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GEMINI system to warn fishermen of danger

It also shows fish catch probability

GEMINI

GAGAN Satellite System

* GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation Satellite System
  - Three geosynchronous satellites
    - GSAT-8
    - GSAT-15
    - GSAT-10
  - Covers entire Indian Ocean System
  - Utilised by INCOIS + AAI

GEMINI

- Gagan Enabled Mariner’s Instrument for Navigation and Information
  - Portable receiver linked to GAGAN
  - Developed by INCOIS and AAI

Antenna + in-built battery

Purpose

- Seamless and effective dissemination of emergency information and communication on disaster warnings
- Information on potential fishing zones
- Information on Ocean state forecasting
The minimum wage solution

While indication of the MGNREGA wages is critical, it is not sufficient to assume that the minimum wage would work for the economy. However, a minimum wage is required to ensure the basic needs of workers and to prevent exploitation. The MGNREGA wages have been increased several times since its inception. However, a more critical issue is the inflation of the MGNREGA wages to the current CPI. The MGNREGA wages have been indexed to the CPI, but a more critical issue is the inflation of the MGNREGA wages to the current CPI.

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

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, Bio diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

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2 major announcements by Central Govt

* Indexation of MGNREGA wages → affect the poor

* Reduction in Corporate tax rates → Benefits the rich

Two ends of the spectrum

Indexation of MGNREGA wages

* National daily average MGNREGA wage - Rs. 179

* MGNREGA wages to be indexed with an updated inflation index called CPI-R (CPI-Rural), instead of the present CPI-AL (CPI- Agricultural Labourers)

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CPI-R → food items + non-food items (healthcare & education)

→ more inclusive

→ Better reflection of rural consumption basket

* Linking of MGNREGA wages with CPI-R will have an impact only if the base MGNREGA wages are high

* Present:

  MGNREGA wages < state minimum wages

  (violation of the law)
Reduction in Corporate Tax Rates

- Will widen economic inequality
- Oxfam Inequality report 2018
  Wealth of richest 1% → Equivalent to growth by Rs. 20-91 Lakh Cr. 2017-18 Union Budget
- Gets exhausted by October of every financial year → Delay in payment of wages
- 2015 IMF Report
  - Income Share - GDP growth
    - Top 20% - Decline in medium term
    - Bottom 20% - Higher GDP growth
  - Will not increase the rural demand

Suggestions

- Budget for public programmes should be substantially increased
  - Higher disposable income for the poor
  - Positive multiplier effects in the economy
- Duty of the government to pay attention & support the poor
- Minimum wages should be guaranteed

Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) - 2019

- India ranked 68th

Released by World Economic Forum

measures factors creating competitiveness

12 Pillars

- Institutions
- Infrastructure
- Macroeconomic environment
- Health & primary education etc.
* India ranks high in,
  a) macro economic stability
  b) market size
  c) stable financial sector
  d) corporate governance & shareholder governance
  e) Innovation

* Shortcomings in,
  a) Adoption of Information and communications technology
  b) Health indicators
  c) Goods market efficiency
  d) Labour market efficiency

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**World Economic Forum**

* Established in 1971 - not for profit foundation
* Headquarters: Geneva
* Objective: Engage business, political, academic leaders → shape global, regional and industry agendas
* Reports: Global Competitiveness Index, Global Gender Gap Report

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**“No sign of caste discrimination”**

Everything normal, says inspection team at Shivpuri school

Children from Scheduled caste community beaten to death in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh

* Allegations of caste discrimination - inquiry by NCSC and district authorities - no discrimination

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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, Policy, Social Justice and International relations.

- Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.
- 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.

**National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)**

* Established under Article 338
* 2003: 89th constitutional Amendment - separate NCSC in 2004
* Composition
  - Chairperson
  - Vice-Chair person
  - 3 Members
  
  - Structure
  - Appointed by President
  - Tenure → 3 years → no reappointment after 2 terms
- Letter to President
- President (after SC enquiry)
- Office of profit
- Adjudged insolvent
- Other grounds
- Infirmitry of mind/body etc
- Investigate - Constitutional and legal safeguards
- Inquire into complaints
- Planning for socio-economic development (Participatory role)
- Report to President

- Power of a Civil Court
  - Can summon and enforce attendance
  - Require production of any document
  - Public record from any court of office

  - Article 338 (10) - NCSC to investigate into matters of
    - Other backward classes - omitted by 102nd CAA
    - Anglo-Indian community

Shoddy repair may have cost four lives

North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO)
- Incorporated in 1976
- Govt. of India undertaking - under Ministry of Power
- To construct, generate, operate and maintain hydro and thermal power stations
- Only CPSE that has both hydro and thermal power stations in operation

Miniratna Category - I CPSE - Eligibility
1. Should have made profit in last three years continuously
2. Should have Pre-tax profit - 30 Crores or more - in at least one of the three years
3. Should have Positive net worth
Kopili Hydro-Power Project

* 1st project of NEEPCO
* Total Capacity - 275 MW
* Kopili reservoir/Khandong dam - on river Kopili
* Umrong reservoir
  → On Umrong stream - a tributary of River Kopili
* River Kopili
  → a perennial river
  → Originates in Borail mountain range - Confluences with River Brahmaputra
  → South bank tributary of River Brahmaputra

PRACTICE QUESTIONS DISCUSSION
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to GEMINI.

1. It is GAGAN Enabled Mariner’s Instrument for Navigation and Information device is a portable device developed to provide seamless and effective dissemination of emergency information and communication on disaster warnings, potential fishing zones and Ocean state forecasting to fishermen.

2. It has been jointly developed by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services along with Airports Authority of India.

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

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. In the Indian context, which of the following can contribute to the increase the rural consumption demand?

1. Rise in the MGRNEGA wages
2. Tax rate cuts by the government
3. Higher interest rate for loans by the banks

Choose the correct answer from the options given below.

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

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Which of the following indices/report is released by World Economic Forum?

a) Global Competitiveness Report
b) Rule of Law Index
c) Global Financial Stability Report
d) Ease of Doing Business Index

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC).

1. The members of the Commission are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee headed by the Prime Minister.

2. The Commission has the power to investigate all matters relating to the constitutional and other legal safeguards for the other backward classes (OBCs) and the Anglo-Indian community.

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

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. The Kopili Hydro-Electric plant is located in Assam.
2. River Kopili is a tributary of Brahmaputra.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Previously asked Question – Prelims (2019)
(For Reference only)

Q. What is common to the places known as Aliyar, Isapur and Kangsabati?
(a) Recently discovered uranium deposits
(b) Tropical rain forests
(c) Underground cave systems
(d) Water reservoirs

Answers

Q1. Option ‘c’ - Both 1 and 2
Q2. Option ‘b’ - 1 and 2 only
Q3. Option ‘a’ - Global Competitiveness Report
Q4. Option ‘d’ - Neither 1 nor 2
Q5. Option ‘c’ - Both 1 and 2