### The Hindu News Analysis – 21st December 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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Net loss
Disruption of connectivity should be asserted
to only in the face of specific threats
The shutting down of the Internet in Delhi and sev-
eral states as a response to growing protests
against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA),
2019, is unapologetic and deeply damaging to socia-
life and the economy. Meghalaya, Tripura and Arun-
achal Pradesh were entirely cut off, and parts of Assam,
West Bengal, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh were de-
prived of internet access, in clumsy attempts to quell
demonstrations. Such ham-fisted interventions have
won for India a place at the head of the table among
intolerant countries that routinely shut down the Internet
to block criticism of the government. Jammu and Kash-
mir is now acknowledged globally as a dark spot on the
Internet, with service there blocked since August 4. Af-
fter protests against the CAA began, other states are also
experiencing shutdowns, and the fate of connectivity is
being decided by officers empowered by the Temporal
Suspension of Telecommunication Services (Public Emer-
gency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 under the Indian Tele-

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.

Part B—Main Examination
PAPER-III
General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social
Justice and International relations.
- Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive
and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the
Government; pressure groups and formal/informal
associations and their role in the Polity.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and
accountability, e-governance- applications, models,
successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters,
transparency & accountability and institutional and other
measures.

PAPER-IV
General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Bio
diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management
- Challenges to internal security through communication
networks, role of media and social networking sites in
internal security challenges, basics of cyber security;
money-laundering and its prevention.

* Shutdown of Internet
- Delhi, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal
  Pradesh,
- parts of Assam, West Bengal,
  Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh
* Provisions that empower the authorities to
  shutdown the internet
  - Section 144 CrPC
  - District Magistrate - order - directing
    any person to abstain from certain
    act(s)

* In urgent cases of nuisance where
  there is apprehended danger
* Order - likely to prevent or tends to
  prevent obstruction, annoyance, injury
to the lawfully employed, danger to
  human life, health or safety, disturbance
  of public tranquility or riot or an
  affray
### Procedure under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017

<table>
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<tr>
<th>C.Govt</th>
<th>S.Govt</th>
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<td>Union Home Secretary (or) An officer not below the rank of J.Sec’y to GoI (in unavoidable circumstances)</td>
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<td>Copy of order forwarded to Review Committee by next working day</td>
<td>Copy of order forwarded to Review Committee by next working day</td>
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<td>Review Committee 1. Cabinet Secretary (Chairman) 2. Secretary Incharge of Legal Affairs, GoI 3. Secretary, DoT, GoI</td>
<td>Review Committee 1. Chief Secretary (Chairman) 2. Secretary Law or Legal Remembrancer In Charge of Legal Affairs 3. Secretary to S.Govt other than Home Secretary</td>
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- Implementation of the directions issued shall be determined by the Telegraph Authority

- Review Committee
  - Shall meet within 5 working days of issue of directions for suspension of Telecom Services
  - Reviews the issued order whether it is in accordance with Section 5(2) of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885

### Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885

(2) On the occurrence of any public emergency, or in the interest of the public safety, the Central Government or a State Government may, if satisfied that it is necessary or expedient so to do in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of an offence, for reasons to be recorded in writing, by order, direct that any message or class of messages to or from any person or class of persons, or relating to any particular subject, brought for transmission by or transmitted or received by any telegraph, shall not be transmitted, or shall be intercepted or detained, or shall be disclosed to the Government making the order or an officer thereof mentioned in the order:

Provided that press messages intended to be published in India by correspondents accredited to the Central Government or a State Government shall not be intercepted or detained, unless their transmission has been prohibited under this sub-section.
• Impact of Shutdown of Internet (Telecom Services)
  • affects economic prospects of entrepreneurship
    - new start-ups severely affected
  • cripple promotion of women’s employment
  • blow to digital financial transactions
  • blow to e-governance initiatives of the Govt.
  • affect economic productivity
  • affect education & skill building process

Conclusion
• Arbitrary shutdowns - wrong road to take
• Reforms - to ensure shutdowns are not made arbitrarily
  • Review committee members should include members from judiciary
  • Rules should be prescribed on actions to be taken against abuse of power (or) the arbitrary issuance of the order of Suspension
Afghanistan and Pakistan jolted by strong earthquake

Tremors were felt as far away as Delhi.

A strong earthquake rattled Afghanistan and Pakistan on Friday afternoon, the U.S. Geological Survey said, forcing residents into the streets in Kabul and Islamabad.

The 6.1 magnitude quake hit around 50 km southwest of Junin in northern Afghanistan and was over 200 km deep, the USGS said.

In both capital cities, residents felt two short tremors in quick succession, however, there were no immediate reports of damage.

The quake could be felt as far away as Delhi, residents there reported, while in Lahore, panicked people came onto the streets and got out of their cars. The quake's epicentre was in a sparsely populated, remote mountain area in Badakhshan province in Afghanistan.

The USGS estimated there would be few economic losses from the quake, with "a low likelihood of casualties and damage."

News

* A strong earthquake hit Afghanistan and Pakistan on 20th Dec 2019 and tremors felt up to Delhi.
* Badakhshan province of Afghanistan: an earthquake of about 6.1 magnitude.

Earthquake

* Shaking of the earth.
* Natural geological event and caused due to release of energy.
* Released energy generates seismic waves in all directions.

Part A — Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian and World Geography—Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.

Part B — Main Examination

PAPER-II

General Studies I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

- Salient features of world’s physical geography.
- Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

PAPER-III


- Disaster and disaster management.

The point of origin of energy inside the earth: Hypocenter or focus

The point on the surface of the earth, which is perpendicular to the focus: Epicentre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Richter Scale</th>
<th>Mercalli Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To measure magnitude</td>
<td>To measure/estimate the impact</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open ended logarithmic scale</td>
<td>Closed Scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[0 to 10]</td>
<td>I to XII</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indicates amount of energy released</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Types: based on Causes</td>
<td>Effects of Earthquakes</td>
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<td>-----------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>(i) Tectonic earthquakes</td>
<td>- ground shaking</td>
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<tr>
<td>(ii) Volcanic earthquakes</td>
<td>- Tsunami</td>
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<tr>
<td>(iii) Collapse earthquakes</td>
<td>- land &amp; mud slides</td>
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<tr>
<td>(iv) Explosion earthquakes</td>
<td>- avalanches</td>
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<tr>
<td>(v) Induced earthquakes</td>
<td>- Floods from dams</td>
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<td>- Structural Collapses</td>
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<td>- fire accidents</td>
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Dual citizenship for Lankan refugees will be examined, says Centre

T. RAMAKRISHNAN

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is learnt to have conveyed to Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami that the State government’s proposal for providing dual citizenship for refugees from Sri Lanka will be examined.

The assurance was given when the latter met Mr. Shah in New Delhi on Thursday night and briefed him on the law and order situation in the State, according to a source in the State government.

Mr. Palaniswami explained issues concerning the police department to the Home Minister. Grant of dual citizenship had been the demand of the AIADMK for three years, it is being sought so that Tamil refugees, living in the State, can take up permanent employment or run business without hindrance.

At a large number of refugees came to Tamil Nadu after the 1983 ethnic riots in the neighbouring country without valid travel documents, they are considered “illegal migrants.” This was the stand taken by the Centre to a case concerning 95 refugees of Kanyakumari in Tiruchirappalli. The refugees moved the Madras Bench of the Madras High Court, seeking citizenship. But, in recent years, young refugees, taking advantage of the facilities of education in the State, have pursued higher studies but they do not get jobs commensurate with their qualifications due to the “illegal migrant” tag.

* Central Govt in the case concerning 65 refugees of Kottapattu camp in Tiruchy
  * “As a large number of refugees came to Tamil Nadu after the 1983 ethnic riots in the neighbouring country, without valid travel documents, they are considered illegal migrants.”

* Dual citizenship
  * Citizen of two countries at the same time
  * Also called as dual nationality
  * Eg: UK

* Double Citizenship
  * Citizen of both national unit, and subnational unit
  * Eg: USA, Switzerland

* Citizenship in India
  * Single citizenship
    * As a citizen, the individual can show allegiance only to India
  * In time of war where India may be engaged
    * Section 9 of the Citizenship Act, 1955
    * Citizenship of India not terminated until C. Govt otherwise directs
  * Citizenship, naturalisation & aliens
    * Union list of Schedule 7 of Indian Constitution
Panel okays spectrum auction plan

Over 8,300 MHz, including the 4G services, will be put up in 2020; reserve price fixed at ₹5.22 lakh crore.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Digital Communications Commission (DCC) on Friday approved plans to auction over 8,300 MHz of spectrum, including airwaves to be used for willing 4G services, with a reserve price of ₹5.22 lakh crore.

However, in a setback to the telecom service providers (TSPs), there has been no reduction in the reserve price, as demanded by them, for the airwaves that will be put to bid in March/April 2020.

“The DCC has today approved the recommendation of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India ( Trai ). We are hopeful that auction should be conducted sometime in March/April,” Telecom Secretary Anusha Prakash said.

The Secretary said that the entire available spectrum – a little over 8,300 MHz across 22 telecom circles with a reserve price of ₹5.22 lakh crore – will be put up for bidding. Out of the 8,300 MHz of airwaves, 6,000 MHz are allocated for 4G services.

Mr. Prakash added that an ‘important change’ in the payment process for the bought spectrum has been

### News

* Visible light spectrum - Visible to human eye
* Electromagnetic spectrum - radio waves, visible light, infrared, etc
* Radiowaves (3 kHz to 300 GHz)
  - Used in wireless communication - high wavelength
  - Managed by government - each frequency is split into circles and divided for users
* Spectrum auctioning - Govt selling exclusive rights to transmit signals to network operators
  - Revenue generation

### Paper I—Preliminary Examination

**Duration:** Two hours

**Paper I—Preliminary Examination**

**Part A**

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<th>Duration</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<td>2 hours</td>
<td>Current events of national and international importance.</td>
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<td>Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td></td>
<td>Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
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<td>Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.</td>
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**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.
**Digital Communications Commission (DCC)**

- former Telecom Commission
- Set up in 1989
- Members
  - Chairman → Secretary of DoT
  - 4 full time members
  - 4 part time members
- Objectives
  - Formulating policy of DoT
  - Preparing budget for DoT
  - Implementation of Govt's policy
I did not say referendum, says Mamata

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Clarifying that she had not used the word referendum, West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee said on Friday that she had used the word “guna-vote” in an anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) rally on Thursday.

Her use of the word created controversy with BJP leaders alleging that she was seeking “foreign intervention.”

Ms. Banerjee addressed a press conference in Kolkata following a week-long agitation programme challenging CAA and NRC.

“I said, they must do an opinion poll, in our language ‘guna-vote’, opinion poll, and let us see if people accept it (CAA) or not,” Ms. Banerjee said.

In Thursday’s rally the Chief Minister had used the word “guna-vote”.

The dictionary meaning of ‘guna-vote” is plebiscite and neither referendum nor opinion poll.

It creates controversy as there is clear difference between three words—plebiscite and referendum in English. While in case of referendum the government needs to act upon it, in case of plebiscite, the government does not.

Pg. 15 → C, B, D, H

Pg. 11 → T

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks) Duration: Two hours

• 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, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

• Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.

DEMOCRACY

Direct Democracy

- Citizens directly participate in day-to-day decision making & in the running of the government
- Ex: Switzerland
- devices/instruments of direct democracy
  - Initiative, Recall, Plebiscite, Referendum

Indirect / Representative Democracy

- representatives chosen by people actively involve in governance & administration
- Ex: India
- Citizens not actively involved
### Initiative
- Method - people can propose a bill to legislature to enactment
  - direct participation of electorates

### Recall
- Method - Voter to remove representatives or officials before expiry of term

### Referendum
- Procedure - proposed legislation is referred to the electorate for settlement by direct vote
- On a specific political, constitutional or legislative issue
- Mostly binding

### Plebiscite
- Method - obtaining the opinion of people of India on issue of public importance - direct vote
- To solve territorial disputes
- Outcome - not mandatory to implement
Import cover rises to 10 months: RBI

- June 2019: $429.84 billion
- March 2019: $412.47 billion
- Import cover rose to 10 months from 9.6 months

Part A—Preliminary Examination

- Current events of national and international importance
- Economic and Social Development: Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

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

* Foreign Exchange Reserve
  - $429.84 billion in June 2019
  - $412.47 billion in March 2019
  - Import cover rose to 10 months from 9.6 months

* Import Cover
  - Number of months of imports covered by available forex reserve
  - 8-10 months: for stable currency

* 1991: Balance of Payment Crisis
  - Reasons
    - Huge trade deficit
    - Gulf War 1990 - 1991

* Forex reserve depleted - just for few weeks of imports

* Consequences
  1) Depreciation of rupee
  2) Economic crisis - bailout by IMF & WB
  3) Structural reforms in economy

* As of December 13 - forex reserve is $454 billion
  - Need: To absorb temporary shocks

* Huge import cover maintained by China, Russia, Brazil, etc.
Previous Year Question –
UPSC Prelims 2013

Q. Which one of the following groups of items is included in India’s foreign-exchange reserves?

(a) Foreign-currency assets, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and loans from foreign countries
(b) Foreign-currency assets, gold holdings of the RBI and SDRs
(c) Foreign-currency assets, loans from the World Bank and SDRs
(d) Foreign-currency assets, gold holdings of the RBI and loans from the World Bank

Previous Year Question –
UPSC Prelims 2017

Q. Which of the following has/have occurred in India after its liberalization of economic policies in 1991?

1. Share of agriculture in GDP increased enormously.
2. Share of India’s exports in world trade increased.
3. FDI inflows increased.
4. India’s foreign exchange reserves increased enormously.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

a) 1 and 4 only
b) 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

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-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-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.
### Practice Question – Prelims

**Q1.** Consider the following statements with reference to the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017.

1. Directions to suspend the telecom services shall not be issued except by an order made by the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs, in the case of Government of India.
2. The Review Committee to be constituted by the Central Government shall consist of three members where the Cabinet Secretary is the Chairman.

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

### Practice Question – Prelims

**Q2.** Consider the following statements.

1. India follows the system of dual citizenship.
2. While ‘citizenship’ is in Union List, ‘naturalisation’ is given in the State List.
3. A person residing in the state of Punjab is a citizen of both India and her/his state as well.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None of the statements

### Practice Question – Prelims

**Q3.** Which one of the following statements is incorrect with reference to an earthquake?

- a) The point of origin of energy inside the earth is known as hypocentre or focus.
- b) The point on the surface of the earth which is perpendicular to the focus is known as epicentre.
- c) The magnitude of the earthquake is measured with Richter scale.
- d) The intensity of the earthquake is measured with Mercalli scale which is an open ended scale.

### Practice Question – Prelims

**Q4.** Consider the following statements with reference to the “Digital Communications Commission (DCC)”.

1. It was formed in 2018 through an act of the parliament.
2. One of its objectives is the implementation of Government’s policy in all matters concerning telecommunication.
3. The Chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India is the ex-officio chairman of DCC.

Select the incorrect statement(s) from the codes given below.
- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1 and 3 only
Practice Question – Mains
GS - I

Q. “An earthquake repeats itself”. In the context of the above statement, define tectonic earthquakes? Discuss the causes and effects of the earthquakes. (150 words, 10Marks)

Practice Question – Answers

1. Option (c) – Both 1 and 2
2. Option (d) – None of the statements
3. Option (d) – The intensity of the earthquake is measured with Mercalli scale which is an open ended scale.
4. Option (d) – 1 and 3 only