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<th>S. No</th>
<th>News Articles</th>
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<td>The fountainhead of India’s economic malaise (Editorial)</td>
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<td>UAHS develops technology to hasten decomposition of areca waste</td>
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<td>Corporation begins selling manure in malls</td>
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<td>Practice cum Revision - MCQs</td>
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Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)
- 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, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.
- Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the challenges therein.
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Important aspects of governance

PAPER-IV
General Studies—III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management
- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

PAPER-V
General Studies—IV: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude
- Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration; Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions;
- Probit in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity

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State of Indian economy

- Nominal GDP growth → 15 year low
- Unemployment rate → 45 year high (6.1%)
- Household consumption → 4 decade low
- Bad loans in banks → all time high
- Growth in electricity generation → 15 year low

Causes

- Distrust of citizens in institution → Prolonged the slowdown
  - 'State of economy' reflection of 'state of society'
  - functioning of economy → social interaction between people and institutions
  - mutual trust and self-confidence → bedrock of social transaction

  Economic Growth

- Fountainhead of current economic malaise → Trust and confidence
  - torn and ruptured
• Fear in society
  ➔ Industrialists  ➔ harassment by govt. authorities
    ➔ Unlawful tax harassment        ➔ Unfair regulations
  ➔ Bankers  ➔ retribution  ➔ reluctant to approve new loans
  ➔ Entrepreneurs  ➔ hesitant to start fresh project
    ➔ fear of failure
  ➔ Technology start-ups  ➔ Constant surveillance
    ➔ and deep suspicion
  ➔ policy makers  ➔ scared to speak intellectually
    ➔ honest policy discussions.

  Affects Economic Transactions
  ➔ Slowdown
  ➔ Stagnation

• Helplessness/Hopelessness
  ➔ aggrieved citizens  ➔ no place to address grievances.
  ➔ Public trust in independent institutions eroded
  ➔ Entrepreneurs lose their risk appetite

Distrust + Fear + Helplessness ➔ Hopelessness
  ➔ Suppressing economic activity
  ➔ Hampering economic growth

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Reasons
• Doctrine of Governance
  "Mala fide unless proven otherwise"
• Suspicion on everyone ➔ intent to defraud the Govt.

Way forward
• Repair torn social fabric of fear and distrust
  ➔ will stimulate confidence and cheerfulness
• Twin Policy Actions
  1. Fiscal policy ➔ Boosting demand
  2. Social policy ➔ Reviving private investment through trust and confidence.

Conclusion
• Unique and opportune moment to capitalise.
  ➔ Slowdown of China's economy and exports
    ➔ Export opportunity for India
  ➔ Absolute majority in Lok Sabha
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**Composting**: Decaying organic matter

- **Decomposition** - in the presence of oxygen
- **Anaerobic** - in the absence of oxygen

**Aerobic composting** - widely prevalent compared to anaerobic composting

**Process**: Aerobic composting

- **Organic waste**: agricultural waste, plant waste, food waste → compost pile

**Components**

- **Microorganisms** (bacteria, fungi, etc)
- **Water**
- **Oxygen**

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**Corporation begins selling manure in malls**

It is produced from 500 tonnes of vegetable waste generated in the city.

- **Residents can order through WhatsApp number 9919432402**
- **We do door delivery within the Chennai Corporation limits**
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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.
- **General Science**

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**Finished compost**

- **Organic matter (including carbon, chemical energy, nitrogen, protein, humus)***
- **Minerals (including nitrogen and other nutrients)**
- **Water**

**Microorganisms**

- **Oxygen**
- **CO₂, Water, Heat, Humus**
- **Regular turning — redistribution of heat, water and biological activity**
- **Aerobic**: Quick; need high maintenance
- **Anaerobic**: Takes several years; no maintenance; exceptionally puny.
**Advantages**
- Effective waste management
- Reduce municipal solid waste reaching landfills and incinerators
- Manure - increase in fertility and productivity

**First news article**
- **UAMS** - developed a technology to convert arecanut husk, sheaths and dry leaves into compost
- Arecanut husk and sheath - rich in lignin, cellulose, hemicellulose - take time to decompose

**Second news article**
- Chennai Corporation selling manure at malls and shopping complexes + home delivery of manure.
- Part of ‘zero waste project’.
- Produced from microcomposting centres and compost facilities in parks

Gotabaya wins in presidential poll
Ruling party candidate in Sri Lanka loses despite leading in polls

Will Gotabaya make peace with India?
Given his polarised mandate, Sri Lanka president-elect may need New Delhi’s help in Tamil regions

Part A—Preliminary Examination
- History of India and Indian National Movement.

Part B—Main Examination
- General Studies - I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

PAPER-III
- General Studies - II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests, Indian diaspora.
Sri Lanka

- **Geography**
  - Formerly Ceylon
  - Separated from Peninsular India by Gulf of Mannar and Palk Strait
  - Capitals:
    - Sri Jayawardenepure Kotte,
    - Colombo
  - Close cultural interaction with India & similar colonial history
  - 1948: Ceylon gained independence
  - 1972: Renamed as Sri Lanka

- **Demography**
  - Total population: 21 million
  - Majority: Sinhalese (74.3%)
  - Other ethnic groups
    - Sri Lankan Tamils, Indian Tamils, Moors, Malays, Burghers and others
  - Religions
    - Buddhist (69.3%), Hindus, Muslims, Christians

- **Polity**
  - Post-Independence: Civil war (1980s to 2009)
    - dependent on China for investment
  - A semi-presidential system
    - President: Head of State, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Head of Government.
  - 2014 → Chinese PLA - Navy’s submarine Changzheng-2 and warship Cheng Xing Dao arrived in Colombo
  - Rajapaksas → China-friendly
**Election result**

- Gota Baha
  - Unpopular among minorities
  - Polarised result

**India’s role**

1. Help to resolve tension in the north and east
2. More development projects in minority occupied areas

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**Illegal trade of endangered species busted, one arrested**

Four slow lorises, an Indian star tortoise and a soft shell turtle rescued

"One of the four slow lorises that were rescued in the CST - an observation." from one of his friends at a low price and making a lucrative deal by selling them to customers in Hyderabad," said Additional DF (Task Force) Chairmen Suresh. The accused along with the rescued animals, was handed over to Forest department officials for further probe.

Slow lorises are a group of several species of nocturnal animals, which are generally found in North East States, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Philippines. It is on the red list of International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Several traditional medicines are prepared from its organs and other parts. Indian star tortoise are found in dry areas and scrub forests in India. Many believe that star tortoise are good for the skin. The accused were taking advantage of their popular belief, Mr. Chhatrani said. Soft shell turtles, on the other hand, are mostly found in rivers and have the ability to stay underwater for prolonged periods.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animals</th>
<th>Slow Loris</th>
<th>Indian Star Tortoise</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Name</td>
<td>Nycticebus bengalensis</td>
<td>Geochelone elegans</td>
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<tr>
<td>IUCN Red List of Threatened Species</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
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<tr>
<td>CITES</td>
<td>Appendix -I</td>
<td>Appendix -II</td>
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<td>WPA, 1972</td>
<td>Sch I (Part I)</td>
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No elephant safari in Dudhwa this season

Jumbos deployed on patrolling duties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAKSHIMPUR KHERI (U.P.)

Tourists visiting the Dudhwa National Park will not be able to enjoy elephant safari this season as most trained jumbos have been deployed in patrolling duties, the park administration said on Sunday.

According to park Deputy Director Manoj Sonkar, another major reason to put restrictions on the safari is the aggressive nature of male elephants, which may pose a serious threat to the safety of riders.

Mr. Sonkar said the decision in this regard was taken after several incidents of elephants chasing their mahouts and attendants came to fore.

“Dudhwa has adequate number of vehicles and tourists could enjoy their jungle safari on the vehicles,” Mr. Sonkar said. The decision may play as a spoilsport as most tourist visit the park to enjoy elephant safari.

As officials don’t act, residents rebuild bridge

Fighting many odds, including fund crunch and sand mafia, the locals are continuing their work.

ASHTA NAGAR ALIMALI:

With the administration being inactive and the municipal corporation immersed in controversies, and the residents being unable to get their demands fulfilled, the village of Ashta Nagar, located in the suburbs of the Terai region, has taken it upon itself to rebuild a bridge over the river after the monsoon season. During monsoon, they have no option but to dismantle the bridge and cross the river when it overflows.

Pravin Guti, a resident of Ashta Nagar, says, “We have been waiting for the government to build a bridge, but they have not been able to do so. So, we decided to build it ourselves.”

The bridge, which was built in 1992, was damaged during the floods in 2013 and has been in a state of disrepair ever since.

The residents have been collecting funds from the local community and have been working on the bridge every day. They have even sought help from the local representatives to get the work done.

However, the government has not been proactive in the matter. The residents have been waiting for the government to take action, but so far, they have not received any help. The residents are now hoping that the government will take notice of their plight and take steps to help them build a new bridge.

In the meantime, the residents are continuing their work on the bridge, hoping that it will be completed soon.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements regarding composting.

1. Composting can be both aerobic and anaerobic.
2. Anaerobic composting takes comparatively lesser time than aerobic composting.
3. Carbon dioxide and heat are the byproducts of composting.

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 – Prelims

Q. Consider the following countries.

1. Ecuador
2. Gabon
3. Maldives
4. Indonesia
5. Sri Lanka
6. Somalia

Select the list of countries from the above through which the equator passes.

a) 1, 3, 4 and 6 only
b) 1, 2, 5 and 6 only
c) 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 only
d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 only
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following pairs with their respective IUCN status.

1. Slow Loris - Vulnerable
2. Indian Star Tortoise - Endangered
3. National Heritage Animal of India - Endangered

Select the correctly matched pairs using the codes given below.
(a) 1 and 3
(b) 1 and 2
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. Netravathi river is the only west flowing in the state of Karnataka.
2. Mangalore port is located in the mouth of the Netravathi river.

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 – Mains

GS-III

Q. “India is facing dual challenges like declining GDP growth and rising unemployment rate”. Discuss the causes for slowdown in the economy and suggest suitable measures for the sustainable growth in India. (250 words, 15 Marks)
Practice Question – Prelims

Answers

Q1. Option ‘c’ - 1 and 3 only
Q2. Option ‘d’ - 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 only
Q3. Option ‘a’ - 1 and 3
Q4. Option ‘b’ - 2 only

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