The Hindu News Analysis – 13th July 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; T – Thiruvananthapuram
ISRO's lunar touchdown has dry run on soil fetched from Tamil Nadu

Chandrayaan-2 lander and rover were tested on a simulated surface

Vikram lander tested over Challakere ‘craters’

⇒ Chandrayaan II
  ➞ Launch Vehicle - GSLV Mk III
  ➞ Orbiter, Lander (Vikram), Rover (Pragyan)
  ➞ Sensors System in Lander called as ‘Hazard Detection and Avoidance System’
  - Sensors will read the terrain and find the right landing spot
  ➞ After landing, Robotic rover comes out of the lander - Move ½ km on moon’s surface for 1½ Earth days or ½ Lunar Day
  ➞ Mission life of Orbiter : 1 year

⇒ ISRO’s Satellite Integration and Test Establishment (ISITE) - Bengaluru
  ➞ Assembly, Integration and Testing of all Communication and Navigation Spacecrafts

⇒ Moon’s gravity - 16.5% of the gravity of earth

⇒ Anorthosite rock - matches with lunar soil in composition and features
  ➞ few sites near Salem in Tamil Nadu
  ➞ ‘Plagioclase’ - dominant mineral
    - group of feldspar minerals
Two from Araku test positive for Anthrax

Panic spreads in Agency area

Two persons from Araku mandal here in Andhra Pradesh, who were admitted to King George Hospital with symptoms of cutaneous anthrax, tested positive for the disease on Saturday, sparking panic in the Agency area. The duo hail from Madagada village.

According to officials from the Health Department, anthrax can spread in three forms — cutaneous anthrax (through the skin), pulmonary anthrax (through inhalation), and gastrointestinal anthrax (through the stomach). Agency areas mostly register cases of cutaneous anthrax, where anthrax spores get into the skin usually through a cut or a scrape, which can happen when a person handles infected animals.

“In the case of Araku mandal, both persons who tested positive for anthrax are said to have cut the meat bought from a weekly shan-dy,” said Mr. Kalyan Prasad, an official from the Health Department and the Nodal Officer for Swine Flu. “After consuming such meat, there are chances of contracting gastrointestinal anthrax. Fortunately, it did not happen in this case as the spores might have been killed due to the high cooking temperature,” he said.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)
- Current events of national and international importance.
- General Science.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-IV

General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management
- Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System—objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.
News:

* 2 persons tested positive for cutaneous anthrax
  1. Madagada Village, Araku Valley, Andhra Pradesh
  2. Cut the meat bought from weekly Shandy
  3. Consuming such meat leads to developing
     Gastrointestinal Anthrax which is not common in this case
     (Spores could have been killed due to high cooking temperatures)

* Disease can spread
  1. Dead animal left on ground without proper cremation
  2. Animals feeding on anthrax affected grass
  3. Cultivation in anthrax affected area

Anthrax:

* Infectious Zoonotic Disease
* Caused by bacterium - Bacillus anthracis
* WHO - existed for 100's of years
* Occurs naturally - animals & humans
  1. Asia, Southern Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, parts of Australia
* Also known as Malignant pustule / Malignant Oedema / Woolsorter’s disease / Ragpicker’s disease
* Survives in the environment by forming spores
* Creates dark sores on the skin
  (Anthrax = Coal in Greek)
* Primarily a disease of herbivorous mammal
  1. Now reported in domesticated and wild herbivores
     - livestock vaccination programmes are inadequate/disrupted

Humans:

* Directly or indirectly from infected animals
  1. Occupational exposure to infected or contaminated animal products
  2. Generally non-contagious

* 3 types:
  1. Cutaneous Anthrax / Skin Anthrax:
     1. Most common form
     2. Person with break in skin comes into contact with anthrax spores
     3. Must be treated quickly
  2. Gastrointestinal Anthrax:
     1. Eating meat from an infected animal
     2. Initial symptoms like food poisoning
     3. Severe abdominal pain, vomiting of blood and severe diarrhea

3. Inhalation / Pulmonary Anthrax:

* Severe and rarest form
* Exposure to anthrax spores in air and breathing it
* Breathing difficulties & shock

Prevention:

* Control in livestock
* Antiviral treatment
* Vaccine against anthrax - not approved for widespread use
* Only for tannery workers & military personnel
* Biological Warfare Agent - Anthrax:
  1. Highly fatal (Inhalation anthrax)
  2. Viable for decades
  3. Can be produced in large quantities at very low cost
  4. Easy to weaponize & disseminate as an odourless and invisible aerosol

Kiran Bedi asked to move Division Bench first
Supreme Court disposes of her appeal

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Friday disposed of a petition filed by Paducherry Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi for clarity on the issue of control over bureaucrats in the wake of a turf war between the LG’s office and the Chief Minister in the Union Territory.

A Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, found that the LG had directly appealed in the Supreme Court against the decision of a single-judge Bench of the Madras High Court without first moving the High Court’s Division Bench.

The court left it open for the LG to move the Division Bench. It did not agree with Solicitor General Tushar Mehta’s repeated submission that the appeal would eventually reach the Supreme Court, so the case might as well be heard now.

Incidentally, the court on May 10 issued notice on the appeal against the single judge’s decision.

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RECALL BEDI: CM # PAGE 5

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.
- Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.
Madras High Court:

- LG to act in accordance with the aid and advice of the elected government in Puducherry
- LG should not interfere in the day-to-day administration of the UT
- Legislature of Puducherry enjoys similar powers to the legislature of a state
- Decisions of CM and LG are binding on Secretaries and other offices
- Centre Govt. and LG - to be true to the concept of democratic principles
- LG can only refer a bill to the President and cannot reject it

Legislature of UT of Puducherry has supremacy over LG

- No restrictions to Legislature of Puducherry, as it is for Legislature of NCT Delhi

Article 239 AA

- Scope and limits of the powers of LG and CM of NCT Delhi
  - Cannot enact laws in the subjects of Police, Public Order and Land

Article 239 A

- Creation of local legislatures or CM or both for certain territories
  - Parliament by enacting a law
  - No restriction mentioned for UT of Puducherry

India again abstains at UN vote, draws criticism

Stand in spite of SC scrapping Sec. 377

Kalloj Bhattacherjee

NEW DELHI

India on Friday abstained at the vote for extending the mandate of an important UN official who reports on violence and discrimination against sexual minorities.

India's abstention at the resolution for term renewal of the Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva drew criticism from activists, especially since it came after the Supreme Court struck down Section 377 and decriminalised the LGBTQ community.

The resolution received support from most member countries.

Recolit of Costa Rica. Activists pointed out that though India abstained, they were surprised to see that the Indian delegation had supported some amendments brought by countries that opposed the work of the Independent Expert. They chose Nepal and Philippines for supporting the resolution which was about opposing violence against the LGBTQ persons, which is essentially a form of gender violence.

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-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, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- 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.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
- Important International institutions, agencies and fora, their structure, mandate.
* UN Resolution on the protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity
  → Resolution of Human Rights Council, UN
    ≫ 47 member states (India is included)
  → Reaffirms
    ≫ all Human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights
    ≫ entitled to rights & freedoms set forth by UDHR
  → To appoint ‘an Independent Expert’ on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation & gender identity
    ≫ period - 3 years
    ≫ to assess the implementation of existing international human rights instruments
  → to raise awareness
  → to identify & address the root causes
  → to engage in dialogue and to consult with States & relevant stakeholders
  → to work in co-operation with states to foster implementation of measures
  → to conduct, facilitate and support
    ≫ advisory services
    ≫ technical assistance
    ≫ capacity building, etc,
  → to report annually to HRC
  → Voted by 41 States
    ≫ 6 countries abstained - India also abstained

→ India’s abstention
  ≫ Criticised by activists
  → Supreme Court of India on Section 377 IPC
    → decriminalised the LGBTQI Community
  → 2016 also India abstained
Digitisation of manuscripts at Oriental Research Institute in Mysuru gathers momentum

The project, involving nearly 70,000 palm leaf and paper manuscripts, may take three years for completion.

Pg 5 - Bengaluru

* Oriental Research Institute - Digitalisation of its Collection
  - 70,000 palm leaf & paper manuscript in Sanskrit and Kannada
  - 2 to 3 years to digitise entire collection
  - Palm leaf manuscript - 40,000
    - Oldest medium of Writing
    - Dried palm leaves - rectangularly cut & cured
  - Enshrines ancient Indian knowledge system
  - Collect, preserve, collate, edit & publish manuscripts

Arthashastra:
  - Written by Kautilya (Chanakya)
  - Work on
    - Indian Polity
    - Economics
    - Military Science
    - Business Management
    - Administration
    - Civil Law
    - Governance
    - Gemology
    - Metallurgy
    - Taxation Policy
  - ORI has oldest existing copy
  - Complete palm leaf manuscript ‘Arthashastra of Kautilya’
  - Dr. R. Shanmugaswar - 1909 - published the work to public domain
Reason for Digitization:

- Deterioration & degradation
- Frequent handling by scholars
- Exposure to light & heat
- Discolouration
- Affected by fungus or termites

PRACTICE QUESTIONS DISCUSSION
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. In which of the following missions, was the ‘Moon Impact Probe’ carried out?

a) Chandrayaan II  
b) Chandrayaan I  
c) Beresheet Space Mission  
a) Mangalyaan

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements.

1. The Legislature of Union Territory of Puducherry has wider powers in enacting laws in comparison with the Legislature of National Capital Territory of Delhi.
2. Section 18 of the Government of Union Territories Act of 1963 allows the legislative assembly of a Union Territory to make laws with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the State List or the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution.

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. The term “Anthrax” recently seen in news is related to which among the following?

a) Vaccine  
b) Explosive material  
c) Sweetening agent  
d) Zoonotic disease

Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. Consider the following statements with reference to “Anthrax”.

1. It is a neglected zoonotic disease.
2. It is also known as Ragpicker’s disease.
3. It can be prevented by vaccine Bacille Calmette-Guérin.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q5. Consider the following statements with reference the “United Nations Human Rights Council”.

1. It is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe.
2. India was elected as a member country from January 2019 for a term of 3 years.

Which among the above statements is/are not correct?

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

Practice Question – Prelims

Answers

Q1. Option ‘b’ - Chandrayaan I
Q2. Option ‘c’ - Both 1 and 2
Q3. Option ‘d’ - Zoonotic disease
Q4. Option ‘b’ - 1 and 2
Q5. Option ‘d’ - Neither 1 nor 2

LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE

SUBSCRIBE