## The Hindu News Analysis – 12th October 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H – Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram*
RTI violations go unpunished, says study

As the RTI Act makes it clear, a report card on transparency is due from the public information officers. But, for the most part, the implementation is woefully weak. This is evident from the Central Information Commission’s report card for 2018-19. The report shows that while the number of complaints received has increased, the number of cases disposed of has remained low. This is a worrying trend, as it indicates a lack of accountability on the part of the PIOs. The report also highlights the need for stronger enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with the RTI Act.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
- Development processes and the development industry—the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.

- 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

- Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections.

Right To Information Act, 2005

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Central Information Commission [CIC]</th>
<th>State Information Commission [SIC]</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Structure</strong></td>
<td><strong>Structure</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- 1 Chief Information Commissioner, not more than 10 Information Commissioners</td>
<td>- Same as CIC</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Appointment</strong></td>
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<td>- By President, on the recommendation of a Select Committee consisting of - Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Union Cabinet Minister</td>
<td>- By Governor, on the recommendation of a Select Committee consisting of - Chief Minister, Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly, State Cabinet Minister</td>
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<td><strong>Removal - By President</strong></td>
<td><strong>Removal - By Governor</strong></td>
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<td>- after Supreme court inquiry - misbehaviour, incapacity</td>
<td>- after Supreme court inquiry - misbehaviour, incapacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Other Grounds of removal - adjudged insolvent, office of profit, infamy of mind or body</td>
<td>- Other Grounds of removal - Same as CIC</td>
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Report card on the performance of Information Commissions in India

- Merely 3.17% of the cases violating Section 20 were penalised
- Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Mizoram and Tripura - no penalties at all
- Public Information Officers developing a culture of impunity
- Increasing number of pending cases
- Vacancies not filled
- People will lose hope in RTI Act

KSCSTE to roll out GLOBE programme

The Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) is all set to roll out a programme which aims at encouraging students to closely observe and interact with their immediate environment.

Context: The Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) to roll out GLOBE Programme.

The Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Programme:

- International Science and Education Program
- Enhances environmental literacy
- To understand the earth system and global environment
- Initiative of U.S. Government on Earth Day (22 April 1994)
- Sponsored by - US National Aeronautics & Space Administration
- Implemented through government to government agreements
- Indian Environmental Society (IES): Nodal agency in India
- A not-for-profit organisation
- Promoting environmental improvement initiatives

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper 1—(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.
Towards an Asian Century

As the world re-evaluates ties with China and India, there is an opportunity for a grand bargain at Mamallapuram.

China and India

- Civilisation states, Neighbours and members of future global triumvirate
- Addresses unique development issues
  - Different from rest of the world
  - Implicitly questions Western ideas and institutions
- Development goals approach
  - Divergent

Chinese approach towards its goals:

- Goals of China
  - By 2021 - Build a moderately prosperous society in China in all respects
  - By 2049 - Build a modern socialist China

- 4 pillars
  - 1st pillar
    - Monitoring of economic growth → Results
      - in terms of GDP → Huge foreign exchange reserves
      - in terms of per capita income → Growth in the income of the middle class
  - 2nd pillar
    - Infrastructure → Improvement in Chinese well-being
      - Construction accelerated from 2000 → Achieved saturation in 2013
      - China’s population moved to cities → Became middle class
### 4th pillar

**Technology**

- China - Global Technology Leader
  - High Speed Trains
  - Nuclear plants
  - 5G Technology (Huawei)
  - Artificial Intelligence
  - Quantum Computing

### Party System

- Membership → Based on invitation
- Elections at grass-roots level
- Representation of party in academic institutions
- Conducting regular programmes on current events of China at party schools
- Leaders of the party

**China’s foreign policy focus:**

- Digital economy → tool to generate middle class jobs
  → Boosted by BRI Initiative

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### Way forward:

- China and India need to work together for ‘Asian Century’, setting aside the differences
- Discussions should begin
- 2nd informal summit - Mamallapuram - an opportunity
‘Indigenous R&D needed to cut defence imports’

Lt. Gen. Naravane says the products must be ‘cheap & robust’

India was good in technology but “did not charge with the times,” said Lt. Gen. M.M. Naravane, Vice-Chief of Army Staff, while stressing on the need for indigenous research and development (R&D) to reduce defence imports. “If we don’t do it ourselves, we will always depend on imports. If the ‘Make’ policy fails, we will do it the hard way. We will not ask you unreasonable demands,” he said addressing the industry on Friday at a seminar on the Make-II procedure of Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) jointly organised by the Army and Industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Product development

Make-II allows private sector to take up product development on their own and pitch it to the services. Recently, the eligibility criteria for taking up projects has been raised to encourage small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Lt. Gen. Naravane added that there had to be some benefit to what was acquired and the product had to be ‘cheap and robust.’ “Because budgets are always under constraint,” he stated.

In the last two years, the Army has put out 32 projects under the Make-II category for industry to take up.

At the seminar, the Army unveiled a Make-II project to be taken up by the defence industry. To handhold industry and start up under Make-II, the service headquarters has set up project facilitation teams to act as the primary interface with the industry during the design and development stage.

“The facilitation teams will provide technical inputs, trial infrastructure and other facilities as required by the vendor,” the Defence Ministry had stated earlier.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.

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.

PAPER-IV


- Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

Civispedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy

- Statement by Vice Chief of Army Staff
  - Need to focus on indigenous research and development
- Defence Procurement Procedure, 2016
  - Procurement Policy
    - Buy
      - Buy Indigenously designed, developed, manufactured
      - Buy Indian
      - Buy Global, etc
    - Make
      - Make 1 - Government funded
      - Make 2 - Industry funded
  - Preference to indigenization of defence sector

Civispedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
Simplifications made to Make-2

- Relaxation of eligibility criterion
- Minimal documentation
- Local sourcing norms

More participation of MSMEs and defence startups

Facilitation teams by Indian Army

- Assist industries, startups in design and development stage

Wayanad sanctuary a haven for amphibians, reptiles

Herpetological survey identifies nine species of amphibians and four species of reptiles

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.
- 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.
News: Herpetofaunal survey in Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary

Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary

- Located in Kerala
- Part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
- Highest Peak
  - Karottikulam (1158 m)
- Important rivers
  - Kabini river - Kannarampuzha
  - Chevupuzha - Kurichiakupuzha
  - Bavalipuzha - Chedavathupuzha, etc
- Rich in biodiversity

Herpetofaunal Survey

- Objective: To identify the reptile and amphibian species in Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary
- Organised by Forest and Wildlife Department +
  - Kerala Forest Research Institute
  - Malabar Natural History Society
  - EDGE Species Programme of Zoological Society of London
- 54 reptile species recorded
- 44 amphibians recorded
  - Frogs - Toads - Caecilians
- 9 new species of amphibians + 5 new species of reptiles identified

IUCN Red list - Conservation Status

- Malabar Torrent Toad - Endangered
- Minervarya Frog - Endangered
- Annudi Bush Frog - Critically Endangered
- Small Tree Frog - Endangered

Monitor Lizard - CITES - Appendix I

WPA 1972 - Schedule I, Part II
Q1. Consider the following statements with reference to Central Information Commission (CIC).
1. The members of the Commission are appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.
2. The Commission has to submit an annual report to the President of India on the implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

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

Q2. Consider the following statements with reference to The Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) program.
1. It aims to promote the teaching and learning of science, enhance environmental literacy and stewardship, and promote scientific discovery.
2. The GLOBE program is initiated by UNESCO
3. In India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change is the nodal agency for the implementation of GLOBE program.

Which of the above given statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP), 2016.

1. It indicates a shift to indigenization of defence manufacturing.
2. The Make-2 programme under DPP will be funded and supported by the Government.

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

Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. Which of the following protected area is located in the state of Kerala?

a) Nagarhole National Park
b) Valley of Flowers National Park
c) Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary
d) Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary

Practice Questions – Prelims Answers

12-10-2019

1. d, Neither 1 nor 2
2. a, 1 only
3. a, 1 only
4. c) Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary

Practice Question – Mains GS-II

Q. “China and India need to work together for Asian century, setting aside the differences”. Discuss.

(150 words, 10 marks)