Nepal

Unanimous vote by Pratinidhi Sabha gives legal stamp to inclusion of Indian territory

Border trouble
On Saturday, Nepal’s Parliament unanimously approved a new map which shows places such as Limpiyadhura, Kalapani and Lipulekh, including the strategically important Lipulekh pass, which are in Uttarakhand’s Pithoragarh district, as part of that country’s territory.

Indian freed by Nepal police
The Indian national detained by the Nepal Armed Police Force on June 12 from the border in Sitamarhi district of Bihar was released on Saturday. “Lagan Kishore Rai was released early on Saturday,” said IGP of Sashstra Seema Bal, Patna frontier, Sanjay Kumar.

CM invites global

ANALYSIS
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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H – Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram

The Hindu News Analysis – 14th June 2020 – Shankar IAS Academy
NGT gives Kerala 1 month to report on forest fire prevention steps

Calls for status report on implementation of national plan

G. KRISHNAKUMAR
KOCHI

The Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal has given one month to the Kerala Forest Department for submitting its report on the steps taken to prevent forest fires and implement the National Action Plan on Forest Fire in the State.

An order by the Bench, comprising Justice K. Ramakrishnan and expert member Saibal Dasgupta, on June 11 said three months had passed after it directed the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and the Head of the Forest Force in Thiruvananthapuram to submit a report on the steps taken to prevent such incidents in the aftermath of a fire that killed three forest guards at Kottambthur,

near Desamangalam, in Thrissur on February 16.

More time sought
The government sought two months for filing the report when the case was taken up on Thursday.

The order said regarding implementation of the National Action Plan on Forest Fire, an action taken report could have been prepared and submitted based on available records, for which two months was not required.

"Considering the circumstances, we grant one-month time to the officials to respond with the direction issued by this tribunal by order dated 27.02.2020," said the order.

Part A—Preliminary Examination
Paper 1 - (200 marks)  Duration: Two hours

- Current events of national and international importance.
- General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization.

Part B—Main Examination
PAPER-IV

- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
- Disaster and disaster management.
News

- National Green Tribunal - on the steps taken to prevent forest fires and to implement the National Action Plan on Forest Fire in Kerala.

Forest Fires

- A large widespread fire happening in the forest.
- Most common hazard endangering forests.
- Ex- Garhwal Himalayas

Causes

- Both natural and anthropogenic.

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<th>Anthropogenic</th>
<th>Accidental causes</th>
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<td>1. Collection of Non Timber Forest Produce</td>
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<td>2. Friction of Rolling Stone</td>
<td>2. Burning farm residues</td>
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<td>3. Volcanic Explosion</td>
<td>3. Driving away wild animals</td>
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<td>4. Rubbing of Dry Bamboo Clumps</td>
<td>4. Throwing burning biri/ cigarettes</td>
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<td>5. Camp fires by picnickers</td>
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<td>9. Resin tapping</td>
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<td>10. Making Charcoal in forests</td>
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<td>13. Heating coal tar for road construction in forest</td>
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Impacts of Forest Fires

- loss of valuable timber resources
- degradation of catchment areas
- loss of biodiversity and extinction of plants and animals
- loss of wildlife habitat and depletion of wildlife
- loss of natural regeneration and reduction in forest cover
- global warming
- loss of carbon sink resource and increase in percentage of CO2 in atmosphere
- change in the microclimate of the area with unhealthy living conditions
- soil erosion affecting productivity of soils and production
- ozone layer depletion
- health problems leading to diseases
- loss of livelihood for tribal people and the rural poor, as approximately 300 million people are directly dependent upon collection of non-timber forest products from forest areas for their livelihood.

- Causes imbalances in nature
- Traditional methods of fire prevention
- essential to raise public awareness.

Government’s Response to Forest Fires

- National Action Plan on Forest Fires:
  - To minimize forest fires from taking place by informing, enabling and empowering forest fringe communities.
  - To substantially reduce the vulnerabilities of forests.
  - Enhancing the capabilities of forest personnel and institutions in fighting fires.
• Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme
  ✓ A centrally sponsored scheme.
  ✓ Replaced, erstwhile Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IFMS).
  ✓ Aims are similar to that of NAPFF

Are forest fires beneficial?
• A controlled burn is a wildfire.
• Backburning – Involves setting a controlled fire in the opposite path of the approaching wildfire.
• In western countries, controlled fires are burnt at intervals of 10-12 years to maintain forests.
Snehalatha Venkateswaran
Delhi

The flagship programme of the Narendra Modi government in its second term, the Jal Jeevan Mission, is providing piped drinking water to all rural households by 2024. It is being pushed as a way to ameliorate the impact of the mass migration of migrant workers back to their home states in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Jal Shakti Ministry, the nodal ministry for the implementation of the scheme, has written to various states that returning labour, especially those working in the construction sector (skilled, unskilled and semi-skilled), may be deployed to expedite the completion of works under the scheme, as an arrangement that could provide employment to the currently unemployed workers.

That a huge demand for work has been created because of returning workers is clear from the fact that allocations under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) have already been hiked by Rs.60,000 crore and above the Rs.60,000 crore already allocated. While the MGNREGA is an old programme, the new Jal Jeevan Mission also has funds on its part. Apart from the Rs.10,000 crore in the budget, Rs.2,000 crore has been allocated from extra budgetary allocations, not to forget that 50% of the Rs.3,753 crores allocated by the 15th Finance Commission for rural local bodies is tied to grants for water bodies and sanitation, some of the key goals of the mission," said a senior official in the ministry. The total allocation to the scheme is over 75 lakh crore.

Skill mapping by various state governments has shown that a majority of inter-state workers returning home are from the construction sector. In Uttar Pradesh alone, 16 lakh out of 18 lakh migrant labourers mapped till now are from this sector. The state has assured funding of Rs.2,302 crores coming its way under the Jal Jeevan Mission, which, officials say, should be utilised in providing employment to rural areas returning migrants.

"As of now, a revalidation exercise of households and status of tap water found that out of 19.04 crore rural households in the country, 3,33 crore households had tap connections and 15.81 crore households had to be provided functional tap connections.

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.
News

• Huge demand for work – because of returning workers to their home villages.
  ✓ Fund allocations under MGNREGA Act have already been hiked.

• Ministry of Jal Shakti has written to various state governments.
  ✓ ‘Returning labourers especially those working in the construction sector, deployed to expedite the completion of works under the Jal Jeevan Mission’.

Jal Jeevan Mission

• Aim: To provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual FHTCs by 2024 to all households in rural India.

• Under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

• Vision – “Every rural household has drinking water supply in adequate quantity of prescribed quality”.

• Fund sharing pattern
  ✓ 90:10 for Himalayan (Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh) and North-Eastern States;
  ✓ 100:0 for UTs;
  ✓ 50:50 for rest of the states.
**Broad objectives of the JJM Mission**

- to provide FHTC to every rural household;
- to prioritize provision of FHTCs in quality-affected areas, villages in drought prone and desert areas, Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) villages, etc.;
- to provide functional tap connection to Schools, Anganwadi centres, Gram Panchayat buildings, Health centres, wellness centres and community buildings;
- to monitor functionality of tap connections;
- to promote and ensure voluntary ownership among local community by way of contribution in cash, kind and/ or labour and voluntary labour (shramdaan);
- to assist in ensuring sustainability of water supply system, i.e. water source, water supply infrastructure, and funds for regular Operation & Maintenance (O&M);
- to empower and develop human resource in the sector such that the demands of construction, plumbing, electrical, water quality management, water treatment, catchment protection, O&M, etc. are taken care of in short and long term; and
- to bring awareness on various aspects and significance of safe drinking water and involvement of stakeholders in manner that make water everyone's business.
Centre for early use of HCQ

"It must be avoided in severe cases"

India records 11,819 fresh cases

The Health Ministry on Saturday said the anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) should be used as early as possible in the course of COVID-19 treatment to achieve meaningful effects and should be avoided in patients with severe disease. A 22-page national

Hydroxychloroquine does not reduce mortality, RECOVERY trial finds

Participant enrolment to hydroxychloroquine arm was stopped with immediate effect

The RECOVERY trial, a large randomised controlled trial in the U.K. to test five drugs, including hydroxychloroquine, has found no clinical benefit from use of hydroxychloroquine in hospitalised patients with COVID-19. The trial investigators found that there was no significant benefit in mortality reduction in the intervention group, which was the primary objective. The RECOVERY trial began in March, it is a dynamic trial

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks) Duration: Two hours

- Current events of national and international importance.
- General Science.

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.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

PAPER-IV


- Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
Union Health ministry, HCQ should be used as early as possible for Covid-19 treatment.

Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ)

- Currently being studied for the treatment and prevention of COVID-19.
- HCQ is used to prevent and treat acute attacks of malaria and other diseases like chronic inflammatory condition of the skin and body and rheumatoid arthritis.
- HCQ is in a class of drugs called antimalarials.
Hydroxychloroquine does not reduce mortality, RECOVERY trial finds

Participant enrolment to hydroxychloroquine arm was stopped with immediate effect

R. Prasad

The RECOVERY trial, a large randomised controlled trial in the U.K. to test five drugs, including hydroxychloroquine, has found no clinical benefit from use of hydroxychloroquine in hospitalised patients with COVID-19. The trial investigators found that there was no significant benefit in mortality reduction in the intervention group, which was the primary objective. The RECOVERY trial began in March. It is a dynamic trial assessing five candidate drugs and convalescent plasma therapy for treating COVID-19 in patients in U.K. hospitals. The trial has enrolled over 11,000 patients.

On June 4, following the retraction of The Lancet paper on use of hydroxychloroquine, the U.K. Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency wanted the independent Data Monitoring Committee of the RECOVERY trial to carry out an additional review. It also asked the investigators to look at the unblinded data in the hydroxychloroquine arm.

"These data convincingly rule out any meaningful mortality benefit of hydroxychloroquine in patients hospitalised with COVID-19," the release says. The researchers will soon make the results available.

Post-exposure prophylaxis

Another trial found that hydroxychloroquine drug was not effective even as a post-exposure prophylaxis in asymptomatic participants who have had high-risk exposure with a confirmed COVID-19 case. Nearly 88% of 824 participants

News: New protocol, use of drug Remdesivir, Tocilizumab, and convalescent plasma therapy on specific groups of patients.

RECOVERY Trial

• A large randomised controlled trial in the U.K.
• It involves assessing five drugs and convalescent plasma therapy for treating COVID-19 in patients in U.K. hospitals.
• Use of HCQ does not give any clinical benefits.
Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus are the common vectors of Chikungunya, Yellow fever and Zika viruses.

2. Malaria is caused by Plasmodium parasites, which are spread to people through infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.

3. There are no specific anti-viral treatments against Chikungunya and Dengue.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Nature</th>
<th>Vector</th>
<th>Symptoms</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Dengue</td>
<td>Caused by a virus of the Flaviviridae family.</td>
<td>Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus.</td>
<td>Severe headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pains.</td>
<td>No specific vaccines.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. Excise Duty is a form of indirect tax that is levied on goods coming from outside the country.

2. Excise Duty on Petroleum products subsumed under the Goods and Services Tax.

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
News

- The former Union Law Minister, International crude oil prices were at the lowest level in 15 years, but retail prices of petrol and diesel were going up in India.
- The centre’s excise duty and the state’s VAT, 69% of the tax on fuel.

How petrol and diesel are taxed in India?

- Petrol prices are revised by the oil marketing companies based on
  - International Crude Oil prices,
  - Demand for fuel in the domestic market,
  - Mismatch of demand and supply,
  - Taxes imposed on the fuel,
  - Exchange rate of rupee to dollar,
  - Dealer premium (Commission of oil companies) and
  - Logistics.
Taxes imposed on Fuel

- **Excise Duty** – by Central Government.
- **Value Added Tax** – by State Governments.

**Excise Duty**

- Also known as CENVAT.
- A form of indirect tax.
- It applies to goods manufactured domestically in the country.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Which of the following places are located at the tri-junctions near international border?

1. Limpiyadhura – Kalapani - Lipulekh
2. Doklam Valley
3. Galwan – Depsang – Chushul
4. Diphu Pass

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only
(d) 2 and 3 only
India’s border dispute with neighbors

India faces territorial issues with many of its neighbors. Over the past 70 years, it has succeeded to resolve its boundary issues only with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The undetermined boundaries with Myanmar, Bhutan and lately with China, Pakistan and Nepal have often flared up into tensions.

[Map showing key border disputes and territories controlled by India, Pakistan, and China, including areas like Sir Creek, Depoezai Plains, Nelong, Pulak Sandhima, other locations mentioned in the text.]

Civilpedia - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
PRACTICE QUESTIONS
DISCUSSION
Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. With reference to ‘Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)’ and ‘Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)’, consider the following statements.

1. Both focusses on improving the living standards of rural households.
2. Both are Central sector schemes.
3. Both are implemented by Ministry of Rural Development.

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

Q5. Which one of the following statements is correct with reference to Hydroxychloroquine?

(a) It is an anti-malarial drug.
(b) It can be used for treatment of COVID-19.
(c) It is used to treat rheumatoid arthritis.
(d) All the statements given above are correct.
Answers

Q1. Option ‘d’ – 1, 2 and 3
Q2. Option ‘d’ – Neither 1 nor 2
Q3. Option ‘c’ – 1, 2 and 4 only
Q4. Option ‘a’ – 1 only
Q5. Option ‘d’ – All the statements given above are correct.
Q. ‘Forest Fire’ is a global problem. How India is affected by Forest Fires? Enlist Government measures in containing Forest Fires.

(250 Words, 15 Marks)
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