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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; T – Thiruvananthapuram
7,000 species added to IUCN ‘Red List’

Habitat destruction and hunting by humans are reasons for fall in numbers

News:
* IUCN added more than 7,000 animals, fish and plants → Endangered “Red List”

IUCN:
* Established in 1964
* IUCN Red List of Threatened Species
  * World’s most comprehensive information
    * Source → global conservation status of animal, fungi and plant species
  * Indicator of health of world’s biodiversity
  * Powerful tool → inform about conservation
    → Catalyze action for conservation and policy changes
  * Information → Range, population size, habitat and ecology, use and trade, threats, conservation actions

IUCN Red List Update:
* 1,05,700 species
  * > 28,000 species → Threatened with Extinction
    * 40% - amphibians
    * 34% - Conifers
    * 33% - reef building corals
    * 25% - mammals
    * 14% - birds
* Numbers change due to 2 reasons
  1. *Non-genuine reasons:*
     1. New information available
     2. Taxonomic revision
  2. *Genuine reasons:*
     a) Status improved to better category
        1. Threats no longer present
        2. Conservation measures successful
           - reintroduction
           - habitat protection / restoration
           - legal protection
           - harvest management, etc.
     b) Status deteriorated
        1. Threats continue unabated
        2. Threats increased
        3. New threats have developed

**India:**

⇒ "Threatened" → 1081 species
   - Plants → 344 species
   - Animals → 682 species
   - Fungi & Protist → 0 species

**Threatened:**
- Critically Endangered
- Endangered
- Vulnerable

**Other Facts:**
⇒ Wedgefishes & giant Guitarfishes = 'Rhino Rays'
  * Most imperilled marine families on Earth
  * Elongated Snouts
  * Related to Sharks
  * Live in shallow waters

    Indian Ocean & West Pacific Ocean to & Mediterranean Sea

**Threats** → Unregulated Coastal fishing
  ⇒ Caught as 'bycatch'
  ⇒ Meat sold locally
  ⇒ Fins are internationally traded for shark fin soup

**Primates:**
  1. Seven species closer to extinction
  2. Roloway Monkeys
     * Critically Endangered
     * Endemic to Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana
     * Only 2,000 surviving individuals
     * Threats
        ⇒ Meat and skin - target for hunters
Question – 2012
(For Reference only)
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

Question – 2016
(For Reference only)
Q. The “Red Data Books” published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) contain lists of:

1. Endemic plant and animal species present in the biodiversity hotspots,
2. Threatened plant and animal species.
3. Protected sites for conservation of nature and natural resources in various countries.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

a) 1 and 3
b) 2 only
c) 2 and 3
d) 3 only

The threat of Ebola

The health emergency declared by the WHO can curtail the risk of a global spread of the virus. As the World Health Organization has declared the Ebola virus disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, The outbreak in Congo, officially declared on August 1, 2018, has killed nearly 1,700 people and made more than 2,500 people ill. While cases in other areas are reducing, Beni is the new hotspot. The announcement of the health emergency comes amid renewed concerns that the virus could spread to other countries. A single imported case of Ebola in Goma, a city in Congo with two million people and with an international airport bordering Rwanda, served as a trigger to finally declare a global emergency. Surprisingly, the spread to neighbouring Uganda last month did not seem to change the way the WHO assessed the situation. Even when a handful of Ebola cases were confirmed in Uganda, all the infected people had travelled from Congo and there had been no local transmission or spread within Uganda – one of the criteria used by the WHO to assess if an outbreak is a global emergency. This is the fifth time that the WHO has declared a global emergency. The earlier occasions were in February 2016 for Zika outbreaks in the Americas, August 2014 for Ebola outbreaks in western Africa, the spread of polio in May 2014, and the H1N1 pandemic in April 2009.

Declaring an event as a global emergency is meant to stop the spread of the pathogens to other countries and to ensure a coordinated international response.

Part A—Preliminary Examination
Paper I—200 marks

- Current events of national and international importance.
- General Science.

Part B—Main Examination
PAPER-III

General Studies II: Governance, Constitution, Politics, Social Justice and International relations.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
**Ebola Virus Disease:**
- *Caused by* 6 species of viruses of genus Ebola virus under the Family Filoviridae
  - Zaire
  - Sudan
  - Reston
  - Bundibugyo
  - Tai
  - Bombali
- *Natural Hosts* - Fruit bats of Pteropodidae
- *Transmission:*
  - Animal to Human Transmission
    - Fruit Bats → Wild Animals → Humans → Other Humans
  - Human to Human Transmission
    - Contact with infected person
    - Touching the contaminated objects
- *Incubation Period* - 2 to 21 days

**Symptoms:**
- Fever
- Muscle Pain
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Headache

Other Symptoms:
- Vomiting, Diarrhoea, rashes
- Impaired functioning of kidney and livers
- Internal & External bleeding in some cases

**Treatment:**
- No proven treatment available
- Supportive care provided
- Multi-drug randomized control trials in process

**Vaccines:**
- 2015 - rVSV- ZEBOV-GP candidate Vaccine

**Public Health Emergency of International Concern:**
- Declared by WHO
- Public health risk to other countries when the disease spreads internationally
- Potential requirement of coordinated international response

**Editorial:**
- WHO has declared Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo as a 'Public Health Emergency of International Concern'

**WHO’s announcement comes at a time when it is believed that the virus could spread to other countries**

**WHO’s declaration of Global Emergency:**
1. H1N1 virus disease outbreak - April 2009
2. Polio - May 2014
3. Ebola Outbreak - August 2014 (W Africa)
4. Zika Outbreak - February 2016
5. Ebola Outbreak - July 2019 (C Africa)

**Challenges:**
- Reluctance in the community
- Attacks on health workers
- Delays in case-detection and isolation
- Tracing the contacts
**UPSC Prelims Question – 2015**  
(For Reference only)

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. In tropical regions, Zika virus disease is transmitted by the same mosquito that transmits dengue.
2. Sexual transmission of Zika virus disease is possible.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Practice Question – Prelims**

Q. Consider the following statements about Ebola Virus.

1. Mosquitoes are the natural hosts of this virus.  
2. Human to human transmission of this virus is possible.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Wayanad’s tribal hamlets one step from 100% literacy

The focus is on preparing residents of 3587 habitations to take the test by 2020

Kerala’s State Literacy Mission

Wayanad Literacy Equivalency Programme

Samagra Framework - Tribal Literacy and Continuing Education Programme

Improving literacy among people belonging to tribal communities

Educators are among the residents of the tribal hamlets

to effectively communicate in indigenous languages

Tribal Populations ↔ Indigenous People

Resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems

have different language, culture and belief

have strong link to the territories and natural resources surrounding them

Problems faced by Indigenous people:

1. Lack of Political representation
2. Lack of Political participation
3. Economic marginalisation & Poverty
4. Lack of access to Social Services
5. Discrimination

Literacy rate of Kerala

2011 Census - 93.91%
1951 Census - 47.18%

Aims to attain 100% literacy rate

Challenging - as people from tribal communities are lagging behind

Aims to achieve 100% literacy among tribal populations by end - 2020

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- 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.

- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
Kerala State Literacy Mission
- To promote literacy among
  - Illiterates
  - Neo-literate
  - Those discontinued school education
  - Those interested in lifelong education

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.

Part B—Main Examination
PAPER-III
General Studies—II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.
- Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.
- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance—applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

PAPER-V
General Studies—IV: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude
- Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration; accountability and ethical governance
- Probit in Governance; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information
**News:**

* Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019
  - Power to set the Service conditions & Salaries of Information Commissioners — Union Govt

**RTI Act of 2005:**

* Right to Information to Citizens
* Securing access to information under control of public authorities
* To promote transparency and accountability.
* Constitution of Central Information Commission & State Information Commission

**Public Authority**

- Authority / body / institution of self-govt constituted under
  - Constitution
  - Law by Parliament
  - Law by State Legislature
  - Notification / Order by Govt
  - any body owned, controlled or substantially financed - funds provided by government
  - Ngo's substantially financed - funds provided by government

**Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner**

→ Section 13:
  - Term of Office → 5 years
    → age ≤ 65 years
  - Conditions of Service → Not eligible for reappointment
  - Salaries and allowances and other terms & conditions of service → same as that of Chief Election Commissioner & Election Commissioner

**State CIC & State IC**

→ Section 16
  - Term of Office → 5 years
    → age ≤ 65 years
  - Reappointment → not eligible
  - Salaries & allowances and other terms and conditions → Election Commissioner and Chief Secretary to State Govt, respectively

* Salaries & allowances and other terms & conditions

- CEC & EC = Judge of Supreme Court, 1Cs, SC1Cs

**Functions ECI and CIC & Sic**

→ Totally different
  - ECI - Superintendence, direct & control of elections, electoral rolls
  - CIC & Sic → Statutory Bodies
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. The Right to Information does not include the Right to Inspect the work, documents, and records of a public authority.
2. The Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, has the power to require the public authority to compensate the complainant for any loss or other detriment suffered.

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

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. The salaries and allowances of the Chief Election Commissioner are equal to a Judge of the Supreme Court.
2. The salaries and allowances of the Chief Information Commissioner are equal to a Judge of the Supreme Court.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Women in CRPF will soon get specially designed body gear

Idea first mooted in 2016, they have been using gear designed for men

Part A—Preliminary Examination
Paper I -(200 marks)
- Current events of national and international importance
- Economic and Social Development, Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

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.

General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.
- 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.
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

News:
- Women officer in CRPF to get specially designed body gear
- National Conference for Women in Police, 2016
- Proposed gender specific protective gears
- Ministry of Home Affairs → Setup a committee
- Gear was developed by Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIRDO) and CRPF
- Study of Women troopers in Rapid Action Force
  - Ergonomically design the body protector for women
  - Anthropometric data - to ensure protection of vital organs of women

Protective Gear:
- Designed to cover all the soft parts of human body
  - Rib cage
  - Inner calf
  - Groin Area
  - Back of arm
  - Thigh
- Anti-stab - protects from knives, spikes, bullets, fragments, blunt impacts
- Anti-acid - protects from acids
- Ensures mobility of women troopers
- Greater comfort

8,000 women troopers and officers to get the protector.
Practice Question - Prelims

Q. With reference to the Defence Institute of Physiology & Allied Sciences (DIPAS), which among the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a defence laboratory under Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
2. Its principal purpose is identification of high-altitude physiology, nutrition and biochemistry of human in severe stress environment.
3. It was constituted at the time of formation of the DRDO.

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2
c) 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3
Lok Sabha clears Bill on NHRC Constitution:

- The Bill was passed using voice vote
  * Speaker: Say Aye, Say No
- Comparison of 1993 Act and 2019 Bill:
  a) Composition of NHRC:
    * Chairperson:
      1. 1993 Act - retired CSI
      2. Bill - CSI or a former judge of SC
    * Members with knowledge on HR:
      1. 1993 Act - 2 such members
      2. Bill - 3 such members; atleast 1 woman
  b) Chairperson of SHRC:
    1. 1993 Act - retired Chief Justice of a High Court
    2. Bill - retired Chief Justice of High Court or former judge of a High Court

- Ex-officio members:
  1. 1993 Act: Chairpersons of National Commission (NC) of Minorities, NC for SCs, NC for STs and NC for Women
  2. Bill: In addition to the above members - chairpersons of NC for Backward classes, NC for protection of Child Rights, Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

- Term of Office:
  1. 1993 Act: 5 years or 70 years of age, whichever is earlier; eligible for reappointment for 5 years.
  2. Bill: 3 years or 70 years of age, whichever is earlier; eligible for re-appointment (No time limit)

- Powers of Secretary General:
  1. Bill: gives more administrative and financial powers (not judicial) to Secretary General

- Regarding UTs:
  1. Bill: Central Government may confer on a UT the human rights functions being discharged by UT

An advisory body; Recommendations are not enforceable
Limited Mandate in J&K
Weaknesses of HR Commission
Insufficient Funding
Non-filling of Vacancies

Way Forward:
1. Make recommendations enforceable
2. Give jurisdiction even after 1 year, if complaints are genuine
3. Fill Vacancies; Quick delivery of justice
Q. National Human Rights Commission in India is doing a commendable job of protecting the inalienable rights of people. Despite all its commendable work, it is called as a ‘toothless tiger’. Discuss on the problems associated with NHRC and the suggestions to make it more efficient.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements.

1. The Right to Information does not include the Right to Inspect the work, documents, and records of a public authority.
2. The Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, has the power to require the public authority to compensate the complainant for any loss or other detriment suffered.

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. Consider the following statements about Ebola Virus.

1. Mosquitoes are the natural hosts of this virus.
2. Human to human transmission of this virus is possible.

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

Q3. With reference to the Defence Institute of Physiology & Allied Sciences (DIPAS), which among the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a defence laboratory under Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
2. Its principal purpose is identification of high-altitude physiology, nutrition and biochemistry of human in severe stress environment.
3. It was constituted at the time of formation of the DRDO.

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2
c) 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. Consider the following statements.

1. The salaries and allowances of the Chief Election Commissioner are equal to a Judge of the Supreme Court.
2. The salaries and allowances of the Chief Information Commissioner are equal to a Judge of the Supreme Court.

Which among 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-II

Q. National Human Rights Commission in India is doing a commendable job of protecting the inalienable rights of people. Despite all its commendable work, it is called as a ‘toothless tiger’. Discuss on the problems associated with NHRC and the suggestions to make it more efficient.

Practice Questions – Prelims
Answers

19th July & 20th July 2019

1. Option ‘b’
2. Option ‘b’
3. Option ‘b’
4. Option ‘c’
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