The Hindu News Analysis – 09<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>News Articles</th>
<th>Page Number*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>43 dead, 16 injured in major Delhi fire</td>
<td>1, 10, 1, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Raw material adds to blaze</td>
<td>1, 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Locked terrace, narrow staircase turn building into ‘death trap’</td>
<td>7, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Congress firms up House strategy</td>
<td>10, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6 years on, Lokpal is yet to get prosecution wing</td>
<td>10, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Citizenship Bill to be tabled today</td>
<td>1, 10, 1, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>An Asian engine driven by India and China (Editorial)</td>
<td>8, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>The name’s Bond, Bharat Bond</td>
<td>13, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Practice cum Revision - MCQs</td>
<td>@end of the video</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
News

* Major fire accident in Central Delhi
  * Illegal Manufacturing unit
  * Reason → Short Circuit
  * Majority of deaths due to asphyxiation
    * No ventilation
    * Storage of combustible raw materials

Fire Safety Status in India

* No uniform law for fire safety in India
  * Fire → State subject
    * Municipal function → XIth Schedule of Indian Constitution

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-IV
General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management
- Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
- Disaster and disaster management.

* The National Building Code (NBC), 2016 guidelines
  * Deals with fire safety
  * Published by Bureau of Indian Standards
  * Recommendatory guidelines; not mandatory
• National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) - 2015
  → Roughly 48 people are killed in India due to fire accidents
    • 41.2% → residential buildings
  → Maximum number of accidents were reported in urbanised states
    → high population density
    → Lack of urban planning
    → Presence of illegal manufacturing units in residential areas
      Link with fire related deaths
6 years on, Lokpal is yet to get prosecution wing

Complaint forums, rules for disclosure of assets and liabilities and investigation regulations are yet to be notified

Lacking teeth

Six years after the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013, and high hopes for the institution to function as envisaged, the Lokpal and Lokayukta authorities have been found to lack teeth due to several reasons. The complaints office and the prosecuting wing of the Lokpal have failed to function as envisaged, the Parliamentary Committee on LOKPAL and LOKAYUKTA has found.

The report also pointed out that the Lokpal had not been able to reject any of the complaints. It had received 7,811 complaints in the last five years, of which 4,950 were rejected in the first stage, 2,105 in the second stage, and 756 in the third stage of the process. The report also noted that the Lokpal had not been able to prosecute any cases.

In a letter to the Lokpal, the Parliamentary Panel said it was “concerned that the institution of Lokpal and Lokayukta has not been able to function as envisaged in the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013.”

The Lokpal had been created in 2013 to check corruption and address grievances of citizens, but it had failed to live up to its promise, the panel said.

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Lokpal

* Established under Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013
* To inquire and investigate into allegations of the corruption against public functionaries who fall within the scope and ambit of this Act.

* Composition:
  * Chairperson + 4 judicial + 4 non-judicial members
  * Appointed by the President based on the recommendations of the Selection Committee
  * Selection Committee
  * Prime Minister - Chairperson
  * Speaker of Lok Sabha

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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.

Part B—Main Examination

Paper III

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

- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability.

Paper V

General Studies—IV: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

- Public/Civil Service Values, and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance.
- Probits in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements about Lokpal.

1. It consists of a chairperson and 8 judicial members.
2. The chairperson and the members of Lokpal are appointed by the President on the recommendations of a selection committee.
3. It has powers to inquire complaints on the allegation of corruption against the incumbent prime minister.

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

a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 3 only
Citizenship Bill to be tabled today
It is facing opposition in the Northeast

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
New Delhi
Union Home Minister Amit Shah will introduce the constitutional (Citizenship Amendment) Bill, 2019 in the Lok Sabha on Monday. The Bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, to provide for the inclusion of displaced persons from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, who came to India on or before December 31, 2014.

The Lok Sabha speaker has allowed members to submit amendments to the Bill till 10 a.m. on Monday. A copy of the Bill was distributed to all parliamentarians last week, after the Union Cabinet gave its go-ahead on December 6.

If the Bill is passed, it will be the first time that citizenship will be provided, on the basis of religion.

Several groups in Assam and other Northeastern States are protesting against the legislation, as it will nullify the provisions of the Assam Accord, 1985, according to which all illegal immigrants, irrespective of religion, who entered India after March 24, 1971, were to be detainted and deported.

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam was compiled on August 31, 2018 and included as per the accord. More than 18 lakh persons, out of the total 2.59 crore applicants, were excluded from the final NRC.

The Bill provides that all such immigrants will be eligible for citizenship if they came to India before December 31, 2014, and all pending legal cases pertaining to citizenship-related matters against them will stand abated.


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1) Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 will be introduced in Lok Sabha

2) Constitution on Citizenship → Articles 5 to 11 (Part II)

   * Citizens of India at the commencement of the Constitution – 26, January 1950

3) Article 5

   * Domicile in India
     * born in India
     * Either of his parents born in India
     * Resident in India for 5 years immediately before commencement

4) Article 6: Right of Citizenship of persons migrated to India from Pakistan

   * Either of his parents / grandparents – born in undivided India +
     Migrated to India → before July 19, 1948 → after July 19, 1948 but registered

5) Article 7

   Rights of Citizenships of persons migrated to Pakistan after March 1, 1947, but later returned to India
Q. Consider the following statements.

1. The Constitution has empowered the Parliament to make any provision with respect to the acquisition and termination of citizenship and all other matters relating to citizenship.

2. The Citizenship Act, 1955 has been amended only once since its enactment.

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

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
An Asian engine driven by India and China

The region’s rise is linked to peace and stability, cooperation rests on a compact between the two countries

PG 8 → C; B; T; H PG 10 → D

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.

* Global engines of economic growth has shifted to Asia in last thirty years

- Recent development
  - ‘Asia-Pacific’ to ‘Indo-Pacific’ (that includes South Asia as well)

* Asian continent - new fulcrum for geo-economic and geo-strategic realignments

- Region - known for
  - High economic growth rates
  - Some of the highest military expenditures in the world

Concerns to be taken into consideration for India and China to drive the Asian engine

1. China to play ‘constructive role’ globally and also within Asia

- Within Asia - India Example (2018-19)
  - Bilateral Trade with India: 87 bn USD
  - Trade Surplus for China = 53 bn USD
  - Trade Deficit for India = 53 bn USD

\[
\begin{align*}
87 \text{ bn USD} &= 70 \text{ bn USD} + 17 \text{ bn USD} \\
\text{Overall trade} &\text{ Chinese Exports} \text{ Indian Exports}
\end{align*}
\]

- One of the decisions of Mamallapuram informal summit - to set up a new mechanism to discuss trade imbalance
2. India and China in International institutions

- Can give shape to the economic destinies of such institutions. (Eg: WTO, IMF etc.)
- So that inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth of all countries is made feasible

3. On Regional trade

- RCEP agreement
  * Proposed agreement - ‘Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership’
  * Indian concerns to be addressed
  * China should ensure - so that both can grow together

4. On Regional Cooperation to Support other developing / Least Developed Nations

- India, China Plus One Framework
  - to jointly train Afghan diplomats (in 2018)
- Suggestion
  - to extend to other nations for Asian Infrastructure and Connectivity Development
  - to be based on Equality, an open and transparent model under AIIB
  - Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
  * Multilateral ‘development’ bank
  * To improve social and economic outcomes in Asia

5. China to slow transparency and engage closely with India, when its presence grows in South Asia

6. China to respect ‘territorial integrity’ of others in all forms

7. ‘Joint Consultative Mechanism’ between 2 countries to support each other in areas of common concern

- Eg: Global Energy Market
  - Both - big importers of oil & gas
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

1. The bank can lend to members beyond Asia.
2. India is a member in this bank.
3. India is the second largest shareholder in this bank.
4. The Bank is dedicated to the promotion of economic and social development in Asia.
5. It is headquartered in Beijing, China.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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Conclusion

* For India & China to rise, for Asia to rise
* Peace & Security - basic requirement
* Countries to aspire together
* Cooperation required rather than rivalry
* “There is enough room for all Asian countries to prosper together and that the Asia of rivalry will hold us all back. It is the Asia of cooperation that will shape this century” – PM, India, in 2nd Raisina Dialogue (2017)
Bharat 22 ETF

- Launched in 2017
- Managed by ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund
- 22 stocks of CPSEs, PSBs and govt shares in private companies (L&T, ITC etc)
- S&P BSE BHARAT-22 INDEK

Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)

- Approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
- Additional source of funding for CPSEs, CPSEs, CPFIs and other Govt. organizations

ETFs

- Listed and traded in stock exchanges
- Trading based on net asset value
- Different from Mutual funds
  - bought and sold only in stock exchange
  - bought and sold all day

Important features

1. AAA rated bonds
2. Unit size – Rs. 1000 – broad investor base
3. Fixed maturity date – 3 years and 10 years

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.

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

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.
Q. Consider the following statements with respect to the Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund.

1. It is an Exchange Traded Fund, with the objective to create an additional source of funding for Central Public Sector Undertakings, Central Public Sector Enterprises, Central Public Financial Institutions, and other Government organizations.

2. Bharat bond consists of 22 stocks of CPSEs, Public Sector Banks & Government owned shares in certain private sector companies.

Select the correct statement(s) from the codes given below:

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims

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b) 1, 2, 3, 4
c) 2, 3, 4, 5
d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Reference Question
UPSC Prelims 2019

Q. With reference to Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), consider the following statements:

1. AIIB has more than 80 member nations.
2. India is the largest shareholder in AIIB.
3. AIIB does not have any members from outside Asia.

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

Practice Question – Prelims

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(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 3 only
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Option ‘a’ – 1 only
Q2. Option ‘a’ – 1 only
Q3. Option ‘d’ – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Q4. Option ‘a’ – 1 only