<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>News Articles</th>
<th>Page Number*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pleas in SC speak of past judgments</td>
<td>11 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Maternity scheme exclusionary, need benefits for all</td>
<td>- 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Android vulnerable to cyberattack: MHA</td>
<td>7 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chaos in toll plazas over FASTag rollout</td>
<td>7 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Officials sceptical of making 45 Vande Bharat rakes in 2 years</td>
<td>7 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Delay in sending official notifications to Parliament</td>
<td>10 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Practice cum Revision - MCQs</td>
<td>@end of the video</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H-Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram
Plea in SC speak of past judgments

Religious classification should be based on intelligible differentia, they say

* Golts of NCT of Delhi Vs Union of India (2018)
  - Court to follow its constitutional morality to check state power and the 'tyranny of the majority'
* Navtej Singh Johar Vs Union of India (2018)
  - Constitutional Bench
    - Upheld the concept of 'identity with dignity'
    - Destruction of individual identity would tantamount to intrinsic dignity
    - Religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth are intrinsic and core elements of an individual’s identity under Article 15

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.
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- 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 Polity.
- 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.

* The State of West Bengal Vs Anwar Ali Sarkarhabib (1952)
  - For state to classify people on the basis of religion, it should be
    - Reasonable
    - Based on intelligible differentia
    - Should have a rational basis
* S.R Bommai Vs Union of India (1994)
  - State is enjoined to accord equal treatment to all religions and religious sects and denominations
* Shayara Bano Vs Union of India and Ors (2019)

1) Test of manifest arbitrariness
   - to invalidate a legislation, if a legislation is made capriciously, irrationally, and/or without adequate determining principle, also, if done excessively & disproportionately
Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)          Duration: Two hours

- 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-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.

- 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 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.

Pradhan Mantri Matri Vandana Yojana

- Worshipping motherhood by providing maternity benefits
  - Cash Benefit → ₹ 5000 (3 installments)
  - ₹ 1000 under Janani Swaraksha Yojana

Exclusions

1. PW & LM
   - in regular
     - State Govt employment
     - PSUs
   - receiving similar benefits under another law or scheme

2. Miscarriage / Still birth
   - Only eligible to claim remaining installments in future pregnancy
   - Subject to fulfillment of eligibility criterion & conditionalities

Drawbacks / Shortcomings

- Exclusions under the Scheme

  * Current Beneficiaries

  - Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers (PW & LM) - pregnancy on or after 11/1/2019 - for first child in family

Eligible to receive benefit only once
3. Infant Mortality
   - Benefits claimed already - cannot claim again

Objective:
   - Provide partial compensation for wage loss in terms of cash incentives, to take adequate rest before & after delivery of the first living child
   - Lead to improve health seeking behaviour among women / mothers

* Not universal
  - Single Women (unwed mothers, deserted wives & widows)
    - Registration application - Husband's Aadhaar Details + Woman's Aadhaar details
    - Separate undertaking from woman & her husband
    - Disadvantage to re-married women & women who are second legal wives
  - Newlywed women
    - Proof of address

↓ Young Brides
   - Applicant woman → at least age 19 years
   - General Secretary, National Federation of Indian women
     → 30-35% of first time mothers under 18 years of age

↓ Other Women → living on the margins
   - Sex workers, women in custody, migrant women, etc.

* Corruption → bribe demanded during the application process

Demands
* Review of scheme
  - Include all women
  - Remove restriction on no. of children
  - Increase compensation amount
Q. With reference to the provisions made under the National Food Security Act, 2013, consider the following statements:

1. The families coming under the category of 'below poverty line (BPL)' only are eligible to receive subsidies food grains.

2. The eldest woman in a household, of age 18 years or above, shall be the head of the household for the purpose of issuance of a ration card.

3. Pregnant women and lactating mothers are entitled to a 'take-home ration' of 1600 calories per day during pregnancy and for six months thereafter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2
b) 2 only (Correct)
c) 1 and 3
d) 3 only
Android vulnerable to cyberattack: MHA

A bug, ‘StrandHogg’, allows malware applications to pose as genuine applications

- **StrandHogg:**
  - A bug which allows malware to hijack legitimate applications in android devices
    - Bug: Vulnerability / Coding error
    - Malware - Malicious Software
  - All versions of android are vulnerable

- **Potential:**
  - Listen to conversations
  - Access photos, messages, login credentials
  - Access contact, location, etc

- **Activation:** Through popups asking for permission to send notifications, messages, etc.
- **Atleast 500 popular apps are at risk**
- **Indian Cyber crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**
  - by Ministry of Home Affairs for 2018-2020 to combat cybercrimes
- **Objectives of I4C**
  - Take up research and analysis
  - Prevent misuse of cyberspace by terrorist groups
  - Suggest amendments to cyber laws
  - Coordinate all activities related to Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i) National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit.</td>
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<td>(ii) National Cybercrime Reporting Portal.</td>
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<td>(iii) Platform for Joint Cybercrime Investigation Team.</td>
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<td>(iv) National Cybercrime Forensic Laboratory Ecosystem.</td>
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<td>(v) National Cybercrime Training Centre.</td>
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<td>(vi) Cybercrime Ecosystem Management Unit.</td>
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<td>(vii) National Cyber Research and Innovation Centre.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Press Information Bureau
News - FASTag: Came into operation on 15th December

FASTag

* Used for making toll payments when the vehicle is in motion
* Works with passive Radio Frequency Identification Technology (RFID)

* Passive RFID
  - No internal power source
  - based on electromagnetic energy

* FASTag ID linked to customer account

* FASTag - Vehicle Specific
* Purchased from member banks of National Electronic Toll Collection Program (NETC) of NPCI

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks) Duration: Two hours

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- General Science.

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

- Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
- Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

Dedicated FASTag lanes and Hybrid lanes

National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008 Rule 6(3) - Non- FASTag users will be charged twice if they use FASTag lanes

Advantages:

1) 2.5% cashback on toll payments for FY 2019-20
   - Short-term incentive to encourage quicker adoption
2) Increased transparency
3) Step towards less cash economy
4) Need not carry cash and change
* Ministry of Road Transport & Highways Notification
  - 25% of FASTag lanes to hybrid lanes for 30 more days

* Issues faced by commuters
  1) Shortage of RFID stickers in the market
  2) FASTags ordered online were not delivered on time
  3) Lack of supply of FASTags near toll plaza
  4) Insufficient balance

* Only 37% of vehicles using toll plazas have FASTags
Officials sceptical of making 45 Vande Bharat rakes in 2 years

"Will take two years to roll out the prototype for operation"

Railway officials are sceptical of making 45 Vande Bharat rakes in 2 years because the project is too ambitious. The officials say that making 45 rakes would not be possible in the next two years. The prototype rakes are expected to be ready in 2020, but the officials are not confident of meeting the deadline.

News:
- Railway officials sceptical of making 45 Vande Bharat rakes in 2 years
- Vande Bharat Express (Train 18)
  - India's first Semi-High Speed Train
  - Under "Make in India" initiative
  - Maximum Service Speed of about 160 kmph
  - Manufactured by ICF, Chennai
  - Self-propelled engineless Semi-high speed Multiple Unit Train-set
  - Quicker acceleration ability and better passenger amenities than the locomotive trains

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)  Duration: Two hours

- Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-IV


- Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
- Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

News:
- Coaches are fitted with zero discharge vacuum based bio-toilets
- On-board wifi facility and GPS based Passenger Information System (PIS)
- Vande Bharat express trains are planned to replace intercity express trains which have travel time in six hours range
- At present: New Delhi - Varanasi (U.P.)
  New Delhi - Katra (J&K)
- Ministry of Railways is planning to roll out about 45 rakes by 2021-22
Govt. of India: by 2022, Nation completes 75 years of its independence

- doubling the farmers' income by 2022
- target of installing 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022
- every family will have a pucca house with water connection, toilet facilities, 24x7 electricity supply and access by 2022
- POSHAN Abhiyaan, with vision to ensure attainment of malnutrition free India by 2022
Delay in sending official notifications to Parliament

Reason not explained in 96% cases

The government is delaying the tabling of key notifications to Parliament, thereby withholding information that should be available to all members.

A study by a Parliamentary panel revealed that out of 233 statutory notifications containing rules and regulations from 14 Ministries, 125 notifications were presented to Parliament after a delay ranging from one to ten months.

As per the rules, the notifications are required to be laid on the Table of the House within 15 days of their publication in the Gazette if the House is in session, and if not, within 15 days of the commencement of the next session.

That negates the principle of accountability of the Executive to the Parliament.

Futile exercise

“The accountability of the Ministries to the Parliament and the Constitutional mandate of the Parliament to monitor the functioning of the Executive would become a futile exercise and the Committee has every

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

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

- Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
- 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 Polity.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

Notifying the rules etc. in the gazette

11.4 After the rules, etc., are finalised, steps will be taken by the Ministry/Department concerned to publish them in the gazette and, where the Act provides for it, to lay them on the Table of each House. The procedure to be followed in this regard has been described in para 11.5.

Laying of rules etc. on the Table of each House

11.5.1 After publication, the rules, etc., will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible and, in any case, within a period of 15 days (30 days in case of notifications relating to a state under the President’s rule), reckoned from:

PRO 6.15 (a) the date of their publication in the official gazette if the House is in session; or

PRO 6.15 (b) the date of commencement of the next session, if the House is not in session.

Source: Manual of Parliamentary Procedures in the Government of India
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. What is ‘StrandHogg’, which was recently seen in news?
   a) It is a spyware developed by an Israeli technology firm.
   b) It is joint military exercise between India and Australia.
   c) It is a software developed by ISRO as a part of its Reusable Launch Vehicle Technology Demonstration Programme.
   d) It is a bug which allows malwares to hijack legitimate applications in Android devices.

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements about the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre or I4C.
   1. I4C will act as the nodal point in the fight against cybercrime.
   2. One of its objectives is to coordinate all activities related to implementation of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties with other countries related to cybercrimes.
   3. It was launched by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology for a period of 2 years.

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

Practice Question – Mains

GS - II

Q. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is not a universal scheme. In the light of the above statement discuss the salient features and drawbacks of the scheme. Suggest measures for improvements. (15 marks, 250 words)

Practice Question – Prelims Answers

1. Option (d) - It is a bug which allows malwares to hijack legitimate applications in Android devices.
2. Option (a) – 1 and 2 only