05-NOVEMBER-2019

Saying RCEP will hurt farmers, India walks out

PM says his conscience does not permit him to sign the FTA

BJP to wait and watch in Maharashtra

Caretaker Chief Minister Fadnavis meets party chief Amit Shah in Delhi

NISTULA HERBAR
NEW DELHI
The BJP has adopted a wait and watch attitude over the Shiv Sena's assertions that it would prefer to form a government in Maharashtra with the help of the Congress and NCP.

Last minute withdrawal
India pulled out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic

Pawar meets Sonia in Delhi

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI
The onus of forming a government in Maharashtra will be on the trinamool Congress.
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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H – Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram;
Fusing traditional medicine with the modern

Taking cues from the Chinese experience, India can integrate the education, research and practice of both systems.
Background

- Traditional medicine → ancient and culture bound medical practice
  - Varies with societal and cultural heritage
- Modern medicine - allopathic / western
- 20th Century - revival of traditional medicine
- AYUSH - a subtheme of cultural nationalist reassertion against the British
  - Ayurveda
  - Siddha
  - Yoga and Naturopathy
  - Homeopathy
  - Unani

- Recent govt. efforts to revive AYUSH - would help to achieve universal health coverage

Barriers to traditional - modern integration

1. Lack of availability of AYUSH health facilities
2. Shaky relation between traditional and modern medicine
   - Quackery by AYUSH practitioners
   - Ridicule of practices
   - Mindless promotion of AYUSH
3. Need to address the "Status gap"
4. Isolationist attitude

Efforts by the Govt. over the years

a) Chopra Committee (Committee on Indigenous systems of Medicine) - 1948
b) Separate Ministry for AYUSH - 2014
c) MoUs with Defence and Railway Ministries

d) Promotion of private investment and entrepreneurship

e) Building Institutes of Excellence - AIIM, NEIAH

f) 12500 - AYUSH Health & Wellness Centres

g) Section 50 of National Medical Commission Act, 2019

h) Efforts in the international arena

* Delhi Declaration on Traditional Medicine for South East Asian Countries - 2013
* World Ayurveda Congress - 2014
* June 21 - International Yoga Day

Way Forward

* Legitimate inclusion of AYUSH

* Success story - China

   - Integrate - education, research and practice of both systems

   - Training AYUSH doctors in modern medicine and vice versa

   - Delineates strength, weakness and roles

   - Standardise practice etc.

* No loss of identity/dilution of medical standards

* Integration - help to achieve universal health care
Act against cross-border insurgents, Modi tells Suu Kyi

PM says a peaceful border will help expand bilateral ties

A stable and peaceful border will help the bilateral partnership to expand further. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has told Myanmar’s State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi. He also asked her to prevent insurgent groups from operating across the India-Myanmar border.

Mr. Modi informed her of India’s readiness to expand its socio-economic projects in Kachin, Arakan, and New Delhi implemented a housing project in the respective province. He made the proposal at a meeting on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit on Sunday, the Ministry of External Affairs said. Mr. Modi said the speedy return from Bangladesh of the displaced Rohingyas Muslims to their homes in Kachin was in the interests of the region.

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.

- 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.

ASEAN

- Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- Established on 8th August 1967
- ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration)
- Founding members: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand
- Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar & Cambodia

Aims and Purposes of ASEAN

- To accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region
- To promote regional peace & stability and adherence of the United Nations Charter

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
⇒ India is not the member of ASEAN
⇒ India is the dialogue partner of ASEAN
⇒ India is the member of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)
⇒ 35th Summit @ Bangkok, Thailand

East Asia Summit

* Also hosted and chaired by the same country which is hosting ASEAN Summit

* Members: 18 (10 ASEAN nations, + China, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Russia & U.S.)

* Indo-Pacific's premier forum for strategic dialogue

* 14th Summit @ Bangkok, Thailand
State recorded highest TB deaths in 2018

This is attributed to high prevalence of TB-HIV co-infection; Health Department now prioritising TB comorbidities

AFSHAN YASMEEN

BENGALUER

At 6.2%, Karnataka has recorded the highest tuberculosis (TB) death rate in the country in 2018. This is higher than the national TB death rate of 4% in public sector.

Doctors see this as a worrisome trend, especially when the success rate of treatment in the public sector is 80% in the State. Karnataka is followed by Gujarat, Puducherry, and Tripura that have recorded 6%, 5.5%, and 5.2%, respectively.

Attributing this to the high prevalence of TB-HIV co-infection, health officials said among those tested for TB in the last one year in the State, 10.3% were HIV positive patients and 70% of patients with TB have a known HIV status. “This is one of the reasons why the TB death rate in Karnataka is the highest,” Seenappa, State Joint Director (Tuberculosis), told The Hindu.

Nearly 40% of the over 16,000 new HIV cases detected in the State are reported to have TB as a co-infection. “Several districts in north Karnataka - Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Bagalkot, and Bellagi - have high prevalence of HIV cases. And, over 28% of HIV deaths are due to TB. This explains the high TB death rate in the State,” Dr. Seenappa said.

Concerned over the high death rate, the State Health Department is now prioritising TB comorbidities, especially HIV, diabetes and tobacco addiction. The single window delivery of TB and HIV services for all People Living with HIV (PLHIV) receiving care in the ART centres has been streamlined with improved coverage, he said.

Comorbidities an issue

According to India TB Report, 2019, over 90% of PLHIV are being screened in ART centres for TB symptoms, and nearly 6 lakh PLHIV have been given access to rapid molecular testing via CBNAAT (Cartridge based nucleic acid amplification test) for TB diagnosis.

The report that was released recently said that nearly one lakh TB/HIV patients were initiated on daily drug regimen and nearly 5 lakh PLHIV were initiated on TB preventive therapy across the country till December 2018. The Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) has expanded its collaboration with Diabetes and Tobacco Control Programmes and is being further strengthened with cross linkage of services. Nearly 30% and 27% of the TB patients in public sector have been screened for diabetes and tobacco usage, respectively, and linked to appropriate services through the Non-Communicable Disease Programme and the Tobacco Control Programme, the report stated.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

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

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.
**News**

- Karnataka records highest TB death rate in 2018 → 6.2%.
- Main reason attributed: TB-HIV co-infection.
- Co-infected patients → higher risk of death.
- TB patients are found to have also HIV and/or Diabetes and/or Tobacco addiction.

**Cartridge Based Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (CBNAAT)**

- Also called as Genexpert.
- TB-specific, automated cartridge based nucleic acid amplification assay, uses Polymerase Chain Reaction.

**Tuberculosis**

- Caused by Mycobacterium Tuberculosis.
- Commonly affects the lungs – Pulmonary TB.
- Spreads through air.
- Curable with proper treatment.
Govt. efforts

* National TB Programme - 1962
* Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) - 1993

NTP Shortcomings
- managerial weaknesses
- inadequate funding
- over-reliance on x-ray
- non-standard treatment regimens
- low rates of treatment completion
- lack of systemic information on treatment outcomes

1993 - WHO declared TB - as global emergency

* India to eliminate by 2025
* National Strategic Plan for TB 2017- 2025, Elimination by 2025
  - implemented under oversight of Central TB Division (CTD), MoHFW
* NIKSHAY
  - Ni = End ;  KSHAY = Tuberculosis
  - Web-enabled Patient Management System under RNTCP
  - developed and maintained by CTD
  - used by health functionaries at various levels in both public & private sector
  - functions as National TB Surveillance System
Refusing to bite the bullet
Joining RCEP would have helped India integrate with Asian trade regionism

SOURabh GUPTA

On November 4, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was on the horns of an unenviable dilemma at the Leaders Summit in Bangkok, Thailand, finally decided to stay out of the 10-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

An unenviable dilemma
On the one hand, India registered a bilateral trade deficit with 11 of its 15 RCEP participating countries in 2018-19. There was every reason to believe that these deficits would increase if India joined RCEP. An unmistakable pattern is evident in India’s prior preferential trade agreements with East Asian countries. An uptick in overall exports is overshadowed by a larger rise in manufactured goods imports, which displaces many vulnerable domestic producers. The scale of deficit in electronic goods and related parts could have even tipped the economic trend towards a nascent account cornerstone. Econometricians will argue that plurilateral trade agreements, such as RCEP, are “welfare enhancing” for India. Be that as it may, without the politically challenging reform of India’s factor markets, which would enable its small and medium enterprises to profitably slot themselves within East Asia’s vibrant value chains, the likelihood of displacement and steep unemployment is high and cannot be glossed over.

On the other hand, India desperately needs to sign off on both an export-oriented growth model and a regional integration strategy if it is to continue its recent manufactur- ing prowess and overcome its steep development challenges. RCEP provided a gateway on both these fronts. Export sophistication, i.e., the production of sophisticated tradable goods, has been shown to be the most important determinant of sustained growth in late-developing and industrialising economies. To the extent that the other standard determinants of growth raise an economy’s growth potential, they do so insidiously that they contribute to increasing the economy’s production of sophisticated tradable goods. It is little wonder, then, that no major industrialising economy has maintained a 7% plus growth rate without a sharp and sustained growth in manufactured goods exports. Investment and exports acting in concert must become a key foundation of India’s growth.

Hence, RCEP furnishes a concerted liberalisation framework, which, if paired with domestic factor market reforms, could have propelled the country towards its “Make in India” targets in ways that no amount of tinkering with the “Ease of Doing Business” rankings will achieve.

Regional implications
The implications of joining RCEP on the regional integration front and for Mr. Modi’s “Act East” policy were as acute. India does not participate in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, where best practices in trade and digital economy exist. It is not a member of the Chiang Mai Initiative, which has evolved from a currency swap arrangement into an explicit economic and financial form of Asian financial regionalism. It was excluded from the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations, and is only marginally attached to the region by way of shallow economic partnership agreements with Japan, South Korea and the ASEAN countries. RCEP offered a fleeting opportunity for New Delhi to hitch its wagon to the global epicentre of “open regionalism” at a time when protectionism and populism are casting a pall over India’s economic rise in the global system. Without an economic integration strategy in Asia, India has no strategy in Asia and the sum total of its “Act East” policy will amount to little more than becoming the nodal doom of the Indo-Pacific. By signing on to RCEP and instituting structural reforms at home, Mr. Modi had an opportunity to integrate India within Asian trade regionalism. To ensure that such an opportunity does not go abegging next time, he should pursue factor market reforms so that he will never have to face such a dilemma again.

Sourab Gupta is a senior fellow at the Institute for China Economic Studies in Washington, D.C.
Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
* First promoted by ASEAN in 2012 - launched 21st ASEAN summit, 2012
* Proposed among ASEAN members and 6 FTA partners of ASEAN

News
* Agreement in its present form is against Indian farmers, MSME sector and dairy sector
* RCEP- UPOV link and impact on India
  - UPOV Convention - International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants
  - India - Not a member, whereas China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand are members

Editorial Article
* India has trade deficits with 11 out of 15 RCEP Countries
* Reforms are yet to be carried out in Indian Factor Markets

Author's Opinion
* RCEP required to have relations beyond security with the RCEP participating countries
* India - weak in Regional Financial/Trade Integration/Regionalism
  - Not a member of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
  - Not a member in Chiang Mai Initiative
* RCEP gives concerted liberalisation framework where investments and exports can go hand-in-hand

**Conclusion**

* India needs both export-oriented growth model and regional integration strategy
  1. to stimulate manufacturing sector
  2. to overcome development challenges
* India should join RCEP, after making required corrections in the economy
Pak. skips opening session of SCO joint exercise

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Pakistan did not participate in the inaugural session of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) joint exercise on urban earthquake and rescue in Delhi. The session was addressed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday. It is expected to participate in the drill being organised by the National Disaster Response Force from November 5 to 7.
Mr. Shah said that from 1996 to 2015, more than 3

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.

- 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.

- Important International institutions, agencies and for- their structure, mandate.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- Intergovernmental multilateral platform

 Previously → Shanghai Five → China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan

- Shanghai Five - established in 1996

- Inclusion of Uzbekistan → SCO
Military and Pakistan → member states from 2017

- SCO charter
  - Strengthening the mutual trust and
  neighbourliness
  - Promotion of cooperation
  - Joint efforts to ensure peace, security and
  stability

- Heads of State Council → highest decision
  making body

- 2 Permanent bodies
  1. SCO secretariat → Beijing
  2. Executive committee of RATS → Tashkent

Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)

- Permanent body of SCO
- To facilitate coordination and interaction
  between competent authorities of SCO members
- Function → coordination and information
  sharing
Chilla gives tribal produce a steady market

Farm produce, livestock from 40 tribal settlements sold at weekly market

JGI K. RAMAN

Chilla, an initiative launched by the Marayur Forest Division five years ago, has ensured a stable market for the produce of tribesepeople. The consumers too benefit, taking home pesticide-free produce.

The initiative, which now has a turnover of ₹2 crore, was launched with the aim of providing the tribesepeople a regular income and reducing their dependency on forest.

Humble beginnings

The weekly market was launched in a small scale and it became a major market with consumers and traders from far away places reaching Marayur to participate in the auction.

“Chilla, the farm produce and livestock from 40 tribal settlements in Marayur and Kanthallur Grama panchayats are sold,” said K.V. Binoji, coordinator, Chilla. The market is run by the Periyakudiy Vanam Samrakshan Samiti. The market Syriansees occasions when Forest Department officials intervened in the auction to ensure a remunerative price for the tribal people, he said, adding that the prices quoted were found below the market rate, the officials sometimes purchased the produce. The open market was the brainchild of Marayur Sandal Division former Divisional Forest Officer Saby Varghese and range officers M.G. Vinod Kumar and P.K. Vinod Kumar.

“The tribesepeople bring their produce to the market and we conduct an open auction in their presence. Beneficial for all: A view of Chilla, an exclusive market for tribal produce at Marayur in Idukki district.

The tribesepeople cultivate vegetables inside the forest adopting organic methods. However, they find it difficult to sell the produce in the open market as the shape and colour do not match the market criteria. The Chilla market, near the Marayur Sandal Division office, on Thursdays, came as a solution to this,” said Mr. Binoji.

“The tribesepeople bring their produce to the market and we conduct an open auction in their presence. Traders from Madurai, Kattappana, Thodupuzha, Adimali, Pollachi, Udumalpet and Ernakulam participate in the auction,” he said.

“The exploitation by middlemen was so much that they used to sell a kg of wild gooseberry for as low as ₹5. Now they sell it for ₹26 a kg. Earlier, 1 kg of snake gourd (Kattupadi) was sold at ₹50 and now it touches ₹250,” Marayur Divisional Forest Officer B. Ranjith said. “Bird eye chilli (kanthari mulaku), lemon, forest honey, plantain, vegetables, tubers, egg, cow and goat are on sale,” said Mr. Ranjith.

An important feature is that tribesewomen who engaged in farming directly get the price. It empowers them,” said Mr. Binoji.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- 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.

- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
‘Rice bio-parks a solution to stubble-burning issue’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

As Delhi and its neighbouring areas continue to be severely hit by pollution due to stubble burning in neighbouring States, eminent agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan suggested that the Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh governments could set up ‘rice bio-parks’, where farmers could convert stubble into income and employment.

In a series of tweets on Monday, Mr. Swaminathan noted that the air pollution in Delhi had become a matter of public health concern nationally and internationally, and farmers were “being blamed” by many for burning stubble, thereby causing atmospheric pollution.

“In South India, stubble is not burnt as there is economic value as animal feed. For years, I pointed out many economic uses of rice straw. We should adopt a do-ecology approach with farmers to convert rice stubble into income rather than making them agents of eco-disaster,” the noted scientist suggested.

Recently, the Chennai-based M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) established a rice bio-park at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, funded by the Union Ministry of External Affairs, which was inaugurated by the President of India, he recalled.

The rice bio-park showed how stubble can be utilised to make products, including paper, cardboard and animal feed.

“We should stop blaming farmers since it will take us nowhere. Instead, we should propose methods which are economically and ecologically desirable,” he said.

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 degradations, environmental impact assessment.
PRACTICE QUESTIONS
DISCUSSION
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements with reference to ASEAN.

1. It was established as per the Bangkok Declaration by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

2. It aims to promote regional peace and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter.

3. India is a member of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

4. All the members of East Asia Summit are also the members of the ASEAN.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

(a) All the statements
(b) All the statements except 3
(c) All the statements except 2
(d) All the statements except 4
Q2. Consider the following statements with reference to Tuberculosis.

1. It is a curable disease if taken proper treatment.
2. It is caused by a Bacteria.
3. It is a communicable disease.
4. It can be found in a person along with other infections such as HIV/AIDS.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4
Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. Which of the following countries are the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)?

1. Kazakhstan
2. Turkmenistan
3. Kyrgyz Republic
4. Afghanistan
5. India
6. Russia

Choose the correct answer from the options given below.

a) 1, 2, 3 and 6 only
b) 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 only
c) 1, 3, 5 and 6 only
d) 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only

Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. In which of the following, India is not a member?

1. UPOV Convention
2. Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization
3. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

Select the correct code given below:

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Practice Question – Mains

GS – II

Q. The discussion over integration of traditional and modern medical systems to improve the overall health infrastructure in India has been going on for several decades. Discuss the barriers for this integration and the efforts of government over the years to promote Indian traditional medicine system. (250 words, 15 marks)
Q. “The proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement aims at establishing world’s largest free trade agreement”. In the light of the statement, analyse the various concerns raised in India with respect to the RCEP deal negotiations. (150 words, 10 Marks).
1. Option (d) – All the statements except 4
2. Option (d) – 1, 2, 3, 4
3. Option (d) – 1, 2 and 3
4. Option (c) – 1, 3, 5 and 6 only
LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE

SUBSCRIBE