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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; T – Thiruvananthapuram
Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance-constitutions, 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.

- Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.
- Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

Debate on Electoral Reforms in Rajya Sabha

* Initiated by TMC MP

* 6 major themes
  - Appointment System of CEC + other election commissioners
  - Money Power
  - Electronic Voting Machines
  - Simultaneous Elections
  - Role of Social Media (Cheat India platforms)
  - Use of govt. data and surrogate advertisements to target certain sections of voters

1. Appointment System of Election Commissioners
   - Article 324 - President appoints CEC + other ECs

2. Money Power
   - The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Act, 1991
   - Tenure - 6 years / upto 65 years of age
   - Role of Executive → Influences appointment
   - CEC + other ECs → must be politically neutral
   - ‘Collegium’ system of appointing CEC + other ECs

Congress MP:

- Electoral Bonds - Absurd
- State Funding to Political Parties
  * Setting up a National Electoral Fund
  * Based on the member of votes obtained by the political parties
3. Electoral Reforms

3.1. Internal Democracy
- BJD → Independent regulator to supervise and ensure inner-party democracy

3.2. Representation in the elections → Reforms required
- First past the post system → Not representational
  - DMK → 2014 LS elections in UP - BSP
    - Vote share - 20%
    - Seats - 0
  - DMK, CPI, CPI(M) → Demand for Proportional Representation System
  - Few other MPs → Mixed System (of both the above)

4. Simultaneous Elections

4.1. Ruling Party Claims:
- Minimum cycle of elections instead of “One nation one election”
- Lesser expenditures
- Maximum governance
- No electoral fatigue

4.2. Opposition Party Claims:
- TMC → Consultation of Constitutional experts
  - Govt must publish a “White Paper”
- CPI → “Unconstitutional and Unrealistic”
  - “Accountability should hold precedence over stability”

5. Other Issues debated regarding Electoral Reforms
Author’s Suggestions on Electoral Reforms

1. No of phases in elections must be reduced
   - Possible by raising more security forces
   - Reduction in election expenditure

2. Election Commission of India should be vested with power to de-register political parties

3. Governments should carry out electoral reforms by having long-term national interests in mind, instead of immediate electoral gains

Pothamala menhirs stand guard on ancient necropolis

The stone structures in Udumburachola, some up to 2019 tall, are among the largest found in Kerala.
New menhirs in Pothamala Hills
- Udumbanchola Taluk, Idukki District
- Largest ever recorded menhirs in the state

Menhirs
- Single 'long stones' placed upright
- Upright long monumental stones

Recent identification of menhirs
- There could have been a major prehistoric necropolis
- Necropolis - large cemetery of an ancient city
- There could be a structured graveyard of a pre-historic civilisation
  - Menhirs - planted in a specific geometrical pattern on a cluster of hills
  - Oriented in East-West direction
- Yet to be explored megalithic site

Hayabusa - 2
- Launched by Japan
- 1st spacecraft to collect sub-surface material from a celestial body apart from the moon
- Celestial body → Asteroid → Ryugu (300 million km away)
- Mission of Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
- Launched → Arrived
  - Dec 2014 → June 2018
- Purpose → to collect surface samples from the asteroid
- 4 deployable surface landers + explosive devices
- Explosive devices → Create crater on the asteroid → Collect sub-surface samples
Re-admit Maldives into Commonwealth: India

India has urged the Commonwealth to expedite readmission of the Maldives as a member country. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar conveyed India’s stand at the 51st Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers’ Meeting in London. “The External Affairs Minister congratulated the member countries on the 70th anniversary of the Commonwealth. He also noted that India is well on the path to fulfill all the commitments made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018. The Minister called for the expeditious process of readmission of the Maldives into the Commonwealth,” the Ministry of External Affairs said.

The support came weeks after Mr. Nischal was Maldives’ first overseas trip after his re-election. The Maldives withdrew from the Commonwealth during the tenure of President Abdulla Yameen in 2016.

⇒ 9-11 July 2019 - Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers’ Meeting
⇒ India - to fast-track the process of re-admission of Maldives
⇒ Maldives withdrew in 2016 during the tenure of its President Abdulla Yameen
⇒ At present, number of member countries in the Commonwealth - 53
⇒ Last to join - Rwanda - 2009
The Commonwealth – 1949

- Since 1949, independent countries from 5 regions have become members
  1. The Africa
  2. The Caribbean and the Americas
  3. Asia
  4. Europe
  5. The Pacific

- The membership today is based on ‘free and equal voluntary cooperation’
- Rwanda, Mozambique – have no historical ties to the British Empire

Zimbabwe – withdrew in 2003

Gambia – withdrew in 2013
  rejoined in 2018

2019 → 70th Anniversary of the Commonwealth

New Delhi

- HQ of CHRI – Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
  Premier body promoting Human Rights in the member countries of “The Commonwealth”

Jobless growth becomes more systemic

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-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

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

* Authors substantiate ‘Jobless growth’ based on Periodic Labour Force Survey 2017-18*

* 2 Issues:
  - Share of labour force - Shrinking
  - Unemployment levels - rising

* PLFS (2017-18) Vs NSS 68th round (2012)

  1. Labour force Participation Rate:

     \[
     \text{Unemployment Rate} = \frac{\text{No. of unemployed Persons}}{\text{Total population}} \times 100
     \]

     - 2012 → 55.5% (46.8 Crores)
     - 2017-18 → 49.7% (46.2 Crores)

* Dimension of Unemployment

  1. Location - Urban, Rural
  2. Gender - Men, Women

    | Location  | Urban Women | Urban Men | Rural Men | Rural Women |
    |-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
    | 2012      | 10.8%       | 7.1%      | 5.8%      | 3.8%        |
    | 2017-18   | 10.4%       | 7.1%      | 5.8%      | 3.8%        |

  3. Gender Dimension:

    - Men - 6.2%
    - Women - 5.7%

* Aspects of unemployment in women

  1. Exclusion of women population from labour force
  2. Women are not able to access employment when included in labour force
    - 31% → 24%

* Unemployment rates among the educated

* Unemployment levels keep increasing with the education levels

* Reasons:

  1. Waiting for specialised jobs
  2. Not economically deprived
  3. Govt.’s inability to provide employment to the educated
    - Govt - Economic loss
    - Educated unemployed persons - Demoralising experience
Unemployment rates:
- Urban Women - 19.8%
- Rural Women - 17.3%
- Rural Men - 10.5%
- Urban Men - 9.2%

Unemployment rates among the youth:
- Age group - 15-29 years
- Overall youth - 17.8%
- Genderwise in Urban areas only
  - Urban Women - 27.2%
  - Urban Men - 18.7%

Authors
- Trend of ‘Jobless Growth’
- Organised Sector → All Sectors
  - Generalised pattern
- Thorough re-examination of missing linkages between growth & employment is required

PRACTICE QUESTIONS
DISCUSSION


Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Which of the following best describes the term, ‘menhir’ sometimes seen in the news?

a) Large cemetery in an ancient city
b) A long monumental stone of historic value
c) Ancient paintings
d) None of the above

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. The “Hayabusa 2” mission was launched by which among the following space agency?

a) CNES
b) ISRO
c) JAXA
d) ESA

Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Consider the following statements.

1. All the member countries of the Commonwealth were countries which once had historic ties with the British empire.
2. India and Maldives are member countries in this association of ‘The Commonwealth’.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 and 2

Practice Question – Mains

GS – II

Q. “Free, Fair and more representative elections is the need of the hour than simultaneous election”. Discuss.
## Practice Question – Prelims

### Answers

Q1. Option ‘b’ – A long monumental stone of historic value

Q2. Option ‘c’ – JAXA

Q3. Option ‘d’ - Neither 1 and 2