits} and Social security required for ASHA |
| ➞ ‘Public Health’ – State list |
| ➞ Both states & Centre – expected to play the due roles of co-operative and competitive federalism to address the plight of ASHA |

Civilpedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. ASHAs are Accredited Social Health Activists who play a very important role in counselling women about birth preparedness and care of young child.

2. They provide secondary medical care for major ailments and first aid for minor injuries.

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
Meteor shower expected tonight

Earth comes closest to sun on Jan. 4

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

On January 4, the earth comes closest to the sun, also called as the ‘aphelion’, but, this will not result in any significant increase of sunlight or sun's heat, said G.B. Birla Observatory and Astronomical Research Centre director B.G. Sidharth.

There, however, will be a meteor shower, ‘Quadran
tides’, on the date. “If one is lucky, one can see a meteor or two during the night,” he said.

On the night of January 10 and 11, there would be a ‘Pen
umbral Lunar Eclipse’ – a slanted shadow of the earth that falls on the moon, which makes little dif

The moon enters the region of partial shadow or pen
numbra at 10.36 p.m. and leaves the penumbra on Ja

News: Meteor shower expected tonight that is 4th January, 2019 night

Asteroids

- Smaller than a planet, but larger than meteors
- Asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Indian and World Geography-Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.

Part B—Main Examination

General Studies-I : Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.
- Salient features of world’s physical geography.

Meteoroids

- Sometimes one asteroid can smash into another asteroid.
- This can cause small pieces of the asteroid to break off
- Meteoroids can also come from comets

Comets

- Orbit the Sun just like asteroids
- Made of ice and dust, but not rock
- Less dense than asteroids

2 Types

- Periodical
- Non-periodical

Eg: Halley’s comet (76 years)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meteor</th>
<th>Meteorite</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Meteoroid entering atmosphere of the Earth</td>
<td>- Sometimes meteor don’t vaporize completely in the atmosphere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Atmosphere of the Earth burns it and turns into a meteor</td>
<td>- Debris (or) remnant on the Earth’s surface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Shooting stars</td>
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**Quadrantids**

→ meteor shower in early January in each year

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**Perihelion (Vs) Aphelion**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perihelion</th>
<th>Aphelion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shortest distance between the Sun and the Earth</td>
<td>Longest distance between the Sun and the Earth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perigee</td>
<td>Apogee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortest distance between the Earth and the moon</td>
<td>Longest distance between the Earth and the moon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. “Quadrantids” often in news refers to

a) Quadrilateral grouping of India, Japan, US and Australia
b) Early January meteor showers
c) Early January comets streak
d) Right angular location of the Sun, the Earth and the Moon

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements

1. Perihelion signifies the shortest distance between the sun and the earth.
2. During Perihelion, Northern hemisphere experiences summer season.

Select the correct statement(s) using the codes given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
All India Judicial Service no panacea, says study

Vidhi report points out several issues in pitching AIS as a solution to judicial vacancies

KABIR RYUDE KKHANGARH

Most of the reasons for creation of an All India Judicial Service (AIS) for appointing lower court judges "no longer exist or have been resolved through changes in rules, regulations and practices", a report by Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy said.

Currently, the appointments of District judges and subordinate judiciary are done by the respective state governments. But in recent years, there have been an insinuated push for creation of a unified pan-India judicial service for appointing them.

AIS has been pitched as a solution to judicial vacancies, lack of representation for the marginalised and the failure to attract the best talent.

Vidhi in its report titled, 'A primer on the All India Judicial Service - A solution in search of a problem' demonstrated that many of these issues have been "not correctly diagnosed".

The idea for AIS was first proposed by the 14th report of the Law Commission of India in 1958, aimed at creating a centralised cadre of District Judges that would do better talent.

One of the recent justifications for creation of AIS has been that a centralised service would help fill the approximately 6,000 vacancies across the District and Subordinate judiciary in India.

The report, however, said it is only certain high courts which account for a majority of the approximately 6,000 vacancies. "In our opinion, rather than proposing an AIS as a solution for judicial vacancies, it may be more prudent to investigate the reasons and causes for the large number of vacancies in the poorly performing states," the report authored by Priyanka Reddy, Anam Jaipur and Reshma Sekhar said.

The report also highlighted that many of the communities who currently benefit from the state quotas, may oppose the creation of AIS. This is because the communities recognised as Other Backward Classes (OBC) by state governments may or may not be classified as OBCs by the Central government.

While AIS has been pitched as a solution to lack of representation for the marginalised on the bench, the report said many States are already reserving posts for marginalised communities and women.

Another argument made against creation of AIS is that judges recruited through this process will not know the local languages of the states in which they are posted. This becomes important considering that the proceedings of civil and criminal courts are to be conducted in a language prescribed by the respective state governments.

"The issues of local language and customs are issues that deserve serious consideration before moving ahead with the creation of the AIS", the report said.

P3 \rightarrow D

■ Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy - report

"A primer on the All India Judicial Service: A solution in search of a problem"

■ All-India Judicial Service

⇒ First proposed by 14th report of the Law Commission in 1958

⇒ Aimed at creation of a Centralised Cadre of District Judges

⇒ At present - the recruitment is carried out by
  - Respective State Government
  - Concerned High Court

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.

- 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.
- Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

UNIVERSITY OF TAMIL NADU

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
PUBLIC (SPECIAL A) DEPARTMENT
JUDICATURE, MADRAS

NOTIFICATION NO. 1/2019
DATED: 13.01.2019

DISTRICT JUDGE (ENTRY LEVEL) DIRECT RECRUITMENT FOR TAMIL NADU STATE JUDICIAL SERVICE

Date of notification 13/01/2019
Last date for submission of On-line Application 04/02/2019
Last date for remittance of fee through Bank 06/02/2019
Tentative Schedule of Examination
Preliminary Examination (OMR Method) (Forenoon & Afternoon) 06/04/2019
Main Written Examination (Forenoon & Afternoon) 25/05/2019 & 26/05/2019
Viva-voce Fourth week of June 2019
At present—Appointment of District Judges based on Article 233

- Appointment
- Posting
- Promotion

of District Judges in any state

shall be made by Governor of the State in consultation with the concerned High Court.

Why such a proposal?

- Increasing vacancies in lower courts
- Lack of representation—marginalized sections
- Failure to attract the best talent

Remuneration and pay in present system—not better

Vidhi Report:  
Most of the reasons for creation of an AIJS for District Judges—no longer exist—or have been resolved through change in rules, regulations & practices.

Many states ensure timely and efficient recruitments.

Difficulties such as lack of Courtrooms, lack of administrative capacity, etc.

Many states already reserve posts for marginalized communities

National Judicial Pay Commissions—recommend remuneration, pay and service conditions—but not binding on the State Governments.

Constitutional procedure to create All-India Judicial Service as an All-India Service

Article 312(1)

312. All-India services.—(1) Notwithstanding anything in Chapter VI of Part VI or Part XI, if the Council of States has declared by resolution supported by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting that it is necessary or expedient in the national interest so to do, Parliament may by law provide for the creation of one or more all India services (including an all-India judicial service) common to the Union and the States, and, subject to the other provisions of this Chapter, regulate the recruitment, and the conditions of service of persons appointed, to any such service.
### Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Article 312 of Indian Constitution deals with

- a) Power of President to consult Supreme Court
- b) Creation of one or more All-India Services
- c) Procedure for Impeachment of the President
- d) Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission

### Practice Question – Mains

**GS – II**

Q. Most of the reasons for the creation of the All-India Judicial Service for District Judges no longer exist or have been resolved already. Evaluate. (10 marks, 150 marks)
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements.

1. ASHAs are Accredited Social Health Activists who play a very important role in counselling women about birth preparedness and care of young child.

2. They provide secondary medical care for major ailments and first aid for minor injuries.

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. “Quadrantids” often in news refers to
a) Quadrilateral grouping of India, Japan, US and Australia
b) Early January meteor showers
c) Early January comets streak
d) Right angular location of the Sun, the Earth and the Moon

Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Consider the following statements
1. Perihelion signifies the shortest distance between the sun and the earth.
2. During Perihelion, Northern hemisphere experiences summer season.

Select the correct statement(s) using the codes given below.
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
### Practice Question – Prelims

**Q4.** Article 312 of Indian Constitution deals with

a) Power of President to consult Supreme Court

b) Creation of one or more All-India Services

c) Procedure for Impeachment of the President

d) Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission

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### Practice Question – Mains

**GS – II**

Q. ‘West Asia has become the hotbed for proxy war between major regional powers’. In the light of the above statement, explain the concept of proxy war and explain its impacts on India. (250 words, 15 marks)
**Practice Question – Mains**

**GS – II**

Q. Most of the reasons for the creation of the All-India Judicial Service for District Judges no longer exist or have been resolved already. Evaluate. (10 marks, 150 marks)

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**Practice Question – Prelims**

**Answers**

Q1. Option ‘a’ – 1 only
Q2. Option ‘b’ – Early January meteor showers
Q3. Option ‘b’ - 1 only
Q4. Option ‘c’ - Creation of one or more All-India Services
LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE

SUBSCRIBE