## The Hindu News Analysis – 17th July 2020 – Shankar IAS Academy

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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H – Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram
Taiwan holds military drills against potential China threat

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taiwan’s military fired missiles from the air and the island’s shore facing China on Thursday in a live-fire drill to demonstrate its ability to defend against any Chinese invasion.

One helicopter crashed when returning to base from another drill, killing the pilot and co-pilot, the Army said. The cause of the crash was under investigation. The drills were part of a five-day annual exercise that ends Friday. Assault helicopters launched missiles and fighter jets dropped bombs on targets at sea, while tanks and missile trucks fired from a beach to deter a simulated invading force.

“We want the world to see our determination and efforts to protect our country,” President Tsai Ing-wen said, observing the exercise in a helmet and camouflage military fatigue.

China regards Taiwan as a breakaway province that is part of its territory. The self-governing island of 24 million people lies 100 kilometers (60 miles) off China’s southeast coast across the Taiwan Strait.

China – Taiwan dispute

• China’s Qing dynasty gained control in the late 17th century.
• 1895 – Japan acquired Taiwan following the first Sino-Japanese War.
• 1945 – Taiwan was returned to Nationalist Chinese control after WW-II.
• 1949 – Chinese communists defeated Nationalist forces on the mainland and established the People’s Republic of China.
• Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek moved to Taiwan.
• Taiwan, as the Republic of China, represented China in the United Nations till 1971 – then the People’s Republic of China took over.
• Taiwan is trying very hard to get international recognition – Resisted by China.

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.
- Important International institutions, agencies and their structure, mandate.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Taiwan enjoys semi-autonomous status in China through the principle of ‘One Country – Two Systems.’

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
For equal treatment

The Supreme Court did well to extend to the disabled the relaxations given to SC/ST.

A counterpoint to the idea of eliminating the distinction between the disabled and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes may arise from those questioning the attempt to equate physical or mental disability with the social disability and experience of untouchability suffered by marginalized sections for centuries. For instance, the social background of disabled persons from a traditionally privileged community may give them an advantage over those suffering from historical social disability. However, this may not always be the case.

The Delhi High Court had cited the abysmally low literacy and employment rates among persons with disabilities. Educational indicators captured in the 2001 Census showed that illiteracy among the disabled was much higher than the general population figure. The share of disabled children out of school was quite higher than other major social categories. The 2001 Census put the illiteracy rate among the disabled at 80%. There was similar evidence of their inadequate representation in employment too. The 2001 law sought to address this by raising the quota for the disabled from 3% to 5% and revising incentives for the private sector to hire them too. It is vital that this is fully given effect to so that this significant segment of the population is not left out of social and economic advancement.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks) Duration: Two hours

- 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.

- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

PAPER-III

General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Policy, Social Justice and International relations.

- 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, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
Background of the judgment

A petition - filed by a person, intellectually challenged to the extent of 50%, in Punjab and Haryana High Court.

- Individual has applied for a diploma course in Fine Art for physically/mentally challenged students in a Govt. college.
- Petition challenged certain provisions of prospectus issued by college - claimed
  - Bifurcation of the total available seats between physically challenged students and mentally/intellectually challenged students.
  - Demanded exemption for mentally/intellectually challenged students from taking Aptitude test.

THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2016

2. Definitions.—In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(r) "person with benchmark disability" means a person with not less than forty per cent. of a specified disability where specified disability has not been defined in measurable terms and includes a person with disability where specified disability has been defined in measurable terms, as certified by the certifying authority;

(s) "person with disability" means a person with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which, in interaction with barriers, hinders his full and effective participation in society equally with others:

THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2016

CHAPTER VI – SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR PERSONS WITH BENCHMARK DISABILITIES

32. Reservation in higher educational institutions.—

(1) All Government institutions of higher education and other higher education institutions receiving aid from the Government shall reserve not less than five per cent. seats for persons with benchmark disabilities.

(2) The persons with benchmark disabilities shall be given an upper age relaxation of five years for admission in institutions of higher education.

34. Reservation.—

(1) Every appropriate Government shall appoint in every Government establishment, not less than four per cent. of the total number of vacancies in the cadre strength in each group of posts meant to be filled with persons with benchmark disabilities of which, one per cent. each shall be reserved for persons with benchmark disabilities under clauses (a), (b) and (c) and one per cent. for persons with benchmark disabilities under clauses (d) and (e), namely:

(a) blindness and low vision;

(b) deaf and hard of hearing;

(c) locomotor disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy;

(d) autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness;

(e) multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness in the posts identified for each disabilities:
Punjab and Haryana High Court dismissed the petition - all persons with disability must be treated equally and no benefit can be given to a class of disabled persons at the expense of another class.

- Rejected the demand for exemption from aptitude test.
- Rejected 35% minimum passing marks for aptitude tests as in the case of SC/ST students.
- Petitioners demanded, based on 2012 case law of Delhi HC - intellectually/mentally challenged student is at least equally deprived as a SC/ST student.

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Anamol Bhandari Vs. Delhi Technological University, 2012 case

- Delhi HC held that PWDs should be treated at par with SC/ST candidates.
- Basis:
  - Constitutional mandates - under Articles 14, 16 and 21 - implicitly mandates the same for PWDs.
  - National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2006,
    - Noted the above constitutional mandate.
    - Education is the most effective tool for social and economic empowerment.
    - According to 2001 census, 51% of PWDs were illiterate.

2011 census

- 54% of the disabled children with multiple disabilities never attended educational institutions.
- 50% of the children with mental illness never attended educational institutions.

Source: [http://mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/publication_reports/Disabled_persons_in_India_2016.pdf](http://mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/publication_reports/Disabled_persons_in_India_2016.pdf)
If any meaningful rights are to be given to PWD class, then prime importance is to be given to educate the PWDs - disability may act as a major impediment in formal education.

Delhi HC - without imparting proper education to persons suffering from disabilities, there cannot be any meaningful enforcement of PWDs rights under the Constitution.

Horizontal reservation for PWDs - PWDs belonging to SC/ST category would automatically enjoy the benefit of relaxation for SC/ST categories.

Differential treatment and is discriminatory to PWDs of OBC or General categories.

Delhi HC - there is no reason not to give the same benefit/concession to PWDs of General/OBC Category.

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**Recent Supreme Court Judgment**

- Upheld the decision of Punjab and Haryana High court regarding bifurcation of total seats and exemption from aptitude test.
- Ultimately followed the principle laid down in 2012 judgment by Delhi HC.
- Recognised the struggle faced by PWDs in accessing education or employment, regardless of their social status.
- SC held that 35% required to pass in the aptitude test will also apply to PWDs in future, like for SC/ST candidates.

**Delhi HC judgment**

- People suffering from disabilities are equally socially backward, as those belonging to SC/ST categories and therefore, as per the constitutional mandates, they are entitled to at least the same benefit of relaxation as given to SC/ST candidates.

**Counterpoint -**

- By eliminating the distinction between the disabled and the SC/STs, it is an attempt to equate physical or mental disability with the social disability.
- PWD from a traditionally privileged community has a better social background and advantage over those suffering from historical social disability.

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Author’s view

• Census data shows abysmally/extremely low literacy rate among PWDs - leads to low employment rates - deprived of a dignified life.

• To bridge this gap, the Rights of PWD act 2016, raised the reservation to 5% from existing 3% under Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

• For providing more opportunity of employment - provides incentives for the private sector to hire PWDs.

THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2016

35. Incentives to employers in private sector.—The appropriate Government and the local authorities shall, within the limit of their economic capacity and development, provide incentives to employer in private sector to ensure that at least five per cent. of their work force is composed of persons with benchmark disability.

• Govt. has to give full effect to these provisions, so that PWD class of the population is not left out of social and economic advancement.

UPSC Mains Question - 2017

GS – II

Q. Does the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 ensure effective mechanism for empowerment and inclusion of the intended beneficiaries in the society? Discuss.

(150 words, 10 marks)

Practice Question – Mains

GS – II

Q. Do you agree with the view that a separate reservation for Persons with Disabilities should be made, on par or more than the reservation for candidates from Scheduled castes, Scheduled tribe categories? Discuss.

(250 words, 15 marks)
Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)

- The data is provided by the Sample Registration System (SRS).

- SRS is the largest demographic sample survey in the country which among other indicators provides direct estimates of maternal mortality through a nationally representative sample.

- Released by the Office of the Registrar General of India, Ministry of Home Affairs.

• Maternal Mortality

- A measure of reproductive health of women in the area.

- Women in reproductive age-span die due to complications during and following pregnancy and childbirth or abortion.

- WHO - “Maternal death is the death of a woman while pregnant or death of a woman within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy”.

• MMR definition

- It is the number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 100,000 live births during the same time period.

- Sustainable Development Goals target 3.1 - aims to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030.

- Maternal Mortality Ratio of India is 113 in 2016-18.
• India

- Highest MMR – Assam (215), Uttar Pradesh (197).
- Southern states – have MMR less than national MMR.
- Lowest MMR – Kerala.

**Southern States (MMR)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>MMR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telangana</td>
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<td>Karnataka</td>
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<td>Kerala</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>60</td>
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- Maternal Mortality Rate – the maternal deaths of women in the ages 15-49 per lakh of women in that age group.

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**Practice Question – Prelims**

Q. Which of the following statements is/are not correct with reference to Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)?

1. The Maternal Mortality Ratio of India has declined in 2016-18.
2. The southern states of India have higher MMR than National MMR.

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
Speaker of Lok Sabha

- Speaker is elected by the LS from amongst its members.
- Whenever the office of the Speaker falls vacant, the LS elects another member to fill the vacancy.
- Whenever the LS is dissolved, the Speaker does not vacate office and continues till the newly-elected LS meets.

• Role of Speaker
  ✔ Head of the LS
  ✔ Guardian of powers and privileges of the members, the House as a whole and its committees.
  ✔ Speaker’s decision in all Parliamentary matters is final.
  ✔ Speaker derives her/his powers and duties from three sources— the Constitution of India, the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of Lok Sabha, and Parliamentary Conventions.
## Powers and duties of Speaker

- **Primary responsibility** – to maintain order and decorum in the House for conducting its business.
- **Final interpreter** of the provisions of the Constitution, the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of LS...
- Adjourns the LS in the absence of a quorum.
- Makes a casting vote in the case of a tie.
- Presides over a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament.
- Decides whether a bill is a money bill or not and his decision on this question is final.
- Decides on the questions of disqualification of a member of the LS, arising on the ground of defection under Tenth Schedule.

### Speaker has few special powers which are not enjoyed by the Chairman.

1. Speaker decides whether a bill is a money bill/not and his decision on this question is final.
2. Speaker presides over a joint sitting of two Houses of Parliament.

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## Chairman of Rajya Sabha

- Vice-president of India is the ex-officio Chairman of RS.
- He can be removed from his office only if he is removed from the office of the Vice-President.
- The powers and functions of the Chairman in the RS are generally similar to those of the Speaker in the LS.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. With respect to the powers of the Speaker of Lok Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. The Speaker decides whether a bill is a money bill or not and her/his decision on this question is final.

2. In the absence of the Speaker, the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, presides over a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament.

3. The decision of Speaker on disqualification of a member of the Lok Sabha, on the ground of defection under Tenth Schedule, is subject to judicial review.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 3 only

National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)

- Under the administrative control of the Director General of Health Services, MoHFW.
- Timeline
  - Origin – as Central Malaria Bureau, established in 1909.
  - Renamed as the Malaria Institute of India in 1938.
  - Its activities were expanded to cover other communicable diseases and was renamed as National Institute of Communicable Diseases in 1963.
  - In 2009, it became NCDC with a larger mandate of controlling emerging and re-emerging diseases.
### National Institute of Virology (NIV)

- **Headquartered in Delhi.**
- **Functions of NCDC**
  - It functions as the nodal agency in the country for disease surveillance facilitating prevention and control of communicable diseases.
  - In coordination with the State Governments, disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, and rapid response to contain and combat outbreaks.
  - Separate division dealing with entomology and vector management.
  - Deals with Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR).
  - It provides referral diagnostic support, capacity building and technical support to states/UTs in the country.
- **Its mandate broadly covers three areas—services, trained health manpower, development and research.**

### National Institute of Virology (NIV)

- **It is one of the major institutes of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).**
- **Timeline**
  - It was established in Pune in 1952 as Virus Research centre under the auspices of ICMR and the Rockefeller Foundation (RF), USA.
  - RF withdrew its support in 1967, and since then NIV is entirely funded by the ICMR.
  - In 1967, designated as one of the collaborating laboratories of the World Health Organization.
  - In 1969, it started functioning as the regional centre of the WHO for South-East Asia for arbovirus studies.
- **NIV is also the National Centre for Hepatitis and Influenza.**
- **Research areas:** cell repository, electron microscopy, rickettsioses, hepatitis, influenza and related viruses, clinical virology, biochemistry, virus registry, and biostatistics.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC):

1. The National Institute of Communicable Diseases was transformed into NCDC in 2019 with a larger mandate of controlling the Covid-19 pandemic in India.

2. NCDC functions as the nodal agency in the country for disease surveillance, facilitating prevention and control of communicable diseases.

3. It comes under the administrative control of the Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q1. With respect to the powers of the Speaker of Lok Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. The Speaker decides whether a bill is a money bill or not and her/his decision on this question is final.
2. In the absence of the Speaker, the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, presides over a joint setting of the two Houses of Parliament.
3. The decision of Speaker on disqualification of a member of the Lok Sabha, on the ground of defection under Tenth Schedule, is subject to judicial review.

Which of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 2 only  
(d) 3 only

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. Taiwan enjoys semi-autonomous status in China through the principle of ‘One Country – Two Systems.’

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
Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC):

1. The National Institute of Communicable Diseases was transformed into NCDC in 2019 with a larger mandate of controlling the Covid-19 pandemic in India.

2. NCDC functions as the nodal agency in the country for disease surveillance, facilitating prevention and control of communicable diseases.

3. It comes under the administrative control of the Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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

Practice Question – Prelims
Q4. Which of the following statements is/are not correct with reference to Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)?

1. The Maternal Mortality Ratio of India has declined in 2016-18.

2. The southern states of India have higher MMR than National MMR.

Select the correct answer from the code given below.
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

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Practice Question – Prelims
17-07-2020
Q1. Option - c
Q2. Option - b
Q3. Option - b
Q4. Option - b

Practice Question – Mains
GS – II
Q. Do you agree with the view that a separate reservation for Persons with Disabilities should be made, on par or more than the reservation for candidates from Scheduled castes, Scheduled tribe categories? Discuss. (250 words, 15 marks)
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