The Hindu News Analysis – 29th November 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi ; H – Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram;
Q. How has the emphasis on certain crops brought about changes in cropping patterns in recent past? Elaborate the emphasis on millets production and consumption. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Q. How does biodiversity vary in India? How is the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 helpful in conservation of flora and fauna? (250 Words, 15 Marks)
Previous Year Question – Mains 2019
GS - III
Q. How far is Integrated Farming System (IFS) helpful in sustaining agricultural production. (150 words, 10 marks)

Previous Year Question – Mains 2019
GS - III
Q. Elaborate the impact of National Watershed Project in increasing agricultural production from water-stressed areas. (150 words, 10 marks)

Previous Year Question – Mains 2019
GS - III
Q. How was India benefitted from the contributions of Sir M. Visvesvaraya and Dr. M. S. Swaminathan in the fields of water engineering and agricultural science respectively? (150 words, 10 marks)
Global Hunger Index 2019

- GHI → tool to measure and track hunger at global, regional and national level
- India’s ranking in 2019 → 102/117 qualified countries

![GHI Score Trend for India](image)

- ‘Hunger’ → distress associated with lack of sufficient calories
  - FAO → Food deprivation or Undernourishment - consumption of few calories.
  - Authors’ definition → Caloric deprivation, protein hunger, hidden hunger by deficiency of micronutrients.
- India
  - Child Wasting → 80.8% (extremely high)
  - Child Stunting → 37.9% (very high)
  - Minimum acceptable diet fed to 6 months to 23 months children → 9.6% children

Global Nutrition Report

- World’s leading report on state of global nutrition → data-led report.
- Aims to inspire govt. and stakeholders to end malnutrition in all forms.
- Global Nutrition Report 2018
  - India
    - Child Stunting → among top 3 countries → 46.6 million children
    - 31% of world’s burden
    - Associated with cognitive impairments
    - increased chronic diseases
    - Low birth-weight infants from malnourished parents

- Child Wasting → among top 3 countries → 15.5 million children
- Anaemia
  - 50% women in 15-49 age group anaemic
### Reasons

- Lack of Agrobiodiversity
  - Agrobiodiversity → diversity of crops and varieties.
  - FAO → variety and variability of animals, plants, and microorganisms used for food and agriculture.
  - Diversity of genetic resources
  - Species used for food, fodder, fibre, fuel and pharmaceuticals
  - Non-harvested species supporting soil microorganisms, predators and pollinators

- Result of interaction between environment + genetic resources + management and practices.

- Crucial in food security, nutrition, health, etc.

- Today, only 30 crops form the basis of world’s agriculture.
  - Only 3 species of maize, rice and wheat supply more than half of world’s daily calories.

### Reasons [Continued]...

- Loss of crop genetic resources or genetic diversity
  - Genetic erosion of several crops → dependence for food on just few species.
  - TERI → 100 species account for 90% supply of food crops.
  - Genetic diversity → fundamental to improve crop varieties and livestock breeds.

- Eg: India → Rice → Kanamani (T.N.)
  - Agni Bora (Assam)
  - Pokkali rice (Kerala)
  - Bhalia wheat → Himachal Pradesh
  - Guchhi mushroom

- How it happened?
  - Adapting to new crop varieties without conserving traditional varieties
  - High output breeds are only selected

### Measures

1. School ‘Nutrition Garden’ guidelines
   - Min. of HRD

2. Encouraging eco-club students to identify fruits and vegetables - topography, soil and climate

3. Objective → addressing malnutrition and micro-nutrient deficiencies
   → consume fresh vegetables
2. Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)
   - Identify and safeguard GIAHS
     → Eco-friendly traditional farm policies and agrobiodiversity
   - India
     2. Koraiput Traditional agriculture (2012)
   - SDG 2 → Goal B
     "End hunger and all forms of malnutrition"

4. Aichi Biodiversity Target
   - Conserving genetic diversity of plants, farm livestock, etc
   - Developing strategies and action plans to stop biodiversity loss

5. Recommendations of CEBPOL
   - Comprehensive policy on ecological agriculture → enhancing native pest and pollinator population
   - Promotion of Bio-village concept
   - Incentives for farmers cultivating native varieties & conserving indigenous breeds

5. Recommendations of CEBPOL [Continued...]
   - Encourage community seed banks in each agro-climatic zone
   - Preparing Agrobiodiversity Index
   - Documenting traditional practices
   - Identify Biodiversity Heritage Sites under BDA, 2002
   - Strengthen Biodiversity Management Committees
   - Develop national level invasive alien species policy

Conclusion
- Mainstream biodiversity into agri practices, schemes, programmes and projects.
Isaac takes lead to form pressure group

Finance Ministers of non-BJP ruled States to take legal recourse on GST compensation delay

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.
- Economic and Social Development—Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Part B—Main Examination
PAPER-III
General Studies—II: Governance, Constitution, Policy, Social Justice and International relations.
- 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.
- Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Policy.

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

News
- Legal recourse on GST Compensation delay

Goods and Services Tax [GST] was rolled out on 1st July, 2017

Loss of revenue
- On account of new GST taxation
- as per Section 7 of the GST [Compensation to States] Act, 2017
- Payable during a transition period that is for a period of 5 years or for such period as may be prescribed on the recommendations of GST Council

- Loss of revenue = Projected revenue minus actual revenue collected by a State

- 2015-16 Financial year has been taken as the base year at a nominal growth rate of 14% per annum.

- The compensation fund was created and the compensation cess collections are deposited in it.

- From this fund only the Union Govt. as per the provisions of the law, compensate the states on bi-monthly basis.

- The state of Kerala, demanding the timely compensation, and also to raise the States’s fiscal deficit limits.
UPSC Prelims Question – 2017
(For Reference only)
Q. What is/are the most likely advantages of implementing ‘Goods and Services Tax (GST)’?
1. It will replace multiple taxes collected by multiple authorities and will thus create a single market in India.
2. It will drastically reduce the ‘Current Account Deficit’ of India and will enable it to increase its foreign exchange reserves.
3. It will enormously increase the growth and size of economy of India and will enable it to overtake China in the near future.
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 only [Correct]
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Widening gap

This gap is growing to such an extent that the

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Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)

• Current events of national and international importance.
• General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization.

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

General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

• Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

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• Emissions Gap Report by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- 3.7% average annual cut in emissions from 2020 to 2030 to contain temperature rise by 1°C; 7.6% cut for 1.5°C target
• Need more efforts from big emitters such as US, China, European Union and India
• US withdrawal from Paris Agreement - jeopardise the deal

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• Positive developments

1. UK passed a resolution in 2018
   - Net zero emissions by 2050
2. European Parliament resolution
   - Net zero emissions by 2050
   - EU to cut emissions by 55% by 2030; climate neutral by 2050
What can India do?

1. Scale up investments in renewable energy.
2. Efficient and clean technologies in buildings and transport.
4. Consistent support to renewable energy sector + long term plan to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
5. Green Industrialization Strategy

UPSC Prelims Question – 2017
(For Reference only)

Q. With reference to ‘Global Climate Change Alliance’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an initiative of the European Union.
2. It provides technical and financial support to targeted developing countries to integrate climate change into their development policies and budgets.
3. It is coordinated by World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 and 2 only [Correct]
(b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Measures taken:
1. Pledge: 40% of installed power generation capacity from clean sources - 2030 target
   => 175 GW renewable energy by 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Target (GW)</th>
<th>Installed capacity (GW) as on 31/10/2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solar power</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>31.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>37.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biogas</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Hydro</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>83.38</td>
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Source: Press Information Bureau

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U.S. to cut spending on NATO budget, Germany to pay more

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Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

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.

- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

National Defence Authorisation Act for 2020

- India at par with America's NATO allies
  - Better defence cooperation

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO): 1949

- Objectives
  - Deterring Soviet expansionism
  - Forbid revival of nationalist militarism
  - European political integration

European Recovery Programme or Marshall Plan in 1948

- Facilitated European economic integration
  - Cooperation between US and Europe

- NATO Treaty or Washington Treaty - 1949
  - 29 member countries now.

- Collective defence - Article 5.
  - "Attack against one ally is attack against all"

- Funding of NATO - direct & indirect contributions
- Trump’s regime’s criticism → more burden on US
  → 22.1% of NATO budget
- European members are not contributing enough
- New agreement → contribution of USA to come down + contribution of Germany and others to increase.
- 2014 guideline - spend no less than 2% of national GDP on defence.
  - Germany, Canada etc not doing so.

### Relevance of NATO

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Relevant</td>
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  - Cold War ended,  
  - USSR disintegrated,   
  - EU integrated  |

- Relevant  
  - To prevent World War III,  
  - Collective defence is essential
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to GST Compensation Fund.

1. It is a statutory fund, established as per the provisions of the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017.
2. The loss of revenue to the States on account of implementation of Goods and Services Tax shall be payable during transition period that is for a period of five years since 1st July 2017 or for such period as may be prescribed on the recommendations of the GST Council.
3. The financial year 2017-18 has been taken as the base year for calculating compensation amount payable to States for the loss of revenue during transition period with the projected nominal growth rate of revenue during the transition period shall be 14% per annum.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 3 only
(b) 1 and 2
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

1. One of the objectives of NATO is to forbid the revival of nationalist militarism in Europe through a strong North American presence on the continent.
2. Only countries bordering North Atlantic Ocean are members of NATO.

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

Practice Question – Mains

GS-III

Q. The recent Emissions Gap Report released by the UNEP had said that ‘to get in line with the Paris Agreement, emissions must drop 7.6 per cent per year from 2020 to 2030 for the 1.5°C goal and 2.7 per cent per year for the 2°C goal.’ In light of the above statement discuss the important measures taken by the government of India to achieve this target. Also suggest suitable measures to achieve the target by 2030. (250 words, 15 marks)

Practice Question – Prelims

Answers

1. Option (b) – 1 and 2
2. Option (d) – Neither 1 nor 2