26-SEPTEMBER-2019

Impeachment against Trump begins

He is accused of seeking Ukraine's help to target Biden

President under scanner

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi launched a formal impeachment inquiry against U.S. President Donald Trump.

The focus: The impeachment inquiry focuses partly on whether Trump abused his presidential powers and sought help from a foreign government.

The confrontation: The impeachment inquiry, after months of investigations by House Democrats of the Trump administration, sets up the party's most direct and consequential confrontation.

India's NSG entry, need for producing nuclear energy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a pitch for India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) here on Wednesday, as he addressed a largely business gathering in the Bloomberg Global Business Forum where he delivered the keynote address.

The comments were made during a Q&A session with former New York City Mayor and businessman Mike Bloomberg. Modi said that India's NSG membership was important because it would allow the country to produce nuclear energy needed for its industry.

Sriram Lakshman

New York


He spoke of his government's reforms, GST, and the U.S. announced in March that six U.S. companies would set up nuclear power reactors in India.

Speaking in Hindi, Modi switched to English for parts of the speech, such as when making a pitch for investments in India, including in infrastructure, urbanisation, defence and technology. "Your desire and our dreams match perfectly," he said.

The NSG controls most of the world's nuclear material and technology.

India has been seeking NSG membership for years, hoping it will boost its nuclear energy sector. The NSG is a group of countries that controls the trade in nuclear material and technology.
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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; H – Hyderabad; D – Delhi; T – Thiruvananthapuram
Modi pitches for India’s NSG entry

Since we are not a member, we can’t get fuel for producing nuclear energy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a pitch for India’s membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) here on Wednesday, as he addressed a largely business gathering in the Bloomberg Global Business Forum where he delivered the keynote address.

The comments were made during a Q&A session with former New York City Mayor and businessman, Michael Bloomberg.

“One challenge that is before us today is that of nuclear energy, because, since we are not a member of the NSG, we do not really have the ability to get the fuel for producing nuclear energy,” Mr. Modi said, as part of an answer on climate change and India’s energy needs.

“If we were to get that opportunity, we could perhaps be a model in this area for the world,” he said.

The NSG controls most of the world’s nuclear trade. While the U.S. and other countries support India’s entry into the NSG, China has opposed it saying India has not signed the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty. India and the U.S. announced in March that six U.S. companies would set up nuclear power reactors in India.

Speaking in Hindi, Mr. Modi switched to English for parts of the speech, such as when making a pitch for investments in India, including in infrastructure, urbanisation, defence and technology. “Your desires and our dreams match perfectly,” he said.

He spoke of his government’s reforms — GST, the bankruptcy and insolvency laws, unique ID (Aadhaar) and bank accounts for 370 million individuals.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
MORE REPORTS PAGE 11

PAPER-IV


• Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

- against proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear energy for non-peaceful uses
- Five countries - Nuclear weapon states (USA, UK, China, Russian Federation, France); All other countries → Non-nuclear weapon states

Article 1

- Nuclear weapons / nuclear explosive devices / control of such weapons - not to be transferred from nuclear weapon states to non-nuclear weapon states

Article 2 - any non-nuclear weapon state,
- shall not manufacture/acquire nuclear weapons
- shall not seek assistance/receive assistance w.r.t. manufacture of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices

Preamble, Article 6

- to facilitate cessation of manufacture of nuclear weapons, facilitates liquidation of existing stockpiles
- to eliminate national arsenals of nuclear weapons
- P5 countries at present - 97.4% of nuclear weapons, in terms of number - 14,095
**Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)**

* 1975
* Zangger Committee - 1971; The London Club
* Seeks to contribute to Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons through guidelines on nuclear exports and nuclear-related exports
* Not an authority to approve/deny such exports
* Not a formal inter-governmental organisation
* Not a treaty based organisation
* Voluntary and non-legally binding association of ‘major supplier governments’
* Guideline for supply
  - to establish a baseline of responsible and safe supply behaviour

** Came into force in 1970 **

** Article III (2) **

> any party to this treaty - shall not provide
- nuclear resources for peaceful purposes
- to any non-nuclear weapon states; For provision of such resources, appropriate safeguards has to be met with

⇒ India - NOT a Signatory

⇒ May 1974 - India carried out First Nuclear Test - code - ‘Smiling Buddha’
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. India is a signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
2. India is not a Participating Government at the Nuclear Suppliers Group, as of now.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
PM’s economic advisory council reconstituted

JP Morgan’s Sajjid Chinoy inducted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday announced that it had reconstituted the Prime Minister’s Economic Advisory Council for a period of two years.

“Government of India has reconstituted the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) for a period of two years with effect from September 26, 2019,” it said in a statement.

“Dr. Bibek Debroy and Shri Ratan P. Watal will continue to be the chairman and member secretary, respectively, of the reconstituted EAC-PM.”

The release added that the EAC-PM would have two part-time members apart from the two full-time members. Ashima Goyal will be retained as a part-time member and joined by Sajjid Chinoy, currently JP Morgan’s chief India economist.

“Apart from these two full-time members, the EAC-PM will have two part-time members,” the release added. “While Dr. Ashima Goel continues to be one of the part-time members, Dr. Sajjid Chinoy has been made as another part-time member.”

What the government did not expressly mention was that, with this structure and appointments, the two dissenting members Ratnesh Roy and Shamika Ravi have not been retained.

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 Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)

* Independent, non-constitutional body

* Gives advice on economic and related matters to the Govt. of India, specifically to the Prime Minister

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017 (5 member Council)</th>
<th>2019 (Reconstituted)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairman (FT)</td>
<td>Chairman (FT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Secretary (FT)</td>
<td>Member Secretary (FT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 members (PT)</td>
<td>2 members (PT)</td>
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* No definite composition
* No permanent tenure

Non-Permanent body

Terms of Reference of the EAC-PM

i) Analyse any issue, economic or otherwise, referred to it by the Prime Minister and advising him thereon

ii) Addressing issues of macroeconomic importance and presenting views thereon to the Prime Minister. This could be either suo-motu or on reference from the Prime Minister or anyone else

iii) Attending to any other task as may be desired by the Prime Minister from time to time
Q. Consider the following statements about Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.

1. It is a constitutional body
2. As per the current terms of reference while constituting the present EAC-PM, it shall address the issues of macroeconomic importance taken suo-motu and shall present its views to the prime minister.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Different peas in different pods

Unlike IT, it would be a mistake to look at the biotechnology sector through the lens of employment generation only.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance
- General Science

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

Part II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Panchayati Raj, Public Administration and By-Laws

- Policies, government and institutions for development in various sectors and issues out of their design and implementation

PAPER-IV

- Environmental issues: population, pollution, development, biotechnology, biodiversity, Security and Disarmament

- Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nanotechnology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
Biotechnology – uses living organisms, biological processes – to produce technology that improves human life

- Department of Biotechnology – established in 1986, under Ministry of Science and Technology

I) Problems in the biotechnology sector

a) Existence of ‘Publish or perish’ culture
   - Need for skilled workforce + funding + Scientific Infrastructure

b) Focus of research shifted from basic research to applied research
   - Need for private sector participation
   - Focus on both applied and basic research

II) Why IT sector and biotech sector are not the same?

- Biotech sector
  - Need for skilled experienced people
  - Access to high-end scientific infrastructure
  - A disciplined work culture
  - Documentation practice

- IT sector → large pool of workforce – ready to work at low wages
  - Favourable for global corporates also

- Biotech products: take many years
- IT solutions: take less time comparatively

- Difference in manpower, infrastructure and end product/solutions
Government support to biotech sector through BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council)

The China Model

- Labs with best of scientific infrastructure
- Skilled workforce
- 5:1 ratio of Chinese students and scientists in American universities compared to Indians - in life sciences and biology related discipline
- Higher science budget
- Flexibility in recruiting scientists

Need for a strong industry-academia link

- Eg: Boston and Silicon Valley
- Enrich Indian academic institutions
- Institutes and scientists to develop start-ups in their research labs
- Scientists from research institutions and universities - to join industry
- Research from Industry as faculties

⇒ Biotech sector will not replace IT sector in employment generation soon
Biotech sector to solve pressing social issues

* Cleaning our rivers - Bioremediation
* Produce life-saving drugs
* Feed people with nutritious food
* Clean air
Drug regulators caution against ranitidine use

Patients asked to avoid over-the-counter use; State bodies told to take measures

Indian doctors have advised patients here to avoid over-the-counter (OTC) use of popular antacid ranitidine, following concerns over its contamination by cancer-causing substances, with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) now having started the process of “checking for any adverse reactions of the drug”. CDSCO has written to State regulators, asking that they communicate to the manufacturers of ranitidine active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) and formulations under your jurisdiction to verify their products and take appropriate measures to ensure patient safety.” The regulator notes that it is aware of reports from other countries that some ranitidine medicines contain a nitrosamine impurity called N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) at low levels.

‘Probably carcinogenic’
The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) V.G. Somani in the letter further notes that NDMA has been classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer as “probably carcinogenic” to humans.

“Ranitidine is approved for multiple indications in the country and available in various formulations including tablets, injections, etc. The drug is a prescription drug included in Schedule-H and should be sold by retail only under prescription of Registered Medical Practitioner,” the letter noted.
⇒ Indian doctors - advise patients to avoid over the counter use of Ranitidine
  * Concerns over contamination by cancer causing substance

⇒ Ranitidine / Zantac
  * Popular antacid - to treat ulcer in stomach and intestine
  * Prescription drug in Schedule-H: need prescription by a registered medical practitioner

⇒ Schedule-H drugs → under Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945

⇒ Concern over presence of NDMA (N-nitrosodimethylamine) - carcinogenic - in Ranitidine

⇒ Central Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) - Directed state level regulators

⇒ Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)
  ➣ NDMA classified as 'probably carcinogenic' by International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)
  ➣ IARC: Specialised cancer agency of WHO
    * Formed in 1965
    * Headquarters - Lyon; France
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization functions under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
2. It discharges functions assigned to the central government under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 or 2

CDSCO

* Headed by DCGI
* Under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
* Functions assigned to the Central govt. under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940
* Functions
  - Regulates import of Drugs
  - Approval of new drugs
  - Approval of Clinical trials
New IPCC report warns of dire threat to oceans

Increased temperatures, marine heatwaves, more frequent extreme El Niño and La Niña events likely

...unprecedented

...Over the 21st century, the oceans are projected to transition to unprecedented conditions with increased temperatures, further ocean acidification, marine heatwaves and more frequent extreme El Niño and La Niña events..." according to a summary of the report ready available to policymakers.

The report updates scientific literature available since 2013 — when the IPCC released its comprehensive fifth assessment report — and summarizes the climate impacts of warming in the latest three assessments of global greenhouse gas emissions.

"It is virtually certain that the global ocean has warmed since 1950 and has taken up more than 90% of the excess heat in the climate system (high confidence). Since 2015, the rate of ocean warming has more than doubled. Marine heatwaves have very likely doubled in frequency since 1982 and are increasing in intensity," the report states. "The Southern Ocean accounted for 33% - 47% of the

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper 1 - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.

- Indian and World Geography-Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.

- General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-II

General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

- Salient features of world’s physical geography.

- 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.

- Important International institutions, agencies and their structure, mandate.

PAPER-IV


- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
**Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change**

* A United Nations body for assessing science related to climate change
* Created in 1988 by WMO & UNEP
* Objective: To provide governments with scientific information
* Prepares comprehensive Assessment Reports about the state of scientific, technical and socio-economic knowledge on climate change
* Neither conducts any research nor monitor any climate related data or parameters

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**News**

* IPCC has released the special report titled as “The Ocean and Cryosphere in a changing Climate”
  
  - Changes in oceans, and cryosphere are taking place and in Extreme threat
  
  - Rate of Ocean warming has more than doubled since 1993
  
  - Changes in Oceans due to
    - increased temperatures
    - Ocean acidification
    - marine heat waves
    - Extreme El Nino & La Nina Events
Q. Consider the following statements.

1. Cryosphere refers to the frozen components of the earth system that are above the land and ocean surface only.
2. North Eastern region of India is a part of Hindu Kush Himalayan Region.

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
Northeast monsoon will be normal in 2019, says SASCOF

It’s likely to be on the positive side over southern peninsula

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The 2019 northeast monsoon, lasting from October to December, is likely to be normal over the southern peninsula, the South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF) said on Wednesday. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan released the climate outlook for the season, prepared at the 15th session of SASCOF, which is under way in Thiruvananthapuram.

“We are expecting normal rainfall during the season in southeast India, but it is likely to be on the positive side. Last year, we had a deficient northeast monsoon,” Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of Meteorology, India Meteorological Department, said.

“We are not issuing State-wise forecasts. The amount of rainfall is highly variable. It varies from one year to another. And sometimes, within the season itself, there can be large variations. But, for the region, we are expecting a normal rainfall,” Dr. Mohapatra said.

On the other hand, most parts of Sri Lanka, Maldives, and eastern parts of Myanmar are likely to receive above-normal rainfall during this period. “Above normal rainfall is also likely over some northern parts of South Asia. However, below-normal rainfall is likely over southern parts of Myanmar and some areas of foothills of the Himalayas,” the consensus climate outlook said.

The outlook was developed by assessing prevailing global climatic conditions that influence South Asian climate and seasonal forecasts from different climate models around the globe.

“Currently, neutral El Niño/Southern Oscillation conditions are prevailing in the Pacific Ocean, and the Indian Ocean dipole is in the positive mode over the Indian Ocean. These parameters are likely to continue at their current level during October to December,” SASCOF said.
SASCOF

* South Asian Climate Outlook forum
* Established in 2010
* Co-ordinated by India Meteorological Department
* Countries covered under the forum
  - Afghanistan  - India  - Nepal
  - Bangladesh  - Maldives  - Pakistan
  - Bhutan  - Myanmar  - Sri Lanka

* Idea conceived at a meeting held in Italy in 2009
* Main activity → Prepare and issue consensus outlook
  → Based on above, national outlooks will be prepared
* Initial outlooks → For South West Monsoon only

* Since 2015 - Outlooks for winter season are also issued
* South Asian Climate in winter months
  → Influenced by 2 Circulation systems
    → North east monsoon (Oct - Dec)
    → Temperate Mid-latitude circulation systems (Dec - Feb)
  • Extra-tropical activity (dominated by western disturbances)
News

⇒ 15th SASCOF - Thiruvananthapuram
⇒ Climate Outlook
  ⇒ Normal Northeast monsoon
     * Likely to have excess rainfall
     * Variability in rainfall
       ⇣ Regionwise
       ⇣ Season
  ⇒ Neutral El Nino/Southern Oscillation conditions prevailing in Pacific Ocean
  ⇒ Positive Indian Ocean Dipole over Indian Ocean

Indian Ocean Dipole

* Difference in Sea Surface temperature between the two equatorial areas of the Indian Ocean
  ⇣ Western Indian Ocean
  ⇣ Eastern Indian Ocean
* Affects the climate of countries that surround Indian Ocean basin
  * Positive IOD - Greater Monsoon rainfall
  * Negative IOD - Less rainfall
Q. With reference to ‘Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)’ sometimes mentioned in the news while forecasting Indian monsoon, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. IOD phenomenon is characterized by a difference in sea surface temperature between tropical Western Indian Ocean and tropical Eastern Pacific Ocean.
2. An IOD phenomenon can influence an El Nino’s impact on the monsoon.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. Cryosphere refers to the frozen components of the earth system that are above the land and ocean surface only.
2. North Eastern region of India is a part of Hindu Kush Himalayan Region.

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 QUESTIONS
DISCUSSION
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.

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Practice Question – Prelims

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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 – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements about South Asian Climate Outlook Forum.

1. It provides annual regional forecast outlook to the countries of this forum for South West Monsoon season rainfall only.
2. The countries of Myanmar and Thailand are covered under this forum.

Which of the above statements is/are not correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Q1. Option ‘b’ – 2 only
Q1. Option ‘b’ – 2 only
Q1. Option ‘b’ – 2 only
Q1. Option ‘b’ – 2 only
Q1. Option ‘c’ – Both 1 and 2