The Hindu News Analysis – 25th November 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; T – Thiruvananthapuram; D – Delhi; H - Hyderabad
Minority panel chief not for review plea

It will hurt communal amity, says Rizvi

Press Trust of India

Filing a review petition against the Supreme Court’s Anandiben verdict will not be in the interest of Muslims and will “harm” the unity between the two communities, National Commission for Minorities Chairperson Girajarl Raman Rizvi said on Saturday.

The minority panel chief said a review petition would send a negative message to the Hindus that they were trying to put Muslims in the way of building the temple.

He also urged Muslims to accept the five-acre alternative land to be given for a mosque, saying they would be respecting the judiciary by doing so.

Mr. Rizvi said the NCM had held a meeting after the verdict and all its members in one voice had said that it should be accepted.

Broken promise

The NCM chairperson said Muslim religious bodies should help in building the temple and Muslims should help in the construction of the mosque.

He said that would prove to be a milestone in strengthening the social harmony between the two communities.

“A review petition should not be filed at all because all sides, including the Madhya Pradesh Personal Law Board and the Sunni Waqf Board, had promised that the verdict given by the Supreme Court will be respected,” he said.

He said that the mosque would be constructed at the new site as per the landowners’ willingness.

The NCM chairperson also said that Muslims should not consider the mosque as an obstacle to the temple construction and should work together for a better future.

SC verdict on Ayodhya

- Set up a trust to manage property and construct a temple
- Allot 5-acre plot to Sunni Waqf Board to construct mosque

Chairperson of National Commission for Minorities (NCM)

- No review petition against SC verdict
- High harm communal unity
- Communities should help each other and strengthen social harmony

National Commission for Minorities (NCM)

- 1992: UN “Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities”
- NCM Act - 1992
- Religious Minorities in India
  - Muslims
  - Buddhists
  - Parsis
  - Christians
  - Sikhs
  - Jain (in 2011)

Composition: Chairperson + Vice-Chairperson + 5 members

Nominated by Centre amongst persons of eminence, ability and integrity

Term of Office: 3 years
**Removal →** by centre

**Grounds**
- Undischarged insolvent
- Unsound mind - declared by a competent court
- Refuses to act / incapable of acting
- Abused official position etc.

**Functions**
1) Evaluate progress of development of minorities
2) Monitor the working of safeguards in constitution and central & state laws
3) Look into the complaints regarding deprivation of rights

**State Minority Commissions**
- Eg: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh etc.

**Important Constitutional provisions**
- Preamble: India is Secular
- Article 14: Equality before law & Equal protection of law
- Article 15: Prohibition of discrimination
- Article 16(4): Reservation
- Article 25-28: Right to freedom of religion
Latest survey by NSO debunks Swachh Bharat ODF claims

Only 71% of rural households had access to toilets at a time when Centre was claiming 95% coverage.

The latest National Statistical Office (NSO) survey on sanitation debunked the claims of an open defecation free or ODF India made by the Centre’s flagship Swachh Bharat scheme, although it did record great progress in toilet access and use in rural areas.

The results, released on Saturday, showed that about 71% of rural households had access to toilets at a time when the Centre was claiming 95% had access. On October 2, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that the whole country was ODF with complete access to toilets.

The survey was carried out between July and December 2018, with a reference date of October 1. Large States which had been declared ODF – that is, 100% access to toilets and ODF status – even before the survey began included Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Others which were declared ODF during the survey included Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

According to the NSO, about 42% of the rural households in Jharkhand had no access to a toilet at that time. In Tamil Nadu, the gap was 57%, followed by 34% in Rajasthan, 26% in Haryana, which was one of the earliest States declared ODF, back in October 2010, almost a quarter of all rural households had no toilet access, the NSO data showed. The other major States listed also had significant gaps: Karnataka (56%), Madhya Pradesh (39%), Andhra Pradesh (29%) and Maharashtra (22%).

In the first week of October 2018, the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Gramin) said 25 States and Union Territories had been declared ODF, while toilet access across the country touched 95%. In reality, the NSO said 26.7% of rural households had no toilet access at the time.

With regard to this data, the NSO noted, “There may be respondent bias in the reporting of access to latrines as question on benefits received by the households from government schemes was asked prior to the question on access of households to latrine.”

The 71% access to toilets was still a significant improvement over the situation during the last survey period in 2010, when only 40% of the rural households had access to toilets.

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.

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

Swachh Bharat Mission

- October 2, 2014
- Under Dept. of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Sub-missions SBA (Gramin), SBA (Urban)
- National Statistical Office (NSO) Survey
  - Drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and housing condition—part of 76th NSS
  - Carried out between July - December 2018

Open Defecation Free (ODF)

- No visible feces in the environment
- Every household should use safe technology for disposal of feces
- ODF → “100% access + 100% use”
  - Household with access to latrine
  - Rural → 71.3% Urban → 96.2%
- Several states were declared ODF → NSO survey proves this wrong
  - Jharkhand—42% of the rural households had no access to toilets when it was declared ODF
  - Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka (37%), (34%), (30%)
**SBA (Gramin) → October 2018**

- 25 States & UT are ODF
- 28.7% of rural households had no toilet access in the country

**Significant Improvement**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% of HH with access to Toilet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Significant Change in behaviour**

- Rural
  - Male 94.7%
  - Female 95.7%
- Urban
  - Male 98%
  - Female 98.1%

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**Challenge: Disposal of fecal sludge**

- Only 10% of the toilets are built with twin leach pit system

**National Statistical Office (NSO)**

- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- Conducts large-scale sample surveys in All-India basis
- Data Collection
  - Household Surveys
  - Annual Survey of Industries etc.

*Significant role in the improvement of crop statistics*
UP’s primary health centres ailing, Centre says in LS

State has the worst doctor ratio and most number of centres without electricity, water supply or good roads.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)

• 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.

Doctor to Population ratio

• WHO prescribed level → 1:1000
• India → 1:1456

Rural-Urban Divide

• Urban to Rural doctor density ratio → 3.8:1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATUS OF PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES IN INDIA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(as on 31st March, 2018 for which information is available)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of functioning PHCs in India: 25,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of PHCs without Electric Supply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of PHCs without Regular Water Supply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of PHCS without All-Weather Motorable Approach Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of PHCs without a telephone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of PHCs without a computer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Answer to Lok Sabha Question on no. 88 on ‘Facilities in Primary Health Centres’

Lack of doctors because of absence of timely appointment/recruitment

• Around 8,572 posts for doctors lied vacant in 2018

Who are mainly responsible?

• State Governments → Why?
  → ‘Public health and sanitation; hospitals and dispensaries’ → State list
  → All the administrative and personnel matters about PHCs, recruitment of doctors at Primary Health Centres → lie with the State Govts.

Rural Health Statistics—2018

• Released by Statistics Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Centre nudging M.P., U.P. on Ken-Betwa

The ₹1,000-crore river interlinking project has been mired in controversy.

**Special Correspondent**

The government has said it is pursuing the Ujjayan project to link Jal Mahal to the Ken river in Uttar Pradesh and the Betwa river in Madhya Pradesh. The project is estimated to cost ₹1,000 crore and will help meet the water needs of both states. The project has been mired in several controversies. The most recent is a disagreement between the states on the share of water.

**Central government**

The government is pursuing the Ujjayan project to link Jal Mahal to the Ken river in Uttar Pradesh and the Betwa river in Madhya Pradesh. The project is estimated to cost ₹1,000 crore and will help meet the water needs of both states. The project has been mired in several controversies. The most recent is a disagreement between the states on the share of water.

**Transboundary water**

A view of the Betwa river in the Mphalpahari area near Fatehpur in Madhya Pradesh shows the Yamuna and the Betwa. A senior official of the Jal Shakti Ministry said the Betwa, in view of the current situation, is not an easy river to manage.

**The project includes** a flood control and irrigation system that will be built in two phases. The first phase, starting from 2020 and ending in 2022, will focus on flood control and irrigation. The second phase, starting in 2023 and ending in 2025, will focus on irrigation and water storage.

**Ken-Betwa Interlinking Project**

- Chambal, Sindh, Betwa and Ken are the right bank tributaries of the river Yamuna.

**The project envisages diversion of surplus waters of Ken basin to water deficit Betwa basin.**

- Ministry of water resources (Now Ministry of Jal Shakti) and Central Water Commission formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) in 1980.

- NPP, aimed at inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit ones, with a view to minimise the regional imbalances and optimally utilise the water resources.

- NPP has two components:
  - Himalayan Rivers Development
  - Peninsular Rivers Development

- Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
*The project involves building a 77 metre tall and a 2 km wide Dhaudhan dam on Ken river in the State of M.P. and a canal of 230 Km

**Advantages**
* Irrigating the Bundelkhand region of both the states
* Drinking water supply en-route of the canal

**Challenges**
* Deforestation of the Panna Tiger Reserve (M.P.)
* Submerging some of the villages (about 4,000 villages)
* Sharing of the waters of the project
* Cooperation between M.P. & U.P.
Manipur, J&K top UAPA cases list

Uttar Pradesh records highest number of arrests made under the Act

More than 35% of the cases registered under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) were recorded in Manipur, show the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) provided by the Home Ministry in the Rajya Sabha last week.

The state registered 330 cases in 2017 in which 352 persons were arrested. With 186 cases, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) recorded 17% of such cases, followed by Assam (120) which reported 41% of all cases registered under it in 2017 in the entire country. Uttar Pradesh (169 cases) recorded 12% and Bihar (52) accounted for 5%.

Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court. The anti-terror Act has death penalty and life imprisonment as maximum punishments.

The NCRB is yet to publish the crime report for 2018. While the U.P. has recorded only 125% of the cases, it topped the States in the number of arrests made. According to rules, the competent authority in the Home Ministry or the State government has to give sanction to file a charge sheet in seven days after being approached by the investigating agency.

Eradicating UAPA

Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy told the Rajya Sabha in a written reply, “As per information received from the NCRB, 1,283,999 and 1,584 persons were arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA) during 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively.”

He was responding to a question by CPI(M) MP Umar Ullah Khan. The Minister pointed out that the number of the FIRs and FIRs were still in jail for more years throughout the country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATES</th>
<th>No. of cases in 2017 under UAPA 1967</th>
<th>No. of arrests in 2017 under UAPA 1967</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jammu and Kashmir</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proportion of above 6 states out of 100% 92.34% (832 out of 901 cases registered) 91.89% (1,428 out of 1,554 arrests)

Source: Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy

Year-wise number of arrests under UAPA 1967

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of arrests</th>
<th>Percentage change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,128</td>
<td>-35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>11% decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1,554</td>
<td>55% increase</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Reply for Rajya Sabha – Unstarred Qn. 353 for 20. 11. 2019

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
* Crime in India 2018 - Not yet released by NCRB
* Normal time for investigation under UAPA - 90 days
  Maximum court permitted time – 180 days
  period for investigation – [90 days + 90 days]
  normal extension
  → based on Section 48 D of UAPA Act, 1967
* Once investigation is completed - charge sheet is submitted at court - Trial/Prosecution begins in court
* Maximum punishment under - Death Penalty
  UAPA Act, 1967 (Section 16)

* Accountability and Transparency issues with respect to the written questions of M.Ps.
  → Home Ministry has not responded to one of the questions raised by Member of Rajya Sabha
  → “How many of the undertrial persons are still in jail for more than five years under the UAPA act?”
Indian softshell turtles found abandoned on roadside
26 turtles rescued by forest department officials

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animals</th>
<th>Indian Soft Shell Turtle</th>
<th>Indian Star Tortoise</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Name</td>
<td>Nilsonnia gangetica</td>
<td>Geochelone elegans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUCN Red List of Threatened Species</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITES</td>
<td>Appendix - I</td>
<td>Appendix - I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WPA, 1972</td>
<td>Sch I (Part II)</td>
<td>Sch IV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Theyyam beats up people, SHRC files case

Video of performer thrashing devotees with a stick goes viral

The State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has taken suo motu case in connection with a video in which a Theyyam performer was seen beating up devotees during the temple rituals. The commission took the case after a video went viral in which a Theyyam performer was seen thrashing devotees with a stick as part of the ritual. No cases have been filed against the Theyyam or the organizing committee despite a few devotees getting injured.

The incident occurred during the performance of the Subramanya temple Theyyam on November 2 at the Arulmigu Subramanya temple at Kumbakonam, near here. The Theyyam performer recently protested against the government’s move to launch a certified course in Theyyam performance for everyone. Now only nine communities, mostly comprising Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, had the right to perform the ritual, Mr. Prasid added.

Course launched

The commission has registered the case because of its lack of understanding of the ritual and practices associated with Theyyam. Devotees consider Theyyam as a blessing. The ritual has been practiced for so many years, and no one has complained, he said.

PART A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)
- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian and World Geography—Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.

PART B—Main Examination

PAPER II

General Studies-I : Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.
- Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Dance-drama/ Folk Theatres

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States</th>
<th>States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhavai</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamasha</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jatra</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yakshagana</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CCRT, Min of Culture
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the National Commission for Minorities (NCM).

1. One of its functions is to monitor the working of the safeguards for minorities provided in the Constitution and in the laws enacted by Parliament and the State Legislatures.

2. It is a statutory body functioning under the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Q2. Consider the following statements.
1. Sikhs and Jains are notified minority communities in India.
2. The State governments can notify a community living under its territory as a minority community.
Which among the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q3. Consider the following statements.
1. The WHO prescribed Doctor to Population ratio is 1:1000.
2. India has already achieved this ratio.
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

Q4. Consider the following statements.
1. Chambal, Betwa and Ken rivers are the tributaries of the Yamuna river.
2. Ken-Betwa interlinking project aims to irrigate the BundelKhand region.
3. Panna Tiger Reserve is located in the state of Uttar Pradesh.
Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?
(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 2
(d) 2 only

Q5. Consider the following pairs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art Form</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bhavai</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yakshagana</td>
<td>Telangana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theyyam</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Which of the above mentioned pair/s is/are correctly matched?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only
Practice Question – Prelims
Answers

Q1. Option ‘c’ – Both 1 and 2
Q2. Option ‘a’ – 1 only
Q3. Option ‘a’ – 1 only
Q4. Option ‘b’ – 3 only
Q5. Option ‘d’ - 1 and 3 only

LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE

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