4,000 personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces to Ayodhya.

The Ministry of Home Affairs also issued an advisory to all States to maintain “law and order” with the verdict at places of worship inside or near the railway station’s compound and asked the caretakers to not leave them unattended.

The RPF cancelled leave of its staff and the personnel will be engaged in providing security cover to trains.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a video conference with police officers in charge of all districts and reviewed the security arrangements.
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Govt. mulling changes to laws to address inter-regulatory issues

FM discusses economy at FSDC meet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held a review meeting on Thursday with the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) during which she discussed the state of the economy in detail.

“The Council reviewed the current global and domestic macro-economic situation and financial stability and vulnerabilities issues, including... those concerning NBFCs and credit rating agencies,” the government said in a release.

“NBFCs doing well
The RBI Governor said that the current state of NBFCs was discussed and there were many NBFCs that were...”

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

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

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.
Financial Stability and Development Council (CFSDC):

- Apex level forum → Setup in 2010
- Body to strengthen and institutionalise the mechanism
  → maintaining financial stability
  → enhancing inter-regulatory coordination
  → promoting financial sector development

- Composition:
  - Chairman → Union Finance Minister
  - Members:
    - Ministers of State incharge of DEA
    - Heads of all Financial Sector Regulatory (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDAI, IIBI)
    - Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, DEA

- Secretary:
  - Dept of Financial Services
  - Min. of Corporate Affairs
  - Min. of Electronics & IT

- Chief Economic Adviser

- Responsibility:
  → deals with issues relating to
    - Financial Stability
    - Financial Sector Development
    - Inter-regulatory Coordination
    - Financial literacy
    - Financial inclusion
    - Macroprudential Supervision of the economy
FSDC Sub-Committee:

- Headed by RBI Governor
- Members:
  - All members of FSDC
  - Additional Secretary DEA
- Financial Stability Unit of RBI → Secretariat
Changing the status quo

The Home Ministry’s move to merge the Assam Rifles with the ITBP is a step in the right direction

M.P. NATHANAEL

The Ministry of Home Affairs has proposed that the Assam Rifles should be merged with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and serve under the operational control of the MHA. At present, the Assam Rifles, a Central paramilitary force, is under the administrative control of the MHA and operational control of the Army, i.e., the Ministry of Defence. The Army is opposed to this proposal.

History of Assam Rifles

Formed as Cachar Levy in 1835 to assist the British rulers in maintaining peace in the Northeast, the Assam Rifles, which had just about 750 men, proved its capability and efficiency. This necessitated its expansion. The unit was converted into the Assam Military Police Battalion with two additional battalions in 1870. They were known as the Lushai Hills Battalion, Lakhimpur Battalion and Naga Hills Battalion. Just before World War I, another battalion, the Darrang Battalion, was added. They all rendered great service by assisting the British in Europe and West Asia during the war. These battalions were then renamed Assam Rifles. They continued

noted that back in 2001, the Group of Ministers had stated that the principle of ‘One Border, One Force’ should be strictly adhered to. If ITBP can guard the India-China border in Ladakh, there is no reason why it cannot guard the India-China border in Arunachal Pradesh and beyond.

The concept of having two masters for an organisation – one for administrative control and another for operational control – is not only absurd but also leads to problems of coordination. Therefore, the Home Ministry’s move to merge all its 55,000-strong Assam Rifles with the ITBP is a step in the right direction.

Opposed to the move

The Army argues that the Assam Rifles should be merged with it, to ensure national security. It requires no wisdom to conclude that the Army would lose its promotional avenues once this paramilitary force is merged with the ITBP, as it would be directly under the control of the Home Ministry. At present, nearly 80% of officers’ ranks from Major upwards are held by Army officers on deputation. A Lieutenant General of the Army holds the post of Director General of Assam Rifles. It is natural

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-IV


- Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.
All the CAPFs, except Assam Rifles having the DG (Chief) from IPS Officers

- Assam Rifles - Lt. Gen, Indian Army

- Assam Rifles:
  - Admin Control - Ministry of Home Affairs
  - Operational Control - Ministry of Defence

- Concept of ‘dual control’
  - absurd
  - Lack of Coordination

- Proposals of Union Home Ministry
  1. Give the operational control of Assam Rifles to MHA
  2. Merge Assam Rifles to ITBP

- Assam Rifles:
  - To guard Indo-Myanmar border
  - To conduct COIN operations in North East

- Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
  - Initially
    - border intelligence and security along Indo-Tibetan border from Ladakh to Kumaon hills
  - Since 2004 - assigned to guard entire India-China border
    - replaced Assam Rifles in guarding the India-China borders of Sikkim & Arunachal Pradesh.
* One Border, One Force
  - Recommended by Govt in 2004
  - Recommended by GoM in 2001
  - ‘On the same border, there shall be one force’
  - Group of Ministers (GoM)
    - Setup by PM in 2000
    - to review national security system in its entirety
    - to consider the recommendations of Kargil Review Committee

* History of Assam Rifles:
  - 1835 - Cachar levy
  - 1870 - Converted into Assam Military Police Battalion

* During World War I - assisted British Forces in Middle East & Europe
  - in recognition of fighting shoulder to shoulder with Rifle Regiments of British earned the name ‘Assam Rifles’

  - Friends of the North East people after 1962 Sino-Indian War - placed under Operational Control of the Indian people

**Opposition:**
* from Indian Army
  - for national security reasons
  - 80% staff in top posts in Assam Rifles at present are from Indian Army
  - demands merging Assam Rifles with it
Way Forward:

* Operational control - to be given to MHA
  - Initial leadership - IPS Officer
  - Later - directly recruited officers in Assam Rifles
    - tussle between IPS officers and CAPF offices - Coordination issues

* CCS to take merger issue - on priority basis

* Modalities of absorbing officers to AR or merging of ITBP to be worked out - to handle repatriation
Kerala on its way to achieve 100% Internet penetration

It has the second highest coverage, report shows

VARUN B. KRISHNAN
CHENNAI

Kerala's Finance Minister Thomas Isaac tweeted on Thursday that the Kerala Fibre Optic Network project, pegged at ₹1,548 crore, would provide Internet to every household in the State. “For 20 lakh BPL households it will be free,” the tweet read.

The project is slated for completion by December 2020.

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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-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-IV

General Studies—III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- Science and Technology—developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
News:
* Kerala Fibre Optic Network Project
  ➜ Internet to every household in the State
  ➜ free internet for 20 lakh BPL households

India Internet 2019:
* No. of internet users in India
* Basic profile of internet users
* Released by Internet and Mobile Association of India and Nielsen company
* Internet Penetration:
  ➜ relationship between no. of Internet users and demographic data of a country
  ➜ defines a portion of digital divide in the country

Facts:
* Internet users in age group 5-11 years - 6.6 crore users
* 2/3rd of Internet Users → Age group 12-29 years
* Internet penetration higher in Urban India
  ➜ Better internet connectivity
  ➜ ‘On-the-Go’ Consumption
* Rural India → devoid of Internet
* Highest Internet Penetration
  - Delhi - 69%
  - Kerala - 54%
* Lowest Internet Penetration
  - Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, etc.
Visible gender divide

- Female internet population half of male internet population
- Apparent in rural areas
- Highest proportion of female Internet Users → Kerala, T.N., Delhi

TRAI Report:

- No. of internet subscribers per 100 population
  - Delhi
  - Punjab
  - Himachal Pradesh
  - Kerala
  - Bihar - Lowest

Importance of Internet Connectivity

- Access to information
- Helpful in every sector
- Instant exchange of information
- Stay always connected
- Promotes e-commerce
- Access to e-governance services
Maharashtra tops in justice delivery

Report brings to light key issues across four pillars: police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Maharashtra has topped the list of 18 large-medium states in the overall first-ever ranking of Indian States on justice delivery, followed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Haryana.

In this category, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are at the bottom, while among seven smaller states, Goa leads the group.

This is according to the India Justice Report 2019, released on Thursday by the Tata Trusts in collaboration with Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, among others.

Public data
The report is based on publicly available data from different government entries on the four pillars of justice delivery – police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid.

Releasing the report, Justice (Retd) Madan B. Lokur called it a pioneering study and said: "The findings establish beyond doubt very serious lacunae in our justice delivery system. It is an excellent effort to mainstream the issues concerning our justice system, which in fact affect every aspect of society, governance and the economy."

The report highlights the fact that even the best performing States scored less than 60% in their performance on capacity across the police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid.

The country has about 18,200 judges with about 23% sanctioned posts vacant. The report notes that women are poorly represented in these pillars, constituting just 7% of the police.

"Prisons are over-occupied at 114%, where 68% are undertrials awaiting investi...
**India Justice Report 2019:**
- On capacity to deliver justice

Released by Tata Trusts in partnership with other NGOs

Based on 4 pillars
- Police
- Prisons
- Judiciary
- Legal Aid

Access to justice
- A fundamental right under Articles 14 & 21

Report on
- 18 large-medium states
- 7 Small states

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<tr>
<td>* Large Medium States*</td>
<td><strong>Maharashtra (6.92)</strong>, Kerala, Tamil Nadu</td>
<td><strong>Uttar Pradesh (3.32)</strong>, Bihar, Jharkhand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Smaller States*</td>
<td><strong>Goa</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tripura</strong></td>
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**Pillars:**

* **Prison** - Overcrowding, Women Staff, Correctional Staff, etc.
  - **Kerala**
  - **Jharkhand**

* **Police** - Human resources, filling vacancies, modernisation, etc.
  - **Tamil Nadu**
  - **Uttar Pradesh**

* **Judiciary** - Vacancy in High Courts and Subordinate Courts, Clearance rate, budget, etc.
  - **Tamil Nadu**
  - **Bihar**

* **Legal Aid** - Central & State budget, % of women lawyers, rural coverage, etc.
  - **Kerala**
  - **Uttar Pradesh**
Ranking - Observations:
* Serious lacunae in our justice delivery system
* Stark contrast between top & bottom performer.

Overall Summary:

a) Police force training
   - Only 6.4% received training in last 5 years

b) Representation of Women
   - Just 71% of 2.4 million police persons
   - 28% in lower judiciary; 12% at High Court level.

c) Undertrial Prisoners
   - In 2016 - 67.7%
   - Overcrowded prisons - 114%

d) Underrepresentation of SCs, STs, OBCs and women

e) Pending cases
   - 2.8 crore in Subordinate Courts
   - 24% cases → pending (>5 years)
   - 23 lakh cases → pending (>10 years)

f) Poor access to judiciary
   - per capita public spending on legal aid is ₹0.75 per annum
PRACTICE QUESTIONS DISCUSSION
Previous Year Question – UPSC Prelims 2016

Q1. With reference to ‘Financial Stability and Development Council’, consider the following statements.

1. It is an organ of NITI Aayog.
2. It is headed by the Union Finance Minister.
3. It monitors macro prudential supervision of the economy.

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

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements with reference to Financial Stability and Development Council.

1. The council and its sub-committee are headed by the Union Finance Minister.
2. The Governor of RBI and the Chief Economic Adviser are members of the committee.

Which among the above statements is/are not correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. According to the India Internet 2019 report, the Internet penetration is higher in Urban India due to better internet connectivity. The report is released by

a) Telecom Regulation Authority of India
b) International Telecommunication Union
c) Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
d) Internet and Mobile Association of India

Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. The India Justice Report- 2019 is released by

a) NITI Aayog
b) Ministry of Law and Justice
c) Tata Trusts
d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Q1. The administrative and operational co-ordination among different Central armed Police Forces (CAPF) is the need of the hour. Suggest suitable measures to increase the administrative and operational efficiency of CAPFs in the light of the above statement.