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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H – Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram;
The day of Boris

Labour lost because it fought a Brexit election as if it were just another general election. This decisive victory, the Conservative Party claimed, was a clear endorsement of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's leadership and his handling of the Brexit deal. The result was a huge majority for the Conservatives, giving them control of the House of Commons for the next five years.

Britain votes for Brexit

With a huge majority, this is Boris Johnson's opportunity to refashion the UK according to his beliefs. The British electorate has given him a mandate to deliver on his promises, and the Conservatives are now in a position to implement his policies.

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.
- 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.

- Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

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## POLITY OF UK VS INDIA

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**Despite massive victory, Boris Johnson faces a battle for Britain**

**Brexit**
- **Withdrawal of UK from European Union**
- **UK - member of EU since 1973**
- **Timeline of Brexit**
  - 2016 - Referendum on Brexit - UK to leave EU (Majority - Conservative party)
  - 2017 - Conservative party - Minority Govt. - Resistance to reach deal
    - Need to be approved by UK & EU Parliaments
  - Dec 2019 - Conservative Party forms majority Govt.; to push Brexit.
### The day of Boris: Labour lost because it fought a Brexit election as if it were just another general election

The decisive victory the Conservative Party clinched in Thursday’s election in Parliament gives British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who built his campaign around the promise to “get Brexit done”, a clear mandate to take the U.K. out of the European Union without further delay. Initial results show that his party is set to win 364 seats in the 650 member House of Commons, the greatest performance of the Conservatives in over three decades. The Labour, led by veteran socialist Jeremy Corbyn, is expected to win 208 seats, its worst performance in decades. It is Mr. Johnson’s victory. He is the one who called for an early election after reaching a new divorce deal with the EU. He turned the polls into a de facto Brexit referendum, arguing that only a stable Conservative government could take the U.K. out of the EU quickly and end the bogging down political standoff. His strategy was to consolidate the pro-Brexit vote, get a fresh mandate in Parliament and then quicken the divorce process. The Labour Party, on the other side, has been ambivalent on the question of what it is the best outcome to the 1975. More significantly, the party has made major gains in Labour strongholds in the northeast, north-west and north-east. Tory Boris’s pledge and the slogan to “leave”. The Blue Counts plus the slogan to “leave”. The Blue Counts plus the slogan to “leave”. The Blue Counts plus the slogan to “leave”. This is not necessarily bad news but certainly not one of its international standing, other strongholds despite huge cuts or public subventions.

### Britain votes for Brexit: With a thumping win, it’s Boris Johnson’s opportunity to realize the UK according to his beliefs

The British nation made a historic declaration of its freedom on Thursday. A no-cumulative mandate that can be made in the month and year ahead. The British nation will become a very different entity outside the EU. The result is, qualitatively and quantitatively, the second most successful in the nation’s history. The Conservatives have transferred from a party of the three in one that also represents the work, the culture and the trade. The result is a victory that not only consolidates the pro-Brexit vote, but also quickens the divorce process. The Labour Party, on the other side, has been ambivalent on the question of what it is the best outcome to the 1975. More significantly, the party has made major gains in Labour strongholds in the northeast, north-west and north-east. Tory Boris’s pledge and the slogan to “leave”. The Blue Counts plus the slogan to “leave”. The Blue Counts plus the slogan to “leave”. The Blue Counts plus the slogan to “leave”. This is not necessarily bad news but certainly not one of its international standing, other strongholds despite huge cuts or public subventions.

Despite massive victory, Boris Johnson faces a battle for Britain.

### EU warns of ‘challenging’ timeframe for U.K. trade deal

Member states will not accept it blindly, says EU Council

### External challenges

- **UK needs to renegotiate the trade deal with European Union**
- **Negotiations likely to extend beyond the transition period of 11 months**
- **If negotiation fail → No deal Brexit**
  - Both EU & UK will have trade impacts
- **UK also needs to renegotiate the trade deal with all the countries of the world post Brexit**
  - Including India

### Internal challenge

- **Demand for independence from UK**
- **voted against Britain in 2016 referendum**
- **Present elections in UK → Huge victory**
  - Independence Movements
  - Undermine the integrity of United Kingdom as one nation
Britain votes for Brexit

With a thumping win, this is Boris Johnson’s opportunity to reshape the UK, according to his beliefs.

The initial election results are the political equivalent of an earthquake. It is an seismic event that in the months and years ahead, the United Kingdom will become a very different country – politically, environmentally and economically.

In terms of its international standing, after almost a decade of international isolationism, the UK is now in a position to lead the world.

The new Prime Minister has made major gains in Labour strongholds in the north, northeast and southwest. Tony Blair’s Sagghati has fallen to them. More tellingly, Stonkeshire and Great Cimemly, which have never been won by the Tories, are now in their possession.

In terms of the swing from Labour to Tories, it was an astounding win. Even London constituencies such as Kensington, which voted 50% to remain in 2016, have gone their way. It is fair to say the Conservatives have transformed from a party of the future to one that now represents the values of classes and London.

INDIA - UK Relations - post Brexit

- Indian companies will be affected if there is a no deal Brexit
  - Capital outflows from UK
  - Vulnerable to changes in demand and currency values
- UK has identified India as a major trading and investment partner
  - India - UK Free Trade Agreement likely to be signed in future
  - But based on terms and conditions of Brexit
- Indian food and agro products sector will be benefitted because of Brexit

UPSC Mains Question – 2018
(For Reference only)
Q. India and USA are two large democracies. Examine the basic tenants on which the two political systems are based.

Practice Question – Mains
GS II
Q. India's political system is largely the remnant of the UK's political system. Do you agree? Compare the political system of India and UK. (150 words, 10 marks)

UPSC Mains Question – 2019
(For Reference only)
Q. What can France learn from the Indian Constitution’s approach to secularism?
Targets missed, Accessible India campaign's deadline extended

It aims at making public spaces friendly for the disabled

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The deadline for the government’s Accessible India campaign that aims at making public spaces friendly for persons with disabilities has been extended due to “slow progress,” the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has informed the Lok Sabha. Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Kishan Reddy said due to slow progress, revised deadlines have been extended to March 2020.

The decision was taken by the Central Advisory Board chaired by Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot.

Answering a question from Shri Sena MP Dhiraj Shastri, Mr. Reddy said: “Details of the facilities for the disabled at railway stations were not maintained, but the Indian Railways was committed to making its stations accessible.

Short-term facilities like standard ramps, non-slippery walkways, signage, disabled-friendly toilets and help desks are included in the plan.

In the long-term, inter-platform transfer and engraving on the edges of the platforms are proposed.

Regarding Central government buildings maintained by the Central Public Works Department, the reply said 21 CPWD buildings had been made accessible. In all, a total of 534.45 crore had been released for making 700 public buildings accessible around the country, the reply said. Under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, all existing and new public buildings have to follow the accessibility standards notified on June 15, 2017. The existing buildings were given five years to comply.

The original deadlines under the Accessible India campaign were July 2020 for conducting an accessibility audit of 25-50 of the most important government buildings in 50 cities and making them completely accessible and March 2018.

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Accessible India Campaign: Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan - 2015

- Dept. of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Based on Principle of Social model of disability
  1. Physical, social, structural and attitudinal barriers
- Campaign
  1. To build an inclusive society
  2. Equal opportunities

- 3 Pillars
  1. Built environmental accessibility
  2. Transport system accessibility
  3. Information and Communication Technology
  4. Ecosystem accessibility

- Deadline extended to March 2020 due to slow progress
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan is a national campaign to

a) End malnutrition among pregnant women and lactating mothers.

b) Minimise the air pollution in the state capitals.

c) Eradicate the practice of manual scavenging and rehabilitate the manual scavengers.

d) Achieve universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

UPSC Prelims Question – 2016

For Reference only

Q. ‘Rashtriya Garima Abhiyaan’ is a national campaign to

a) rehabilitate the homeless and destitute persons and provide them with suitable sources of livelihood.

b) release the sex workers from their practice and provide them with alternative sources of livelihood.

c) eradicate the practice of manual scavenging and rehabilitate the manual scavengers.

(d) release the bonded labourers from their bondage and rehabilitate them.
Twin troubles
Low growth and high inflation pose questions about the root cause of the crisis

Economic data released by the government on Thursday suggest that India may be slipping closer to stagnation. The index of industrial production (IPI) declined 3.3% in October, as against a healthy growth rate of 0.6% witnessed during the same month last year. Industrial output, it is worth noting, had already by 4.3% in September. At the same time, retail inflation jumped to 4.39% with a high of 5.0% in November fueled mainly by a sharp jump in food prices. Retail inflation is now at the upper end of the inflation rate targeted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) but might drop as food supplies hit the market. Low growth combined with high price inflation is a sure route for further headaches for policymakers. Economic growth has declined for six consecutive quarters now, making it one of the longest downturns in recent history. With inflation making its ugly head row, the RBI, which had rates stable in its recent policy meet, is unlikely to cut rates aggressively in the next few months at least. So it is entirely up to the government now to find ways to boost growth. Given the seriousness of the slowdown, the government cannot delay reforms.

For a long time, the government maintained that the economy’s growth rate was held back by the tight monetary policy stance adopted by the RBI under its previous governor. But with the benchmark interest rate being cut five times so far this year, the government can no longer shift blame on to the RBI. The familiar defence of the government is that the slowdown in growth is merely a cyclical one that will end sooner than later. But, regardless of the nature of the current slowdown, it cannot be denied that the Centre has fallen short on its promise of bringing about major structural reforms in the economy. Except for the recent cut in corporate tax rates, the government has not come up with any other significant reform in response to the slowdown. Further, the presence of low growth along with high inflation also raises questions about the root cause of the slowdown. Whether the Reserve Bank of India has underestimated the impact of the tax cuts or its inflationary expectations were too high, the current economic scenario is a case for a fresh assessment of the economic factors that can lead to sustained growth rate of the economy. Otherwise, further rate cut by the RBI might only add to the government’s doldrums by adding inflation in the wider economy.

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-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.

State of economy

- Index of Industrial Production
  - Performance of 3 sectors
    - Manufacturing
    - Mining
    - Electricity
  - Single representative figure to measure the general level of industrial activity in economy

- Contraction of 3.8%. (Nov 2019)
- Sep 2019 — Contraction of 4.3%
- Output decline in 3 sectors
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### Retail Inflation
- Risen to 5.5% (Nov 2019)
- Higher food prices
- In upper band of inflation target of RBI
- Author’s view might drop when fresh supplies hit market

### Decline in economic growth
- 6 Consecutive quarters

**Author’s view**
- India stepping closer to Stagflation
- Stagflation: combination of high inflation and low growth

### Steps normally taken to revive economy
- RBI → increase liquidity in economy → reduces Repo rate
- Banks → provides easy credit
  - Encourages economic growth
  - Leads to inflation [demand-pull]

### Current scenario
- RBI did not cut repo rate may not do so in next few months

### Actual root cause of slowdown
- Current reason stated → fall in consumer demand
- Author’s conclusion → supply-side constraints also

### Govt. should not delay reforms
- Recent structural reform → corporate tax rate cut

### Conclusion
- Economic reforms is the solution, otherwise further RBI rate cut will fuel inflation
UPSC Prelims Question – 2012
(For Reference only)
Q. In India, in the overall index of Industrial Production, the Indices of Eight Core Industries have a combined weight of 47.90%. Which of the following are among those Eight Core Industries?
   1. Cement
   2. Fertilizers
   3. Natural Gas
   4. Refinery products
   5. Textiles
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
(a) 1 and 5 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

UPSC Mains Question – 2019
GS-III
(For reference only)
Q. Do you agree with the view that steady GDP growth and low inflation have left the Indian economy in good shape? Give reasons in support of your arguments.

Practice Question – Mains
GS-III
Q. What do you mean by Stagflation? Discuss the measures to overcome the situation of stagflation in an economy. (10 marks, 150 words)
Exports contract for fourth month in a row

Imports see steeper decline at 12.7%

India's exports contracted for the fourth month in a row in November, dipping 0.34% to $25.98 billion, mainly on account of poor shipments of petroleum, gems & jewellery and leather products.

Exports too declined by 12.71% to $38.11 billion in November, narrowing the trade deficit to $12.12 billion, according to government data released on Friday.

Gold imports increased by 6.59% to $2.94 billion in the month. Trade deficit stood at $7.58 billion in November 2018. Out of the 30 key sectors, as many as 17 segments showed contraction in exports during the month under review.

Shipments of petroleum products, gems and jewellery, fruits and vegetables, leather and leather products and readymade garments of all textiles contracted by 13.12%, 8.14%, 15.10%, 5.29% and 6.52%, respectively. In November, oil imports declined 18.17% to $11.06 billion, while non-oil imports contracted 10.26% to $27.04 billion.

Cumulatively, during April-November 2019, exports declined 1.99% to $211.95 billion while imports contracted 8.91% to $318.78 billion.

Trade deficit for the period narrowed to $54.06 billion as against $82.47 billion in April-November 2018. EEPC India Chairman Ranjeet Sisodia said though engineering exports had put up a reasonably good show with 6.32% growth in November 2019, the external trade environment remains challenging and subdued.

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-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.

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**Balance of Payment (BoP)**

- Record of economic transactions between residents of a country and the rest in a year.
- Managed by RBI
- Two accounts
  - Current
    - Export and import of goods & services
  - Capital
    - Transactions resulting in changes in assets or liabilities
  - Financial Transfers
- Current account
  - Goods account/visible items
  - Service account/invisible items

**Two conditions**

- When receipts > Payments - Trade surplus
- When receipts < Payments - Trade deficit
  - Balance of Trade
    - Positive - surplus
    - Negative - deficit

- Exports dip by 0.34% in November
- Total export in November - $25.98 billion

- Import declined by 12.71% in November
- Total imports in November - $38.11 billion
  - Trade deficit = $12.12 billion, Nov 2019
  - $17.58 billion for November, 2018
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Balance of Payment (BoP).

1. It is the systematic record of all economic transactions, both current and capital, between the residents of the country and the rest of the world in a year.

2. The current account of BoP includes both visible and invisible trade.

Select the correct statement(s) from the codes given below.

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan is a national campaign to

a) End malnutrition among pregnant women and lactating mothers.
b) Minimise the air pollution in the state capitals.
c) Eradicate the practice of manual scavenging and rehabilitate the manual scavenger.
d) Achieve universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities
Q2. ‘Rashtriya Garima Abhiyaan’ is a national campaign to
(a) rehabilitate the homeless and destitute persons and provide them with suitable sources of livelihood.
(b) release the sex workers from their practice and provide them with alternative sources of livelihood.
(c) eradicate the practice of manual scavenging and rehabilitate the manual scavengers.
(d) release the bonded labourers from their bondage and rehabilitate them.

Q3. In India, in the overall index of Industrial Production, the Indices of Eight Core Industries have a combined weight of 47.90%. Which of the following are among those Eight Core Industries?
1. Cement
2. Fertilizers
3. Natural Gas
4. Refinery products
5. Textiles
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
(a) 1 and 5 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. Consider the following statements with reference to Balance of Payment (BoP).

1. It is the systematic record of all economic transactions, both current and capital, between the residents of the country and the rest of the world in a year.

2. The current account of BoP includes both visible and invisible trade.

Select the correct statement(s) from the codes given below.

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

Practice Question – Mains

Q1. India’s political system is largely the remnant of the UK’s political system. Do you agree? Compare the political system of India and UK. (150 words, 10 marks)
UPSC Mains Question – 2018
Q2. India and USA are two large democracies. Examine the basic tenants on which the two political systems are based.

UPSC Mains Question – 2019
Q3. What can France learn from the Indian Constitution’s approach to secularism?

Practice Question – Mains
GS-III
Q4. What do you mean by Stagflation? Discuss the measures to overcome the situation of stagflation in an economy. (10 marks, 150 words)

UPSC Mains Question – 2019
GS-III
Q5. Do you agree with the view that steady GDP growth and low inflation have left the Indian economy in good shape? Give reasons in support of your arguments.
Practice Question – Prelims Answers

Q1. Option ‘d’ - Achieve universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities
Q2. Option ‘c’ - eradicate the practice of manual scavenging and rehabilitate the manual scavengers.
Q3. Option ‘c’ – 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
Q4. Option ‘c’ - Both 1 and 2

LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE

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