The Hindu News Analysis – 28th July 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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*C – Chennai; D – Delhi; B – Bengaluru; T – Thiruvananthapuram
About Operation, Maintenance and Development in PPP mode for 6 airports owned by AAI
- Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram, Mangaluru

Issue: Important guidelines proposed by DEA, MoF and NITI Aayog ignored by PPPAC (Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee)
- One player (bidder) should not be awarded more than 2 airports to operate, maintain & develop in PPP mode
- Prior experience in operation and management
- Determination of financial capability of interested players
  - Highly capital intensive projects
  - Huge financial risks involved
- Criteria of per passenger fee

'Vendee Tenancy Act will rebuild trust between owners and tenants'

Fair in terms of deposits, agreements

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

- Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

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-IV
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
Model Tenancy Act, 2019

- Union Ministry for Housing and Urban Development

Positives

- Offers a balance between the rights and benefits for both owners and tenants
- Identifies the role of property managers
- Regulating rental housing market by a more market-oriented approach

Challenges

- Cap on security deposit
- States may not follow basic guidelines and dilute the Model provisions

Vanishing wildlife: 22 species have gone extinct in India

- Ministry lists habitat degradation as one of the causes

About extinction of species in India:

- 4 species of fauna + 18 species of flora
- India home to
  - 11.5% of all flora
  - 6.49% of all fauna
- More plants disappearing from the wild than birds, mammals, and amphibians combined
- Some of the ‘flora’ that are ‘extinct’
  - Lastreopsis wattii - Manipur
  - Ophiirrhiza genus
    → 3 species - peninsular India

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.
⇒ Some of the ‘fauna’ that are extinct
  ▶ Cheetah
  ▶ Sumatran rhinoceros
  ▶ Pink-headed duck
  ▶ Himalayan quail

⇒ Reasons that led to extinctions
  ▶ Competition
  ▶ Predation
  ▶ Natural Selection
  ▶ Hunting
  ▶ Habitat degradation

WHO recommends use of innovative HIV drug

('Dolutegravir safe for pregnant women')

Pg 20 - C; D; T
Pg 22 - B

⇒ Innovative HIV Drug
  ▶ Dolutegravir (DTG)

⇒ Link between DTG and neural tube defects
  ▶ Risks are significantly lower than what the initial studies suggested

⇒ Positives with DTG
  * more effective
  * easier to take
  * fewer side effects
  * high genetic barrier to develop drug resistance

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.
  • Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
Centre to launch Deep Ocean Mission in October

**Part A—Preliminary Examination**

**Paper I—(200 marks)**
- Current events of national and international importance.

**Part B—Main Examination**

**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.

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France to proceed with tax on U.S. tech firms

Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said on Saturday that France would proceed with taxing revenues of big tech firms and urged the U.S. not to bring trade tariffs into the debate on how to fairly raise levies on digital services. He was responding to U.S. President Donald Trump's threat to tax French wines. Reuters

**Part A—Preliminary Examination**

**Paper I—(200 marks)**
- Current events of national and international importance.

⇒ France → to tax revenues of big US technology firms
⇒ USA → Tax on French Imports
⇒ French wines

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**Deep Ocean Mission**

⇒ Ministry of Earth Sciences
⇒ May Commence from October 2019
⇒ An offshore desalination plant
⇒ A Submersible vehicle - with three people on board
⇒ Metals and minerals, particularly polymetallic nodules
⇒ India - allotted 75,000 sq. km in the Central Indian Ocean Basin by ISA

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**GST on EVs, chargers cut to 5%**

To encourage adoption of electric vehicles, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council on Saturday decided to reduce the tax rate on electrical vehicles (EVs) from 12% to 5% and on chargers from 9% to 5% from August 1, 2019.

**Part A—Preliminary Examination**

**Paper I—(200 marks)**
- Current events of national and international importance.

⇒ GST council
  - to reduce tax rate on EVs
  - to reduce tax rate on chargers
  - Hiring of Electric buses - exempted from GST
  - Applicable from August 1, 2019


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