The Hindu News Analysis – 21st July 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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

Part B—Main Examination

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.
- Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
- Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

News:

- 11 bills passed in Parliament
  > without scrutiny by Parliamentary Standing Committees

Parliamentary Committees:

- Oversight of the executive
  > holds govt. as accountable
  > prevents arbitrary and unconstitutional actions
- Instrument of Parliament for effective functioning
- Parliamentary Committee
  > appointed or elected by House
  > nominated by speaker
  > works under direction of Speaker
  > presents report to House or Speaker

- Both Houses have similar committee structure
  > only few exceptions
- Appointment
  > Term of office
  > Functions
  > Procedure of conducting business

- Regulated as per rules made under Article 118 (1) of the Constitution
- Draws authority from → Article 105

- 2 kinds of Standing Committees
  → Ad hoc Committees
Q. In India, which of the following review the independent regulators in sectors like telecommunications, insurance, electricity, etc.?

1. Ad Hoc Committees set up by the Parliament
2. Department Related Standing Committees
3. Finance Commission
4. Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission
5. NITI Aayog

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 2
(b) 1, 3 and 4
(c) 3, 4 and 5
(d) 2 and 5
Restoring forests

- Global warming - Creates havoc all over the world
  - Long term growth of avg. temp. of earth
  - Main reasons: industrial development and consumer demands
  - Manifestations: frequent floods, rise in temperature, unseasonal rains, unpredictable monsoons

- Major solution to reduce the level of global warming: Green House gases (GHGs)

  Less CO₂
  More O₂

- Adverse impacts of deforestation:
  - Total surface area of earth is 52 billion hectares with 31% forest cover → continuously decreasing
  - Worst Affected - Peru, Bolivia (Amazon forest), Russia, Mexico

Definition of forest by FAO:
- Minimum 0.5 hectares of area
- Minimum 10% tree cover
- No agricultural activity
- No human settlement

Forest Survey of India - India State of Forest Report 2017
- Largest tree cover: M.P., Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Arunachal Pradesh
- Least forest cover: Punjab, Haryana, U.P. and Rajasthan
- Improvement in forest cover: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Odisha

Philippines: outstanding example of reforestation
- 1900 - 65% forest cover
- 1987 - 91% forest cover by 1987
- 26% forest cover by 2010

- Programme: elementary, high school and college students should plant 10 trees before graduating
- Utilization of educational system to build a socially responsible and conscious citizenry
What is a blockchain?
- A database which is shared across a network of computers
- Its core is a public ledger which cannot be manipulated
- Achieves consensus among distributed nodes in a network without the need for a central agency
- Every block has several records of transactions

How a blockchain works?

Challenges:
- Still not fully established
- Huge power requirement
- Loss of private key → Loss of information
- Huge number of transactions → Will transaction speed be less?
- Use of algorithms hackable?

Stand of Govt. of India:
1. RBI has banned use of cryptocurrencies in India in 2018
2. Min. of Commerce launched a blockchain based e-marketplace for coffee growers
M.P. yet to form tiger protection force

State recorded highest number of deaths due to poaching from 2012 to 2018

On the decline: 20 deaths due to poaching have been reported in the last six years in the State...

State during the period are being intensified, according to NTCA.

Deaths in the ‘Tiger State’ at an alarming rate: Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers and is its major reserve. Madhya Pradesh lost out to Karnataka in 2010 and fell behind Uttarakhand in 2014, according to the status of ‘Tiger in India’ report.

Unlike these States, Madhya Pradesh has a large cover of grasslands, forests and wildlife sanctuaries and human habitation. And it’s a challenge to protect tigers, due to natural and human conflicts, says U.P. Tracta, former chief wildlife warden. In 2017, 30 tigers died there.

As per the ‘Tiger in India’ report, in the last six years, Madhya Pradesh has a large cover of grasslands, forests and wildlife sanctuaries and human habitation, due to natural and human conflicts. In 2017, 30 tigers died there.

News:

- Madhya Pradesh has not constituted the Special Tiger Protection Force

Agreement signed in 2012 between National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Chief Wildlife Warden of M.P., field directors of Bandhavgarh, Kanha and Pench tiger reserves

- Tiger mortality - Statistics

  - 2012 - 2018
  - Total - 141 bigers
  - Poaching - 30 bigers

  - 2019
  - Total (till date) - 14
  - Poaching - 2

- Madhya Pradesh once called ‘Tiger state’ overtook by Karnataka in 2010 (Largest)

Uttarakhand in 2014 (2nd Largest)

- Reasons by Chief wildlife Warden of M.P:

  - Forests of M.P are fragmented
    - Challenge to protect tigers and prevent man-animal conflicts

  - 50% of tigers died outside reserve limits
    - Electrocuted by high tension wires
• National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)
  - Statutory body
  - Constituted under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
  - Comes under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
  - Main purpose: Strengthen tiger conservation in India
  - Co-ordinates 'Project Tiger'

• Project Tiger:
  - Centrally Sponsored Scheme of MoEF&CC
  - One task is creation of Special Tiger Protection Force

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GRAVITATIONAL WAVES:

• 14th September 2015 - Gravitational waves were first detected by LIGO detectors
  - Livingston, Louisiana
  - Hanford, Washington
  - Travelled from a point located 1.3 billion light years away from the earth

  \[ 1 \text{ Light year} = 9.46 \times 10^{12} \text{ km} \]

• Definition: 'Ripples in the fabric of space time'

• Existence of Gravitational Waves - Predicted by Einstein
  \[ \rightarrow \text{ General Theory of Relativity} \]

• Other Gravitational Wave detectors:
  - Europe - Virgo detector - Since 2017
  - Japan - KAGRA (Kamioka Gravitational Wave Detector) - under development
Q. What is the purpose of ‘evolved Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (eLISA)’ project?

a) To detect neutrinos  
b) To detect gravitational waves  
c) To detect the effectiveness of missile defence system  
d) To study the effect of solar flares on our communication systems
Colistin banned in animal food industry

**News:**
- Order from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)
  - Order, manufacture, sale and distribution of Colistin and its formulations for food-producing animals, poultry, aqua-farming & animal feed supplements are prohibited.

**Colistin:**
- Antibiotic → To treat multidrug resistant gram negative bacteria
- Old Antibiotic
- Side effects → Limited the usage → New antibiotics
  - Again ‘colistin’ used as a ‘last resort’ in bacteria antibiotic resistance
  - Drug resistance (Anti-Microbial Resistance)

**Reactions to the ban:**
- Intensivists:
  - Banning the → Reduce Antimicrobial resistance

- Subject Expert:
  - Colistin Use → Therapeutic purposes only
  - Reduction in chances of developing Antimicrobial resistance in humans

- Challenges present in implementing the order

**Research Study:**
- Samples of raw food → Tested positive for Colistin resistant bacteria from Chennai

**Order of MoH and FW:**
- Awareness programmes for farmers needed
  - Farmers not aware since they buy and use the feed with colistin

- Bulk of colistin (~95%) imported from China

- Manufacturers of Colistin and its formulations must affix a label on the container
  - "Not to be used in food producing animals, poultry, aqua-farming and animal feed supplements"

- Label
  - On the package
  - Insert
  - Promotional literature
Practice Question – Prelims
Q1. Consider the following statements with reference to blockchain technology.

1. A blockchain is a database which is shared across the network of computers.
2. There is a central authority to validate the transactions happening in a blockchain.
3. Ministry of Commerce has used blockchain technology to develop an e-marketplace for coffee growers in India.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Practice Question – Prelims
Q2. Which is the following statements correct with respect to ‘LIGO’, often seen in the news?

a) First government backed cryptocurrency
b) An observatory to detect the gravitational waves
c) An electronic payment system
d) Worldwide Leopard Conservation Program

Practice Question – Prelims
Q3. The term ‘Colistin’, which is often seen in the news, is used as which of the following?

1) Antibiotic drug
2) Growth supplement in poultry
3) Preparation of toxic-free paints
4) Inorganic manure

Choose the correct answer from the options given below.

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

Practice Question – Mains
Q. Global warming has been creating havoc all over the world. How can reforestation be an effective method to mitigate the adverse impacts of global warming?

Answers
1. Option ‘d’ – 1 and 3
2. Option ‘b’ - An observatory to detect the gravitational waves
3. Option ‘c’ – 1 and 2 only