## The Hindu News Analysis – 5th June 2020 – Shankar IAS Academy

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

PAPER-III

General Studies—II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

News

- The Reserve Bank of India on March 27 announced a regulatory package on COVID-19 to all commercial banks, co-operative banks, financial institutions and NBFCs
  - To grant 3-months moratorium on the payment of instalments under all term loans outstanding as on March 1, 2020
  - again extended the moratorium for 3 more months till August 31, 2020
- To help individuals facing temporary financial difficulties to plan their finances better

News

- A petition was filed in the Supreme Court by the owners of small commercial establishments, industries, shops and factories challenging the legality of notification by Ministry of Home Affairs
  - The notification mandates Employers to pay full wages to their workers during the entire period of lockdown
- Solicitor General said that the Government’s notification operated only for 54 days and no longer operational now
### Attorney General of India

- Article 76 of the Indian Constitution.
- Highest law officer in the country.
- Appointed by the President.
- Must be a person who is qualified to be appointed as a judge of the SC.
  - Qualifications to become judge of SC:
    - Citizen of India;
    - Must have been
      - A judge of some HC for 5 years or
      - An advocate of some HC for 10 years or
      - An eminent jurist, in the opinion of the President.

- The Constitution doesn’t provide for
  1. Term of office of the AG.
  2. The procedure and grounds for removal
     - Holds office during the pleasure of the President.
  3. The remuneration of AG
     - Receives such remuneration as the President may determine.

- Law Officer (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1987
  - Remuneration
  - Duties
  - Other Terms & Conditions of
    - the Attorney-General,
    - the Solicitor-General and
    - the Additional Solicitor-General.

### Functions of Attorney General of India

- To give advice to the Government upon legal matters, which are referred to him/her by the President.
- To perform such other duties of a legal character that are assigned to him/her by the President.
- To discharge the functions conferred on him/her by the Constitution or any other law.

### Duties assigned by the President to the AG

- To appear on behalf of Government of India in all cases in the Supreme Court in which the Government of India is concerned.
- To represent the Government of India in any reference made by the President to the Supreme Court under Article 143 of the constitution.
- To appear (when required by the Government of India) in any High Court in any case in which the Government of India is concerned.
### Rights of the Attorney General

1. Has the right of audience in all courts in the territory of India.
2. Has the right to speak and to take part in the
   - proceedings of the both the Houses of Parliament or their joint sitting and
   - any committee of the Parliament of which he/she may be named as a member, but without a right to vote
3. Enjoys all the privileges and immunities that are available to a Member of Parliament (MP).

### Limitations of Attorney General

- Should not advice or hold a brief against the Government of India.
- Should not advise or hold a brief in cases in which he/she is called upon to advise or appear for the Government of India.
- Should not defend accused persons in criminal prosecutions without the permission of the Government of India.
- Should not accept appointment as a director in any company or corporation without the permission of the Government of India.

### Other facts of Attorney General

- AG is not a full-time counsel for the Government.
- Not debarred from private legal practice.
- Not a member of the Central Cabinet

### Solicitor General of India

- To assist the Attorney General in the fulfilment of his official responsibilities.
- Article 76 does not mention about the Solicitor General and additional solicitor general — but only Attorney General of India

### Law Officer (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1987

- Remuneration
- Duties
- Other Terms & Conditions of
  - the Attorney-General,
  - the Solicitor-General and
  - the Additional Solicitor-General
UPSC Mains Question – 2019
GS – II

Q. “The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India.” Discuss. (250 words, 15 marks)

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 76 of the Indian Constitution provides for the office of Attorney General and Solicitor General of India.
2. To avoid conflict of duty, the Attorney General is debarred from private legal practice.
3. Attorney General has the right to speak and take part in proceeding of both the Houses of Parliament or their joint sittings.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

(a) 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 2 and 3 only
Recent announcements by USA on China

- Revoke Hong Kong’s special trade status under 1992 US law.
  - China’s legislature approved draft legislation regarding national security on Hong Kong — curtails freedom of speech and undermines independent judiciary.
  - US plans to cancel the visas of thousands of Chinese graduate students and researchers in USA — who have direct ties with People’s Liberation Army.
  - US President ordered financial regulators to closely examine Chinese firms listed in US stock markets
  - Companies that do not comply with US law, could be delisted.

Author’s view

1. USA complicit in China’s rise

- Chinese communists came to power — USA hoped to cohabit with People’s Republic of China — under U.S. hegemony.
- President Richard Nixon — gave international acceptability to China by visiting in 1972.
- President Jimmy Carter — terminated diplomatic relations with Taiwan in 1978.
- President George Bush gave soft treatment to China after the Tiananmen Massacre.
  - Vetted the bills aimed at rejecting or conditioning the annual extension of China’s MFN trading status.
- President Bill Clinton — supported China for membership at WTO.
2. China disguising its real purpose from beginning
   • Preventing U.S. hegemony.
   • Chinese leaders had shrewd understanding – USA represents an existential threat to the continued supremacy of communist regime.
     ✓ strengthened by collapse of Soviet Union.
   • China resolved to resist USA by creating its own parallel universe.
     1. Alternate trading system through Belt and Road Initiative
     2. Multilateral banking system under its control – Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and NDB.
     3. Its own global positioning system – BeiDou.
     4. Digital payment platforms – WeChat Pay and Alipay
     5. Digital network – Huawei 5G
     6. A modern military force.

3. USA's realisation
   • China against USA’s hegemony.
   • 2017 National Security Strategy document, USA
     ✓ China and Russia are challenge to American power, influence and interests.
   • USA's recent announcements – beginning of a serious re-adjustment.

4. Differing view of Scholars
   • Economies of China and USA are interdependent from farm to factory.
   • USA dependent on supply chains in China.
   • China largest export customers are Americans.

5. New domain of rivalry between China and US
   • USA’s interference in Hong Kong issue
   • Hong Kong – torch-bearer of Western democratic ideals and capitalism.
   • New rivalry in ideological domain – communist ideology Vs. democratic ideals and capitalism.

6. A new Cold War?
   • Depends on US Presidential election of November 2020
   • Depends on China’s manipulation of global public opinion.

Conclusion
   • India – binary choice between U.S. and China.
   • Test to India’s capacity to maintain strategic and decisional autonomy.
Skyrocketing tensions

The U.S. government's decision to bar passenger planes from China from June 16 is but another instance of rising tensions between the two countries. A trade war which President Donald Trump launched in 2018 is yet to be resolved fully. In recent months, Mr. Trump and other officials in the administration had attacked China over its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. The U.S. has also decided to end Hong Kong's special trade status in protest against Beijing's move to introduce a new national security law for the Special Administrative Region. Repeated targeting of China by Washington and Beijing's retaliatory moves make it look like the world's largest and second largest economies have entered into a new cold war. Administration officials say the decision on flights is in response to China's refusal to allow U.S. airlines to resume flights to the country. China had introduced restrictions on international flights in March, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and most of those curbs are still in place. Disputes such as this could be resolved through talks and cooperation. China has already sent signals of de-escalation, allowing foreign airlines to resume flights on a limited scale starting June 8. Whether or not Mr. Trump has a rethink, the larger problem is the U.S.'s overall approach towards China, which has taken an increasingly hostile turn in the last four years.

U.S. and China must rebuild mutual trust to avoid a new kind of cold war

From trade and technology to the pandemic and Hong Kong, the battle lines have been drawn – China, which the Pentagon called “a revisionist power” in 2018, is the main rival of Washington, a position which the Soviet Union held during the Cold War. Ties between China and the U.S. are still not as bad as they were between the Soviet Union and the U.S. Beijing and Washington are still economically and financially entangled. The world is not divided into two ideological blocs, as it had been during the Cold War. The possibility of a military confrontation is very low. But the era of cooperation, peaceful trade and pragmatism that had defined the U.S.-China partnership since President Richard Nixon's visit in the 1970s seems to have made way for an aggressive leadership contest and deepening mutual mistrust. And with Mr. Trump desperately looking for an enemy to blame for the misfortunes that fell on America in an election year that has been battered by the pandemic and the deepest economic downturn since the Great Depression, tensions with China are expected to skyrocket in the coming months. Washington wanted an enemy and it found it in China. Unless the leaders of both countries change their course and rebuild the lost mutual confidence, a new kind of cold war would be forced upon the world.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. What is the purpose of TULIP, which was recently launched by the Union Government?

(a) To provide internship opportunities to graduates in all Urban Local Bodies and Smart Cities.
(b) To conserve endemic angiosperms across the country, launched on World Environment Day.
(c) To provide guaranteed employment in Urban areas.
(d) To conserve animals in protected areas from COVID-19.

TULIP – The Urban Learning Internship Programme

- A program for providing internship opportunities to fresh graduates in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Smart Cities across the country.
- A dedicated window to internship opportunities in Urban Local Bodies/smart cities.
- Aggregates opportunities across India for graduates on a single platform - allow them to apply for internships in the domain of urban governance.
- Implemented by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

Budget speech of 2020-21

“The Government proposes to start a program whereby the urban local bodies across the country would provide internship opportunities to fresh engineers for a period up to one year.”- Nirmal Sitaraman, FM.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements with reference to Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance:

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation to ensure adequate supply of vaccines.
2. Their goal is to improve access to new and underused vaccines for children who are living in the world’s poorest countries.

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. With reference to Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, which among the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is the first Marine Biosphere Reserve of India.
2. It is endowed with three distinct Coastal ecosystems namely coral reef, seagrass bed and mangroves.
3. It is the only ecosystem where all 5 sea turtle species found in India have been reported.

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

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

Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve

• The first Marine Biosphere Reserve of India – declared in 1989 by Government of India.

• Designated in 2001 as a Biosphere reserve under ‘World Network of Biosphere Reserves’ of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO.

• Encompasses a chain of 21 islands with continuous stretches of coral reef

 ✓ off the coasts of Ramanathapuram and Tuticorin districts of TN – core zone of Marine National Park.

 ✓ Buffer zone – surrounding seascape and a 10 km strip of coastal landscape in TN.
Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve (Contd.,)

Ecological Importance

• Biologically richest coastal region in India – about 4223 species of various flora and fauna.
• Enriched with productive habitats such as coral reefs, seagrasses, mangroves, estuaries, rocky shores and sandy beaches.
• Only ecosystem in India where all 5 sea turtle species found in India have been reported.
  1. Olive ridley turtle (Lepidochelys olivacea)
  2. Green turtle (Chelonia mydas)
  3. Hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata)
  4. Leatherback turtle (Dermochelys coriacea)
  5. Loggerhead turtle (Caretta caretta)
• Dugongs (Dugong dugon) occur in Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, the Palk Bay and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
• Supports several other globally important species
  ✓ All protected sharks,
  ✓ Sea horses,
  ✓ Dolphins,
  ✓ Sea cucumbers,
  ✓ Endemic species of Balanoglossus such as Ptychodera fluva – a living fossil that links invertebrates and vertebrates.

Primary threats

✓ Habitat destruction – coral reefs, seagrass, and mangroves – most serious threat.
  ➢ Coral mining (reported to be stopped from 2005).
  ➢ Seagrass beds – damaged by inappropriate bottom trawling practices.
✓ Over-harvesting of marine resources
✓ Potential localized land-based marine pollution.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. Which of the following statements with respect to India-Australia bilateral relationship is/are incorrect?

1. Both the countries are the part of ‘the QUAD’, an informal grouping which is seen as a regional counterbalance to China’s influence in Indo-Pacific.

2. The Malabar naval exercise is a two-week naval exercise between the navies of the two countries.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

News

• India and Australia raised their relationship to a ‘Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)’ at a virtual summit between the two Prime Ministers of the countries.

• A joint declaration on a shared vision for ‘Maritime co-operation in the Indo-Pacific’ for free, open, inclusive and rules-based co-operation was also issued.

• During the virtual summit, both the leaders had not discussed about the ‘Malabar grouping’ or ‘Quadrilateral maritime exercises’.

Malabar exercise

• A trilateral naval exercise between India, the USA and Japan.

  ✓ In 1992 – started as a bilateral exercise between the navies of India and the United States.

  ✓ In 2007 – Japan has joined as a permanent partner.

• Australia is not a part of Malabar exercise.

Note:

• In April 2019 – “the AUSINDEX” – a two-week naval exercise between India and Australia.
**QUAD**

- Quadrilateral Security Dialogue
- An informal grouping between India, Australia, Japan and the USA
- QUAD is seen as a regional counterweight to China and to counterbalance the rising China's influence in Indo-Pacific
Practice Question – Prelims

Q5. Consumer Confidence Survey, a quarterly publication on the perceptions and expectations on general economic situation, employment scenario, overall price situation and own income and spending is released by which of the following?

(a) Reserve Bank of India
(b) Ministry of Finance
(c) NITI Aayog
(d) Ministry of Statistics and Implementation

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Disasters displace lakhs: study

50 lakh international displacements in India in 2015, says CSE report

Shifting carts: In this photo dated May 4, 2015, houses and fishing boats damaged by Cyclone Fani are seen at Puriakata village in Odisha. "This hurricane" is a story that is not just about the immediate destruction but about the long-term impact on the lives of those affected.

Shrinking forests: The study also highlights a significant decline in forest cover in India, particularly in the northern parts of the country. The report notes that deforestation in the region has increased by 25 percent in the past decade, leading to severe environmental degradation.

CSE also calls for a comprehensive approach to disaster management, emphasizing the need for improved early warning systems and better preparedness strategies to mitigate the impact of such natural disasters.

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"Consumer confidence has collapsed"

Consumer confidence has collapsed amid the coronavirus pandemic and it may result in contraction of the economy by 1.5% during 2020-21, Reserve Bank of India surveys showed.

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Chart 1: Consumer Confidence Indices

- Current Situation Index
- Future Expectations Index

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India had one in five of all internal displacements caused by disasters across the world in 2016, mostly caused by floods, cyclones and drought, according to the State of India's Environment in Figures 2015 report released on Thursday. Also, 19 major extreme weather events claimed 1,537 lives last year.

There were more than 50 lakh internal displacements in India last year, the highest in the world. This refers to the number of movements, not people, as individuals can be displaced several times, said research and advocacy organisation Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), which published the report.

Floods caused by the southwest monsoon led to 26 lakh displacements, while Cyclone Fani alone led to 18 lakh displacements, followed by cyclones Yasa and Bulbul. On the other hand, drought conditions in 19 states led to another 65,000 displacements.

Apart from such forced migrations, many move for work. With migrant workers in the news due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, the report also breaks down Census data on migrant populations. There were over 45 crore migrants in the country at the time, with the vast majority migrating within their own state. In 2001, over 1.7 crore new migrants had moved for employment purposes, mostly from rural to urban areas.

Shrinking forests: The report also highlights a significant decline in forest cover in India, particularly in the northern parts of the country. The report notes that deforestation in the region has increased by 25 percent in the past decade, leading to severe environmental degradation.

CSE also calls for a comprehensive approach to disaster management, emphasizing the need for improved early warning systems and better preparedness strategies to mitigate the impact of such natural disasters.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q6. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 76 of the Indian Constitution provides for the office of Attorney General and Solicitor General of India.

2. To avoid conflict of duty, the Attorney General is debarred from private legal practice.

3. Attorney General has the right to speak and take part in proceeding of both the Houses of Parliament or their joint sittings.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

(a) 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 2 and 3 only
Answers

1. Option ‘a’ – To provide internship opportunities to graduates in all Urban Local Bodies and Smart Cities.
2. Option ‘b’ – 2 only.
3. Option ‘d’ – 1, 2 and 3.
4. Option ‘b’ – 2 only.
5. Option ‘a’ – Reserve Bank of India
6. Option ‘c’ – 1 and 2 only.

Practice Question – Mains

GS – II

Q. In what ways would the ongoing US-China tensions affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to its situation? (250 words, 15 marks)
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