The Hindu News Analysis – 26th August 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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‘Children in mica mining areas abandoning education’

They work as labourers to supplement their family income, says survey, over 5000 of them have given up education

Collection of data was done by the survey, which is the main subject of the report, and the survey was done in various areas of the country, including mica mining areas.

In the mica mining areas of Jharkhand and Bihar, children are often found to be drooping in school, and the survey was done in these areas.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

• Current events of national and international importance.
• Indian Polity and Governance- Constitutional, 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.

• 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.

• Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
• 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.
• Issues relating to poverty and hunger.

⇒ NCPCR:

• Setup in 2007
• Statutory body under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005
• Functions:
  - to examine and review the safeguards provided under any law for protection of child rights
  - Examine all factors that inhibit the enjoyment of rights of children affected by exploitation

⇒ Terre Des Hommes, an International Child Relief Agency

• Reported more than 22,000 children employed as child labourers in mica mining areas of Jharkhand & Bihar.
NCPCR - Conducted a study

- Over 5000 children - age group of 6 to 14 years - are working in mica mining districts of Jharkhand and Bihar
- Selling mica scraps - main means of livelihood for many families
- have abandoned education

families unable to see benefit of educating children

Recommendations:
- Mining industry - supply chain - Shall be free of child labour
- Strict action against buyers of mica scraps from children

Mica - India:

* India is one of the world's largest producers of mica.

* Share of States in Mica mineral resources:
  - Andhra Pradesh - 41%
  - Rajasthan - 21%
  - Odisha - 20%
  - Maharashtra - 15%
  - Bihar - 2%
  - Jharkhand - <1%

* Used in
  - Building & construction materials
  - Electronics,
  - Production of Cosmetics, and
  - Production of Paints
A bottom-up approach to conservation

The Western Ghats panel’s suggestions stressed the need to strengthen grass-roots governance.

In 2015, many people thought that the political and academic culture that cannot help forest losses and could not help understand forest biodiversity. We now understand, however, that most of the political bodies have been in power for the last 40 years and we have seen that they are not used for conservation. The Western Ghats panel’s recommendations were based on the belief that the only way to conserve the Western Ghats is through the participation of the local community and the government. They believed that the government should be responsible for the conservation of the forest, and that the local community should participate in the decision-making process. They also believed that the government should provide the necessary resources to the local community.

The panel recommended that the government should create a special fund for the conservation of the Western Ghats. The fund should be used to support the local community in their conservation efforts. The panel also recommended that the government should provide training to the local community to help them become more effective in their conservation efforts.

The panel’s recommendations were met with resistance from the government. The government argued that the recommendations were too costly and that they would not be able to implement them. However, the panel’s recommendations have been implemented and the Western Ghats have been conserved.

Pg. 9 → C, B, T
Pg. 11 → D

Madhav Gadgil - Chairman of Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP)

- 2018, 2019: floods + landslides in Kerala - financial losses and human tragedies

WGEEP recommendations - an alternative

- Scale of devastation - if implemented
- Policies recommended - within constitutional framework; no need for new legislation
- Follow the existing laws for environmental protection
- Devolution of powers to Gram Sabha

Kerala leader in democratic devolution of power

Eg: Plachimada Panchayat Agitation - Coca Cola - Kerala HC Judgement - "grassroot institutions - authority to decide on development in their locality"

Kerala forefront of India’s literacy mission;
- pioneered Panchayat level Resource Mapping + Involvement of Panchayats in Development Report
**WGEEP:**

- Develop recklessly, Conserve thoughtlessly
- Develop Sustainably, Conserve thoughtfully
- Full involvement of local communities
- Bottom-up approach in safeguarding ecological sensitivity
- 60% of Western Ghats in Kerala - Zone of highest ecological sensitivity (ESZ 1)
- Important indicators:
  - elevation, slope and quality of natural vegetation

- Activities to be avoided in ESZ 1 - quarrying, mining, new plantations, etc.

* Look into the recommendations:*

- Need participation of the people at grassroots level
- Democracy - citizens' involvement in governance
- Service charges → Incentives for conservation

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**A.P. biologist recreates blue whale from bones**

Complete skeleton assembled from remains of several of the giant tough-skinned creature known to be frozen in the frozen Department of Fisheries, Government of Andhra Pradesh, which were found in the Raysi river of Andhra Pradesh. The skeleton was then reconstructed in the National Museum of the University of Cambridge.

**News:**

- Coringa Marine Museum → assembled skeletal remains of blue whales

**Blue Whales:**

- Largest animal in the world
- Length - up to 100 feet
- Weight - 160 tons to 200 tons
- Colour - Mottled Bluish Grey
**Interesting Facts:**

- Larger than dinosaurs
- Heart - Size of a Small car
- Blue whale blows - Spouts rise up to 30 feet
- Louder than jet engine - 188 decibels

**Protection & Conservation:**

- International Whaling Commission
  - prohibits hunting of blue whale
- CITES - Appendix I
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
  - Appendix I
- IUCN → Endangered
- WPA, 1972 → Schedule I

**Threats:**

- Harmed by Ship strikes
- Entangling in fishing gears
- Victim to attack by sharks & killer whales
- Past → Subjected to major commercial hunting in 1960s
- Declining availability of krill
IMF report flags several delays in India's data reporting

Current events of national and international importance.

Important International institutions, agencies and for-profit structure, mandate.

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

Annual Observance Report of the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) for 2018

India failed to comply multiple requirements under SDDS - despite the monthly reports by IMF to India about its observance
- Other BRICS partners have maintained near impeccable record
- Compliance in 2017, 2018 - not on par with otherwise near perfect dissemination record

India's non-compliance on dissemination of data and listing data categories in Advance Release Calendars
- a 'recent' phenomenon
- India's deviations
  - IMF: 'non-serious'
- Deputy Director, Dept of Economic Affairs - 'due to technical glitches'
Former Acting Chairman of NSC
- India's deviations - result of inadequate care paid to dissemination of data
- data collection - not given importance to improve data quality
- information provided under DRAF framework
  - Patchy and poorly edited
- Statistical Systems - not in its high standards and lacks credibility

Data Standard Initiatives of IMF:
- 1996 - SDDS - guiding member countries in providing economic and financial data to the public
  - 4 dimensions
    - Data coverage, periodicity, timeliness
    - Access to the Public
    - Integrity of the disseminated data
    - Quality of data
- SDDS - 1st tier of data standards of IMF

1997 - GDDS - to provide a framework for countries - so that eventually, they will be able to meet SDDS requirements
- 2nd tier - Superseded by e-GDDS (2013)

2012 - SDDS plus - 3rd tier
- to assist member countries to publish data
  - Comprehensively
  - in a timely manner

- to be accessible and reliable in the face of continuing economic and financial integration in the world
- to address data gaps revealed during Global Financial Crisis - 2007-09
- SDDS plus is open to all SDDS subscribers
CVC sets up panel to probe bank fraud

Will investigate fraud of over 150 cr. in state bank of india.

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has constituted a four-member board for examining bank frauds by issuing an order.

The four-member board's jurisdiction would be confined to those cases referred to it by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in respect of an alleged case of fraud in borrowing accounts, it said.

Central Vigilance Commission (CVC):
- Established in 1964 - to address corrupt practices within Government
- Set up - recommendations of Committee on Prevention of Corruption - Santhanam Committee
- Statutory Body - CVC Act, 2003
- Autonomous Body

Central Vigilance Commission → Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF)

- Examine bank fraud for over ₹50 crore - recommend actions
- ABBF - reconstituted Advisory Board on Bank, Commercial and Financial Frauds (ABBCCFF)
- in consultation with RBI
- ABBF - first level of examination - before referred to investigative agencies
- Chairman + 3 members - 2 years tenure
- Periodical fraud analysis in the financial system - policy recommendations to RBI
- RBI - to provide logistical, financial and analytical support

July 2019: Govt Notification
- "Framework for timely detection, reporting and investigation of large value bank frauds" - to PSBs

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements.

2. The Commission can inquire in to the violation of child rights by Suo-moto.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q2. In which of the following states the share of ‘mica’ with respect to country’s total mica resources is maximum?

a) Andhra Pradesh
b) Odisha
c) Bihar
d) Jharkhand

Q3. The term ‘Special Data Dissemination Standard’ is sometime seen in the news. It is a data standard initiative established by

a) World Bank
b) International Monetary Fund
c) World Trade Organisation
d) World Economic Forum
Practice Question – Prelims
Q4. Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Blue Whales’.
1. They are found in Indian Ocean only.
2. It is listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN Red List.
3. It is protected by the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.
Which among the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1 only
   b) 1 and 2
   c) 3 only
   d) 2 and 3

Practice Question – Prelims
Q5. Consider the following statements, with reference to the Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF).
1. It was constituted by Central Vigilance Commission in consultation with the RBI.
2. Its objective is to examine large bank frauds of over ₹ 50 crore and recommend action.
Which among 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
Q6. With reference to the Central Vigilance Commission, which among the following statements is/are correct?
1. It was constituted based on the recommendations of the Gadgil Commission.
2. It is an autonomous statutory body.
3. It comes under Ministry of Home Affairs.
Select the correct answer from the code given below.
   a) 1 and 2
   b) 2 only
   c) 3 only
   d) 1, 2 and 3

Practice Questions – Prelims – 26-08-2019
1. Option ‘b’ – 2 only
2. Option ‘a’ – Andhra Pradesh
3. Option ‘b’ – IMF
4. Option ‘c’ – 3 only
5. Option ‘c’ – Both 1 and 2
6. Option ‘b’ – 2 only

Practice Question – Mains
GS - II
Q. Kerala has witnessed back to back floods that resulted in heavy financial losses and human tragedies. In this context, discuss the relevance of Gadgil Commission report and the importance of a bottom-up approach in conservation of nature.