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Tamil Nadu takes the top spot in Good Governance Index

The State, however, lags behind its competitors in terms of commerce and industries.

**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.
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance—applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

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**News**

- **Good Governance Index has been launched**
- Tamil Nadu has topped the index among 18 big states in the country.

**Good Governance Index (GGI)**

- Uniform tool across states to assess the status of governance &
- Impact of various interventions taken up by the Ss & UTs.

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**Objectives of GGI**

1. To provide quantifiable data to compare the state of governance in all states and UTs.
2. To enable states and UTs to formulate and implement suitable strategies for improving governance.
3. To shift towards result-oriented approaches and administration.
How is the GGI calculated?

- 10 sectors are taken into consideration

These 10 sectors are measured based on 60 indicators.

Categories
1. NE and Hill states
2. Union Territories
3. Big states

All the states/UTs are ranked on all indicators SEPARATELY, at the same time composite ranking is also calculated.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Good Governance Index (GGI).

1. It is designed and developed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances partnered with Centre for Good Governance, Hyderabad.

2. The states and UTs are categorised into 5 groups viz., North, South, North-East, Central and West – for ranking convenience.

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
17 civilians killed in attack on Yemen market: UN

Third incident in same area in a month

SEVENTEEN civilians were killed in an attack on a market in Yemen’s northern Saada governorate, the United Nations said, the third deadly assault on the same location in just over a month.

The attacks come despite relative calm in Yemen, where large-scale combat between government troops — backed by a Saudi-led military coalition — and the Iran-aligned Houthi rebels has largely subsided.

The UN said 12 Ethiopian migrants were among the 17 civilians killed in the incident on Tuesday at the Al-Raqw market in Saada governorate, a Houthi rebel stronghold.

At least 12 people were wounded, it said, without saying who was responsible for what weaponry was used.

The Saudi-led coalition acknowledged on Thursday it had carried out an operation in Monabbih, a Saada district where the market is located.

The coalition did not provide further details.

An attack on Al-Raqw market on November 22 killed 10 civilians, again including Ethiopian nationals, and just days later, at least another 10 civilians were killed and 22 wounded in a second such incident.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian and World Geography—Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.

Part B—Main Examination

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

News

- Civilians killed in market attack in Saada Governorate, Yemen
- Yemen civil war
  - Saudi led coalition + Govt. troops
  - Iran led Houthi rebels

History

- Zaidis (Shia sect) dominate north
- Sunnis dominate south
- Fall of Ottoman Empire in 1918
  - North ruled by Shia Imam
  - South - Federation of South Arabia under British
- 1962: Yemen Arab Republic - Capital Sana’a
- 1969: People’s Democratic Republic of Yemen - Aden
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Red Sea does not share border with which of the following countries?

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Ethiopia
3. Iraq
4. Egypt
5. Qatar

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

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

Impact on Indian interests:

1. Saudi Arabia and Iran are fighting each other in Yemen - India need to balance interests
   - India should be a mediator
2. Indian diaspora in Middle East
   - Operation Raahat in Yemen in 2015 by Indian Armed Forces (Indian Navy and Air Force)
   - Rescue of Indian and foreign nationals

- 1990: Unification of Yemen  
  - President: Ali Abdullah Saleh  
  - V.P: Ali Salim al-Beidh  
  - 1994: Civil war
- Emergence of al-Qaeda in early 2000s
- Protest by Houthi rebels
- Arab Spring 2011 in Yemen - Saleh resigned  
  - Abdrabboh Mansur Hadi - new President - but overthrown in 2015 by Houthis
- 2017 - assassination of Saleh
The Data Protection Bill only weakens user rights
A culmination of flawed policy proposals, this piece of legislation will refine, store and trade personal information.

Part A—Preliminary Examination
Paper I (-200 marks)
• Current events of national and international importance.
• Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayat Raj, Public Policy, Rights issues, etc.

Part B—Main Examination
PAPER-III
• Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
• 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 these schemes; mechanisms, long, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

PAPER-V
General Studies-V: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude
• Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen’s Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.

Aims:
• to provide for protection of the privacy of individuals relating to their personal data,
• specify the flow and usage of personal data,
• create a relationship of trust between persons and entities processing the personal data,
• protect the rights of individuals whose personal data are processed,
• to create a framework for organisational and technical measures in processing of data,
• laying down norms for social media intermediary, cross-border transfer, accountability of entities processing personal data,
• remedies for unauthorised and harmful processing,
• to establish a Data Protection Authority of India for the said purposes and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
• Based on recommendations of Committee of Experts on Data Protection, 2017 (Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee)

• Right to Privacy — Fundamental Right
  - Justice K.S. Puttaswami Vs UoI, 2017
  - Protected as intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty under Article 21 and freedoms guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution

Author’s view
• Bill focused on security and revenue interests of Govt.
• Edward Snowden — “Symbiotic relationship between financial model of large online platforms and security interest... rely on personal data and attention economy”
  - platforms gather data, govt seeks to access it.

• In India — Govt seeks to access data, collect it and exploit it
  - Govt - active data trader — generate revenue — meet fiscal goals

1. Digital India Programme
   - Citizen-State interaction data-fied
   - fulfills geostrategic goals — personal data is viewed as strategic state resource

2. Economic Survey 2019 — Chapter on fiscal approach towards personal data
  - data can be created as public good within legal framework of data privacy

• Examples

1. Bulk Data Sharing Policy and Procedure, 2019
   - Min. of Road Transport and Highways-holds Vehicle Registration Certificates and drivers license

2. Shares data with enforcement agencies automobile industries, banks, finance companies, etc - at specific rates for each data set
- Free access to vehicle's basic data to all registered users:
  - mParivahan App/Ministry's Web Portal
- To promote statutory compliances
- To facilitate individual hiring/renting of vehicles or purchase/sale and hiring of drivers
- Author's view - breaks fundamental assumption of used for definite purpose only.

- Committee of Experts to deliberate on data governance framework for non-personal data
- Community data - aggregate from multiple persons without specific individual attribution
  - e-commerce data, AI training data, derived data, etc
- Recognizing the economic dimension of data - access and control is critical for economic advantage.

- Personal Data Protection Bill - reflects political economy, ensures minimal levels of protection for personal data

- Consequences
  - Fundamental Right to Privacy not fulfilled - rather controlled
  - Balancing both → Clumsy → Muddy articulation → ensures weak data protection law

Conclusion
- Privacy not given importance
- Perfect barrel→trade personal information without people's control
- Reframe texts of the Bill
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Which among the following rights are implicit right(s) under Article 21 of the Constitution?

1. Right to privacy
2. Right to speedy trial
3. Right to live with dignity
4. Right to sleep
5. Right to electricity

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

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

Previous Year Question – Mains 2017

GS – II

Q. Examine the scope of Fundamental Rights in the light of the latest judgement of the Supreme Court on Right to Privacy. (15 marks, 250 words)

Previous Year Question – Mains 2018

GS – III

Q. Data security has assumed significant importance in the digitized world due to rising cyber-crimes. The Justice B. N. Srikrishna Committee Report addresses issues related to data security. What, in your view, are the strengths and weaknesses of the Report relating to protection of personal data in cyber space? (15 marks, 250 words)
New wagon to boost cargo capacity

Volume may rise 4-fold: trials for Dedicated Freight Corridor’s wagons underway

YUVASHREE BHAKUNI 
THE ECONOMIST

The Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd. (DFCCIL) tasked with building the over 51,000 crore freight corridor in the country, on Thursday began testing a new wagon that will boost the cargo carrying capacity by four times due to increased length of the trains, use of double-stack containers and more payload carrying capability.

“The new wagon—called RGS (type A A B B)—is currently a prototype. A total of three such wagons have been manufactured with the help of the industry to test their requirements,” said Sridhar, GM (Operations), DFCCIL.

The wagon—used for hauling freight—have been tested by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) and are manufactured at the Golden Rock Railway Workshop in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu. These will be under trial till January 26, 2020. If approved by the RDSO, wagons will be manufactured commercially as per industry requirements.

On Thursday, the trial was conducted at a speed of 100 kmph on a 20 km long section of the western freight corridor from Rewari to Kishangarh. Currently, maximum speed of goods trains varies from 40 kmph to 100 kmph on the Indian Railways tracks. The DFC tracks are separate from the Indian Railways track. However, mostly they run parallel to each other.

Currently, the maximum speed of goods trains varies from 40 kmph to 100 km on Railways’ tracks.

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.
- Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III


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

PAPER-IV


- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
- Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFC)

- being built by Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd. (DFCCIL)
- Eastern and Western corridors - reached saturation
- Freight traffic of Railways - share - 83% in 1980-90, 35% in 2011-12
- Eastern DFC - Ludhiana to Dankuni
- Western DFC - JN Port Trust to Dadri
- 2016-17 budget proposed 3 more DFCs
  (a) East - West Corridor - Kolkata to Mumbai
  (b) North - South Corridor - Delhi to Chennai
  (c) East Coast Corridor - Kharagpur to Vijayawada

Salient features of DFCs
1. Maximum speed of 100 kmph
2. Designed to carry more weight
3. Capacity to run long haul train - 1500 m length

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
Practice Question – Prelims
Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor.

1. It is being developed by National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust.
2. A portion of this corridor passes through the states of Jharkhand and Odisha.

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
NPR: house-to-house verification planned

Data on parents' place of birth to be gathered; register already has data of 80 crore residents

**Asking the right questions**

The manual details how an enumerator should collect information from a citizen.

- The year of birth/age can be associated with the birth/age of another person in the same household or in the surrounding local area.
- The relation of each enumerated person in the village.
- The year of birth/age and sex of the head of household.
- The date when the first child was born, and the birth/age of the first child.
- The date when the last child was born, and the birth/age of the last child.

**UPA-era NPRs focus was residency, not citizenship**

Chidambaram says the key difference lies in proposed NPC.

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy

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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.
- Economic and Social Development—Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

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.

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.

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NPR: house-to-house verification planned

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- The date when the first child was born, and the birth/age of the first child.
- The date when the last child was born, and the birth/age of the last child.

**National Population Register**

- Register of usual residents of the country

**Present status**

- GoI has not released manual for the NPR exercise to be carried out along with the ‘house-listing’ phase of Census

MoS — Union Ministry of Home Affairs

- Present NPR part of Home Ministry’s agenda

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
‘UPA-era NPR’s focus was residency, not citizenship’

Chidambaram says the key difference lies in proposed NRC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Union Home Minister and Congress MP P. Chidambaram has said that the emphasis of the National Population Register (NPR) in 2010 by the UPA government was on “residency” and not “citizenship.”

The UPA on Wednesday released a video clip of the launch of the NPR in 2010, which Chidambaram said was not a census.

He said an exercise like it has not been attempted anywhere in the world.

In response, Mr. Chidambaram sought to highlight the differences in the UPA-era NPR and the present version through a series of tweets.

“Was enumerating all ‘usual residents’ of the country. The emphasis is on residency not citizenship.”

The NPR was to add the preparation of the 2011 cen- sus, he said. “Every usual resident was to be enumerated irrespective of his or her religion or place of birth.”

The most important difference between the two was the “census-like” nature of the NRC, he said, and the emphasis on “usual residents” of the country.

The UPA-era NPR was a larger and more detailed exercise, he said, and it included a focus on “usual resident” and the context of the census.

Pilot project

A press conference held in the Congress headquarters, Ajoy Saha, who was the Minister in charge of Home Affairs in charge of the NPR, said the exercise in the first NPR was under Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the Prime Minister of India was the Chairperson.

Two states and a Union Territory, with a total population of 15 lakh persons, were picked up for a pilot project. When the UPA came to power, the pilot project was on. The idea was finally adopted on the advice of a committee of experts, he said.

Mr. Saha said the fundamental difference between the NPR and the NRC was that the population register was only to enumerate “usual residents,” which was defined by the United Nations as anyone who had lived in the same place for more than 12 months, which was less than one year, at the place of enumeration.

He added that the NPR was a more comprehensive exercise than the NRC and that it was “one of the largest exercises in the world.”

Section 14A in the Citizenship Act, 1955

114A. Issue of national identity cards.—

(1) The Central Government may compulsorily register every citizen of India and issue national identity card to him.

(2) The Central Government may maintain a National Register of Indian Citizens and for that purpose establish a National Registration Authority.

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Good Governance Index (GGI).

1. It is designed and developed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances partnered with Centre for Good Governance, Hyderabad.

2. The states and UTs are categorised into 5 groups viz., North, South, North-East, Central and West – for ranking convenience.

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
Practice Question – Prelims
Q2. Red Sea does not share border with which of the following countries?

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Ethiopia
3. Iraq
4. Egypt
5. Qatar

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

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

Practice Question – Prelims
Q3. Which among the following rights are implicit right(s) under Article 21 of the Constitution?

1. Right to privacy
2. Right to speedy trial
3. Right to live with dignity
4. Right to sleep
5. Right to electricity

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

a) 1 and 3 only
b) 1, 2 and 3
c) 1, 2, 3 and 5
d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
Practice Question – Prelims
Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor.

1. It is being developed by National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust.
2. A portion of this corridor passes through the states of Jharkhand and Odisha.

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

Previous Year Question – Mains 2017
GS – II

Q. Examine the scope of Fundamental Rights in the light of the latest judgement of the Supreme Court on Right to Privacy. (15 marks, 250 words)

Previous Year Question – Mains 2018
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Q. Data security has assumed significant importance in the digitized world due to rising cyber-crimes. The Justice B. N. Srikrishna Committee Report addresses issues related to data security. What, in your view, are the strengths and weaknesses of the Report relating to protection of personal data in cyber space? (15 marks, 250 words)
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Option ‘a’ – 1 only
Q2. Option ‘c’ – 2, 3 and 5 only
Q3. Option ‘d’ – 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
Q4. Option ‘d’ – Neither 1 nor 2