### The Hindu News Analysis – 25th December 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H-Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram
Doctors urge caution while viewing solar eclipse

Safeguard your vision

Don'ts:
• Do not look at the sun with the naked eye or with regular sun glasses.
• Do not view the solar eclipse through your smartphone, camera view finder, unsafe filters, binoculars or telescopes.
• Solar observation of more than 90 seconds (one and half minutes) exceeds the threshold of damage to the retina.

Is 'do not view solar eclipse'. None of the filters are foolproof, even viewing it through a telescope is risky. You can watch it on television," he said.

"Unless specifically designed for the purpose, no filter is safe to use with any device be it a telescope or binocular," he said.

Viewing the solar eclipse without sufficient protection could damage the eyes permanently, Dr. Rajan warned. "It may take a few days to realise the damage to the eye. The symptoms can include loss of central vision, distorted vision or altered colour vision," he said.

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Pg. 6 → H, T

Eclipse
* When one celestial body moves into the shadow of another

Solar Eclipse
* Moon comes between Sun and earth
* Moon casts shadow on earth
* Once in 18 months

3 types
1) Total Solar Eclipse
* Sun, moon and earth in a direct line

Types of Solar Eclipses

Partial
Annular
Total

Source: NASA

2) Partial Solar Eclipse
* Sun, moon, earth - not exactly lined up
* "Sun appears to have a dark shadow on part of its surface"
3) Annular Solar Eclipse
* When moon is farthest from earth
* Sun looks like a ring around the moon - ring of fire
* Umbra: dark centre of moon’s shadow
* Penumbra: When sun is partly covered by moon

Upcoming annular solar eclipse - Visible in parts of Tamil Nadu
- Harmful UV radiations from Sun
- Concentrated Solar rays during annular solar eclipse - retinal burns or eclipse blindness

Lunar Eclipse
* Earth comes between Sun and Moon
* Earth’s shadow falls on Moon

Two types
1) Total Lunar Eclipse
* Moon and Sun in exact opposite sides of Earth
* Earth’s atmosphere filter out blue light → Moon appears red

2) Partial Lunar Eclipse
* A part of moon enters Earth’s shadow
* Atleast 2 such occurrences in every year
Chief of Defence Staff gets govt nod

The creation of the post, a long pending demand, forms part of military reforms

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved the creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), who will function as the Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister and also as the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).

The CDS, who will be above the three service chiefs, has been a long pending demand as part of higher level military reforms.

Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat, who is set to retire on December 31, is among the contenders for the new post. Vice-Chief of the Army Staff Lt Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane has already been approved as the next Army chief. "The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) as part of military reforms," a government statement said.

Single point of contact

The CDS will be of the rank of a four-star General with salary equivalent to a service chief.

He will head the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) which will be created in the Ministry of Defence. The armed forces will be brought under the DMA.

The CDS will look after the jointness in logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs and maintenance.

He will act as the principal military adviser to the Defence Minister on all service matters. However, the three chiefs will continue to advise the Minister on respective services.

Part A — Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks) 
Duration: Two hours

- Current events of national and international importance.

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


- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

News

- Union Cabinet approved to create the post of Chief of Defence Staff
- Part of reform in Higher Defence Management
- To foster jointmanship among the 3 services

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

- Rank -> 4-star general
- Salary & Perquisites -> equivalent to Service Chief
- Will head the Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

DMA

- to be created within Ministry of Defence
- Will function as CDS'S Secretary

Areas to be dealt by DMA

- Armed Forces of the Union
- Integrated HQs of Min of Defence
- Territorial Army
- Works related to 3 forces
- Procurements exclusive to services except capital acquisitions
- Promoting jointness in procurement, training & staffing for the services
- Promote use of Indigenous equipment
<table>
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<th><strong>Permanent Chairman of Chief of Staff Committee</strong></th>
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<td>• administering tri-services organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Cyber and Space under the command of CDS</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Principal Military Adviser to Raksha Mantri on all tri-services matters</strong></th>
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<td>• Will not exercise any military command including, over 3 service chiefs</td>
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<th><strong>Military Adviser to the Nuclear Command Authority</strong></th>
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<td>• Will implement</td>
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<td>• Five-year Defence Capital Acquisition Plan (DCAP)</td>
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<td>• Two-year Roll-on Annual Acquisition Plans (AAP)</td>
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<th><strong>Member of Defence Acquisition Council and Defence Planning Committee</strong></th>
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<td>• To bring reforms to augment combat capabilities of Armed Forces</td>
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India in the midst of significant slowdown: IMF

Economic recovery will not be quick, institutions call for urgent policy actions from the government

**Part A—Preliminary Examination**

Paper I - (200 marks) 
Duration: Two hours

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

**Part B—Main Examination**

**PAPER-III**

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

- Important International institutions, agencies and their structure, mandate.

**PAPER-IV**


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

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**News**

- *India is now in the midst of a Significant economic slowdown* - IMF

**International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group (WB Group)**

- IMF & World Bank Group were founded at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944
- Collectively known as the Bretton Woods twin institutions
- WBG, works with the developing nations to reduce poverty and increase shared prosperity

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**IMF, to ensure the stability of the international monetary System**

- to Strengthen monetary co-operation
- to Secure financial Stability
- to facilitate international trade
- to promote high employment and Sustainable economic growth
- to reduce poverty around the world

**Reports**

- World Economic Outlook
- Global Financial Stability Report
- World Development Report
- Global Economic Prospects Report
- Ease of Doing Business Report

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**Pg. 16 → C, B, D**

**Pg. 14 → H, T**
India’s Current growth slowdown
* is mostly cyclical but not structural

* India’s growth in the second quarter of FY 2019-20 decreased to at a six-year low of 4.5%
* Private demand expanded by only 1% in the second quarter

Reasons for Slowdown
- abrupt reduction in the non-banking financial companies’ credit expansion
- tightening of credit conditions
- weak income growth
- eroding business confidence
- implementation issues (GST)

> Other metrics: India is doing well
  - record level of Forex reserves
  - narrowing current account deficit
  - manageable inflation rates

> IMF has called for continued sound economic management
New rules, old problems

Women are being allowed to work night shifts in factories in Karnataka even as their concerns about daytime work persist.

On Tuesday, the Karnataka government issued a notification allowing women to work night shifts. The notification, issued under the Factories Act, 1948, is significant as it authorizes women to work in factories in the evening hours.

The notification states that women who work night shifts will be provided with the same facilities and amenities as those working day shifts. It also emphasizes the need for regular health check-ups and the provision of safe and secure working conditions.

While this decision is welcomed by many, it also brings to light the broader issue of gender inequality in the workplace. Women who work night shifts face additional challenges, including exposure to sexual harassment and discrimination.

In conclusion, the notification is a step in the right direction, but more needs to be done to address the needs and concerns of women working in factories. The authorities must ensure that the implementation of this notification is carried out effectively and that women's rights are protected.

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**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.
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- 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.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Important International institutions, agencies and fora— their structure, mandate.
Notification by Karnataka Govt

- Allows employment of women workers in night shifts in factories under Factories Act, 1948
- Based on judgement of Madras High Court in “Vasantha R Vs UoI & others”

Struck down Section 66(1)(b) of Factories Act, 1948 → Unconstitutional
- Violated Article 14, 15 & 16 of Indian Constitution
- See 66(1)(b) - “No woman shall be required or allowed to work in any factory except between the hours 6 a.m. and 7 p.m.”

14. Equality before law.—The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.

15. Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.—(1) The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them.

16. Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment.—(1) There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State.
   (2) No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect of, any employment or office under the State.

Madras H.C → Guidelines & Welfare measures for the female workers during night shifts
- Onus on employers to prevent sexual harassment
- Provide appropriate conditions - work, leisure, health, etc

Author’s View

- Other states allowing night Shift for women in factories → Haryana, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, M.P., Maharashtra

In line with ILO Convention & Protocol
a) Protocol of 1990 to the Night Work (Women) Convention, 1948
   - Removal of sex-based discrimination
   - to practice any profession
   - Ratified by India
b) Night Work Convention, 1990
   - Specific measures to handle nature of night work
   - Health, Compensation, Safety, etc
   - Not ratified by India
## Positives
- Increase in Female Work Participation Rate
- Benefit to trade & manufacturing Sectors

## Concerns
- Employer ensuring adequate safeguards (Safety & health)
- Protection of dignity & Honour
- Transportation to residence

Will it be ensured?

- Labour Union not consulted, circular not given for perusal
- Does not address pay structure for night work
- Existing mechanisms safeguarding from workplace abuse & violence → Dysfunctional
  - Violated to meet production targets
- Strengthening role of Inspector of Factories
  - Currently - improper inspection, negligence
  - Reporting Violation → face threat of losing job

## Way Forward

### Involve in consultation
- Brands & their management → discuss on workers dignity & equality
- Workers & Trade Unions → to address appropriate concerns
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements.

1. An eclipse of the sun happens when the moon comes in between the sun and the earth.
2. An annular solar eclipse happens when the moon is nearest to the earth.
3. During a total lunar eclipse, the moon appears red.

Select the correct statements from the codes given below.

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

Q2. Consider the following statements with reference to World Bank.

1. World Bank assists all members--both industrial and developing countries--that find themselves in temporary balance of payments difficulties by providing short- to medium-term credits.
2. It acquires most of its financial resources by borrowing on the international bond market.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to International Monetary Fund.

1. It oversees the international monetary system.
2. It promotes exchange stability and orderly exchange relations among its member countries.
3. It seeks to promote the economic development of the world's poorer countries.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Q4. Consider the following statements with reference to the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).

1. CDS will head the Department of Military Affairs that is currently functioning under the Ministry of Defence.
2. CDS will exercise military command over the Services Chiefs.
3. CDS will be the Principal Military Adviser to the Prime Minister.

Which among the above statements is/are incorrect?

a) None of the above
b) 2 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) All the above
Practice Question – Mains
GS-I / GS – II
Q. “Women are being allowed to work night shifts in factories even as their concerns about daytime work persist”. In the light of the above statement, discuss the legal backing and the concerns associated with women working in night shifts. (15 marks, 250 words)

Practice Questions - Prelims
Answers – 25-12-2019
Q1. Option – c
Q2. Option – b
Q3. Option – a
Q4. Option - d