The Hindu News Analysis – 07th September 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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*C – Chennai; T – Thiruvananthapuram; D – Delhi; B – Bengaluru
Prepare plan for protection of the Great Indian Bustard: NGT

News:

⇒ NGT directed Centre to prepare a time-bound action plan for protection of Great Indian Bustard due to high mortality rate

⇒ NGT constituted joint committee to prepare action plan for implementation of suggestions given by Wildlife Institute of India

⇒ MoEF & CC, Min. of Power, MNRE

Great Indian Bustard (GIB):

* Rarest birds in the world (Ardeotis nigriiceps)
* State bird of Rajasthan
* Drastic reduction in species habitation

Habitation

⇒ open landscapes - minimum visual obstruction and less disturbance
⇒ arid & semi-arid areas dominated by grasslands

Characteristics

⇒ diurnal species
⇒ Omnivorous
⇒ desert adapted species
⇒ Reproduction → slow
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Threats:
- Hunted as game bird
- Low intensity poaching in India - outside protected areas
- Eggs for consumption - Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh
- Dogs damage nest of bustard → Serious
- Unethical photography during breeding season
- Severe habitat loss & alteration
  - widespread agricultural expansion and mechanization of farming
  - Infrastructural developments → irrigation, road, windmills, etc.
  - Mining & industrialization

Fatal bird Collisions
- Collision with high tension electric wires, fast moving vehicles, etc.
- Suggestion by WII to reduce power-line mortality
  → Undergrounding of cables
  → Fitting overhead wires with bird diverters (spirals, swivels, etc.)
  → Avoiding / diverting new high tension power from GIB habitat

Conservation Measures:
- Schedule I - WPA, 1972
- Critically Endangered - IUCN Red List
- Listed in Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
- Appendix I → CITES
- Included in Recovery Programme under the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats
  - ‘Recovery programme for Critically endangered Species and habitats’
  - 14 species - GIB, Manipur Deer, Sngai, Ganges Dolphin, Dugong, etc.

Previous Year Question
Prelims – 2012

Q. Which one of the following groups of animals belongs to the category of endangered species?

a) Great Indian Bustard, Musk Deer, Red Panda and Asiatic Wild Ass
b) Kashmir Stag, Cheetal, Blue Bull and Great Indian Bustard
c) Snow Leopard, Swamp Deer, Rhesus Monkey and Saras (Crane)
d) Lion-tailed Macaque, Blue Bull, Hanuman Langur and Cheetal
HK region is now 'Kalyana Karnataka'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI
The State Cabinet on Friday decided to rename Hyderabad Karnataka region, comprising six districts, as 'Kalyana Karnataka'.

With this, the term Hyderabad Karnataka will be replaced with Kalyana Karnataka in all government records, and the Hyderabad Karnataka Regional Development Board will be renamed Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Board.

The region, which enjoys special status under the Constitution (Article 371 J) owing to its backwardness comprises Bidar, Bellary, Koppal, Raichur, and Yadgir districts.

Based on petition
Briefing—purposes on the Cabinet decision, Law Minister JC Madhavannay said the decision was taken following a petition submitted by 41 MLAs of the region. Though the MLAs submitted the petition to the H.D. Kumaraswamy government, the coalition government had not taken any decision on the issue. “There are 41 legislators from the region and all of us had submitted a memorandum to the government to formally rename the region,” BJP MLA for Sedam Raj Kumar Patil said.

The region was under the Nizams who ruled Hyderabad prior to India’s independence.

“We are celebrating our independence on September 17,” Patil said.

The Chief Minister has been authorized to reconstitute the governing body of the Kalyana Karnataka Development Board. The board gets funding of over ₹5,000 crore a year from the State government.

Part A—Preliminary Examination
Paper I—(200 marks)
- Current events of national and international importance.
- History of India and Indian National Movement.
- 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.
- Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present—significant events, personalities, issues.
- Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.

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.

⇒ Hyderabad - Karnataka Region
⇒ Bidar, Gulbarga, Yadgiri, Raichur, Koppal, Bellary

⇒ Ruled by Nizam of Hyderabad before Indian independence
⇒ Nizam of Hyderabad - wanted to remain independent - and not to join with India
⇒ he refused to an 'autonomous dominion status under India'
⇒ Hyderabad - armed itself with support from Portuguese administration in Goa and Pakistan
⇒ September 1948 - Nizam's Army and atrocities - Operation Polo or Caterpillar
⇒ Police action - Hyderabad became Indian Territory on Sep 14-18, 1948
⇒ Sep 17 - Celebrated as 'Hyderabad - Karnataka Liberation Day'

⇒ Karnataka State Cabinet - decided to rename to 'Kalyana Karnataka'
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.


2. Article 371F in part XXI deals with the special provisions with respect to the states of Sikkim and Karnataka.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

India’s push to ‘Act East’ strengthens relations with traditional ally Russia

Unveiling the Russian edition of India’s ‘Look East, Act East’ policy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged on Thursday to extend a $1 billion Line of Credit to Russia’s Far East region (BFEO). Speaking at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, set up by Russian President Vladimir Putin to attract investment to the farthest outlying East Siberian and Arctic pole areas of the country, Mr. Modi said that the announcement of the LOC, expected to help finance Indian business projects in the region, will be the ‘take-off point for Act East’, and will further strengthen bilateral ties. Mr. Modi’s visit saw several initiatives being launched towards increasing the value of economic ties between the two countries, which, at approximately $10 billion in terms of bilateral trade, lags far behind their strategic partnership and defence relations. In the past year alone, India has contracted defence deals worth about $4.5 billion from Russia. Chief among the 50 agreements signed this week were those on energy exploration and procurement, including a specific MoU on cooperation on LNG supplies to India, and a maritime route from Vladivostok to Chennai which will be used for energy trade as well. The two sides also agreed on a five-year ‘roadmap’ for cooperation on prospecting for hydrocarbons and LNG in the Far East and the Arctic, building on a history of Indian investment in oilfields in the region.

⇒ PM - 5th Eastern Economic Forum
- Act Far East
  * Loc of $1 billion for Russia’s Far East Region
  * A take off point for Act Far East
  * To finance Indian businesses - invest in Far East

⇒ Other initiatives: Increased economic ties between India and Russia
  * Present bilateral trade - $10 billion < potential
  * On energy exploration and procurement - MoU on LNG supply to India
  * Maritime route - Vladivostok ↔ Chennai
  * Search hydrocarbons & LNG - Far East and Arctic

⇒ Strategic implications of the move
  * Global Warming - ↑ accessibility, more trade routes to Arctic
  * Diversify India’s energy sources - Unstable West Asia
  * Ensure India’s space - Russia-China relationship getting better
  * Reassures - India’s commitment to work with multiple partners
Opposition questions aid to Russia

Greece justifies decision, says it will boost India-Russia trade and attract businesses

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.
- Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).

PAPER III

General Studies II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.

⇒ 1st time India’s LoC - a developing country + 1st time to a specific region in a country
⇒ India’s economic slowdown → resource rich Russia

- GDP of Russia ($1.6 trillion) < GDP of India ($2.6 trillion)
- But, per capita GDP:
  - Russia → $10,961
  - India → $2,014

⇒ Ministry of External Affairs:
- Huge investments by - China, Japan, S Korea
- Attract Indian business
- India-Russia: bilateral trade target - $30 billion by 2025
- LoC to increase trade on resources - oil, LNG, coal, gold, iron ore, zinc, etc.
⇒ From 2005 - 2019:
Total 274 LoCs - worth $26.99 billion - 63 countries

- 189 LoCs - worth $11.36 billion
  - African countries
- 53 LoCs - worth $14.47 billion
  - Asian countries
- 32 LoCs - worth $970.53 million
  - Latin America, Oceania, CIS countries

⇒ Some history books say
1. Settlers in Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC) - are those who migrated from Steppes in Central Asia and/or descendants of Iranian farmers
2. Agriculture tend to have spread in Europe by influx of people with ancestry in Anatolia

⇒ "An Ancient Harappan Genome lacks ancestry from Steppe Pastoralists or Iranian Farmers"

- Skeletal remains of 62 ancient individuals from Rakhigarhi IVC site in Haryana
- One individual gave enough authentic ancient DNA - from a largest source of ancestry for South Asians
The research study provides new information about IVC

- Hunters-gatherers of South Asia settled in IVC have independent origin free from influence of people from Central Asia & Iran

**Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC)**

- Also known as Harappan Civilisation
- Spread over NW South Asia - 2600 BC to 1900 BC
- One of the large scale urban societies of the ancient world
  - Characterized by systematic town planning, elaborate drainage systems, granaries, standardisation of weights & measures, etc

**Inhabitants** - cosmopolitan - multiple cultural groups living together in large regional urban centers

- Harappa
- Mohenjo-daro
- Rakhigarhi
- Dholavira
- Ganweriwala

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⇒ IVC 3 phases
* Early Harappan Phase → 3300 BC - 2600 BC
* Mature Harappan Phase → 2600 BC - 1900 BC
* Late Harappan Phase → 1900 BC - 1300 BC

⇒ Movement of people from East (IVC) to West (West Asia & Other Western Regions)
* People from Harappan Civilisation found in Gömrük and Shahr-i Sokhta
* They showed mixture of ancestry related to ancient Iranians and ancient tribal Southern Indians

⇒ Moved because of trade relations - Harappans traded with Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Persian Gulf & all across South Asia
⇒ Settled life & domestication went from South Asia to West Asia

⇒ Anatolia and spreading ‘agriculture’
* People of Anatolia origin tend to have spread agri in Europe, Iran & Southern Central Asia, but not in South Asia
* Absent or found in negligible presence of Anatolian-related ancestry in South Asia

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⇒ Spread of Indo-European languages
* Languages spoken in South Asian region
  * 4 major language families
  * Indo-European family (Indo-Aryan)
  * Dravidian family
  * Austro-Asiatic family
  * Sino-Tibetan

⇒ Anatolian hypothesis - Negated by this study
⇒ Spread through a natural route from Eastern Europe via Central Asia - 2000 BC to 1500 BC
⇒ Spread by migrations - after the mature phase of IVC
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Arrange the following sites of Indus Valley Civilisation from North to South.
   1. Harappa
   2. Rakhigarhi
   3. Mohenjo-Daro
   4. Dholavira
   5. Lothal

Select the correct code.
(a) 1-3-4-2-5
(b) 2-1-4-3-5
(c) 5-3-2-1-4
(d) 1-2-3-4-5

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. ‘Cholistan desert’ is located in
   a) Mongolia
   b) Botswana
   c) Argentina
   d) Pakistan

PRACTICE QUESTIONS DISCUSSION
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements.
   2. Article 371F in part XXI deals with the special provisions with respect to the states of Sikkim and Karnataka.

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. ‘Cholistan desert’ is located in
   a) Mongolia
   b) Botswana
   c) Argentina
   d) Pakistan
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Arrange the following sites of Indus Valley Civilisation from North to South.
   1. Harappa
   2. Rakhigarhi
   3. Mohenjo-Daro
   4. Dholavira
   5. Lothal
Select the correct code.
(a) 1-3-4-2-5
(b) 2-1-4-3-5
(c) 5-3-2-1-4
(d) 1-2-3-4-5

Practice Question – Prelims Answers

Q1. Option (a) – 1 only
Q2. Option (d) – Pakistan
Q3. Option (d) – 1-2-3-4-5