ANALYSIS

Modi contradicts Amit Shah's statement in LS, accuses Congress and 'urban Naxals' of spreading lies

With 2 more deaths, U.P. toll climbs to 18

Permission denied for DMK rally, police tell HC

We will go ahead with protest: Stalin

Mohamed Imranullah S.
Chennai

The Madras High Court on Sunday recorded the submission of Greater Chennai City Police Commissioner A.K. Viswanathan that he had refused permission for a rally planned by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and its allies in Chennai on Monday to protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act of 2019.

The judges ordered that if the rally is held, it should be recorded using drone cameras so that the political leaders concerned could be held accountable.

S. Vaidyanathan and P.T. Asha recorded the submission of government pleader V. Jayaprakash Rajan that the police would take necessary action if the rally was conducted despite the refusal of permission from the Commissioner of Police.

The judges ordered that if the rally is held, it should be recorded using drone cameras so that the political leaders concerned could be held accountable.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>News Articles</th>
<th>Page Number*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ironing out the wrinkles in trade disputes adjudication (Editorial)</td>
<td>8 10 8 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>‘Counter-cyclical steps, structural reforms needed to tackle slowdown’</td>
<td>11 13 11 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Food inflation spike transient: RBI Governor</td>
<td>1 1 1 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>26 beedi leaf units in Adilabad forests to be denotified</td>
<td>- - 6 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>More plastic pollution on Maharashtra beaches than Karnataka, Goa: study</td>
<td>- 7 - -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Another answer to the ecological perils of plastic</td>
<td>- - 4 -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>India, Iran agree to accelerate Chabahar port development</td>
<td>10 12 10 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Practice cum Revision - MCQs</td>
<td>@end of the video</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; T – Thiruvananthapuram; H - Hyderabad; D – Delhi
Ironing out the wrinkles in trade disputes adjudication

The fall of the World Trade Organization Appellate Body is an opportunity to rectify issues with the present system.

The Appellate Body was set up in 1995 as a “safety valve” against erroneous panel reports in return for the membership agreeing to adopt reports using the “reverse consensus” rule in lieu of the “positive consensus” rule. Under the erodible positive consensus rule, reports issued by panels composed of four disputes under GATT could be adopted only if each of the contracting states loused in adoption. This effectively handed a veto to the losing state.

However, under the reverse consensus rule, the report would be automatically adopted, unless each member objected to the adoption of a report. To eliminate the likelihood of erroneous panel reports, the membership proposed the establishment of an Appellate Body, and the adoption of the report was postponed till after such appeal was adjudicated by the Appellate Body.

The fall of the Appellate Body affects the way disputes are handled. The Appellate Body’s ability to appeal an adverse panel ruling and effectively multilateralism is threatened by the absence of a functioning Appellate Body.

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.

- 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.

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

PAPER-IV


- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
Dysfunctional appellate body of World Trade Organisation (WTO)

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

* Global organisation, deals with the rules of trade between nations
* Goal – To ensure trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible
* WTO is not a UN body
* HQ: Geneva, Switzerland
* 164 members; India is also a member
Dispute Settlement Body (DSB)

- Comprised of the representatives of all the WTO members

Appellate Body (AB)

- Created by the DSB as a standing tribunal to hear appeals from WTO panel reports
- Can uphold, modify or reverse the legal findings and conclusions of panel reports
- Composed of Seven members
  - Appointed by the DSB to serve for four year term
  - The members can be re-appointed once and each person may be reappointed for another four-year term
- Appointment of members based on consensus by the DSB
- As a “Safety valve” against erroneous panel reports based on “reverse consensus” in lieu of “positive consensus”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive Consensus</th>
<th>Reverse Consensus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* under GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs &amp; Trade)</td>
<td>* WTO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* only if each of the contracting states favoured its adoption</td>
<td>* The report would be automatically adopted, unless, each member objected to the adoption of a report</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Possible Options**

* resolve all contentious issues
* speed up the process of appointment of judges
* alternative ways to resolve the disputes by encouraging regional appellate bodies or no appeal mechanism for the speedy disposal of the disputes
**Interview | Shaktikanta Das**

We are watchful of the evolving food situation — at this point it looks transient. But we need some time to confirm that, says RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

---

**Interview**

Shaktikanta Das: We are watching the food situation very closely. At this point, it seems to be transient, but we need some time to confirm that. The situation is evolving, and we are keeping a close watch on it.

**Question:** What are the factors that are contributing to the current food inflation?

**Shaktikanta Das:** The factors contributing to the current food inflation are:

1. Weather-related shocks
2. Supply disruptions
3. Speculative buying

**Question:** What measures is the RBI considering to address the food inflation?

**Shaktikanta Das:** The RBI is considering several measures to address the food inflation, including:}

1. Reducing interest rates to lower the cost of credit
2. Promoting food production and supply
3. Increasing food imports
4. Controlling speculative buying

**Question:** What is the current status of food inflation?

**Shaktikanta Das:** The current status of food inflation is that it is evolving and we need some time to confirm its nature. The situation is transient, but we need to be vigilant.

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**Table:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper I</th>
<th>Preliminary Examination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current events of national and international importance</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Paper IV**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development, employment.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Civispedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy**
⇒ Cyclic economic slowdown
  * Cycles of economy - peak performance, followed by downturn and a trough of low activity
  * Can be addressed with fiscal and monetary policies
  * Need counter cyclical measures

⇒ Structural economic slowdown
  * Due to large scale change in existing economic pattern
  * Need structural changes - as carried out in 1991

⇒ Monetary Policy Committee
  1. Executive body
  2. 6 members - 3 from RBI, 3 from Centre
  3. Inflation target (CPI - Combined)

⇒ C. Govt. + RBI - Inflation target is 4 ± 2% for 2016-2021
  * Based on Section 45ZA of RBI Act, 1934
  * Upper limit: 6%; lower limit: 2%
  * Inflation within a limit is good for economy

⇒ Headline Inflation - CPI (combined)
  * Measure of total price rise including food and energy

⇒ Core Inflation = Headline Inflation - (food + energy)
  * Food, beverage, pan, ~ 50% of CPI basket tobacco etc.
Move aimed at controlling forest fires and to facilitate free movement of tigers

S. HARPAL SINGH
ADILABAD

In a bid to make forests safer for wildlife in the former composite Adilabad district, the Forest Department has proposed to denotify 26 of the nearly 80 beedi leaf units in the area. Nine of these fall in the Chengal and Bellampalli Divisions of Mancherial district in Kowal Tiger Reserve (KTR), Forest Circle; 16 in Adilabad and Kapaznagar divisions, and one in Uthoer Division, all in Adilabad Circle.

“The denotification orders are likely to come in a day or two,” reveals KTR field director C.P. Vinod Kumar, who is also the Conser-vator of Forests, Adilabad Circle. “The move is aimed at controlling forest fires in the given area so that the movement of tigers goes unhindered,” he points out.

Fighting forest fires
Thousands of fires are lit in the forest every year between mid-January and April, allegedly by people connected with beedi leaf collection. Instead of spending money and putting in efforts to prune tenda plants at the beginning of the season, these people set the forest flor on fire which races burnt tenda plants with fresh ones.

“We will tell villagers about the denotification once the orders are issued so that they do not indulge in collection of beedi leaves any more,” Mr. Vinod Kumar says. In addition to relief from forest fires, wild animals will also be disturbed less due to decreased foray into the forest by villagers who go out to collect beedi leaves, he asserts.

To impact livelihoods
“The denotification of the units will severely impact livelihoods of thousands of people in rural areas,” says P. Varaprasad Rao, president of Beedi Leaves and Forest Contractors Association, Hyderabad. “There is no guarantee that the incidence of fires will come down as the major reason for fires is the carelessness of villagers,” he avers.

“The Maharashtra government has notified beedi leaf units in the buffer areas of adjoining Tadoba and Pench Tiger Reserves,” he says. “We have also taken up a campaign against forest fires in areas of our operation in Maharashtra,” he adds to indicate that contractors too are a conscientious lot.

Counteracting the argument, Mr. Vinod Kumar reasons, “In Maharashtra, the government has great support from people who refrain from igniting forest fires and disturbing the habitat. We can’t take chances considering heavy movement of tigers from Maharashtra into our forest territory.”

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


- Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country - different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.
- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
Tendu leaves

- Leaves of Diospyros melanoxylon
- Commonly known as Tendu, Abnus in Andhra Pradesh, Kendu in Odisha and West Bengal, Tembru in Gujarat, Kari in Kerala, Tembhurni in Maharashtra and Bali Tupra in Tamil Nadu
- Abundant in Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, U.P., Gujarat, T.N. and West Bengal

- Tendu leaves - used as wrappers of tobacco to produce ‘bidi’ (beedi); burnt and their ash used in tooth powder
- Most suitable bidi wrapper
  - enormous production
  - agreeable flavour
  - flexibility
  - resistance to decay
  - capacity to retain fires
- Tendu or Kendu leaves
  - Minor Forest Produce as per section 2(i) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006
* Provide seasonal employment to millions of tendu leaves collectors, every year

* Usually coppiced in February
  - Stems are cut at 15 cms above the ground
  - Leaves will sprout after coppicing
  - Semi-mature leaves - collected - from 1st week of April to June

* Concerns
  - Pruning vs Firing
  - To avoid cost of cutting
  - Such fires
    - Hinder the movement of tigers
    - Affects local biodiversity

* Madhya Pradesh
  - Accounts for 25% of total tendu leaves production of the country

* Tiger Reserves & Location
  - Kawal Tiger Reserve (Telangana)
  - Tadoba - Andheri Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra)
  - Pench Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra)

Project Tiger

* Launched in 1973
* 50 Tiger reserves in India (As on August, 2019)
More plastic pollution on Maharashtra beaches than Karnataka, Goa: study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PANAJI
Beaches in Maharashtra are more polluted with micro plastics and macro plastics than those in Goa and Karnataka, according to a study conducted by a research institute. The study has blamed plastic industries located near the shore and increased tourism activities for the pollution.

"The highest abundance of macro and micro plastic contaminants is found on beaches in Maharashtra at the high tide line as compared to Karnataka and Goa," said the study carried out by Goa-based National Institute of Oceanography (NIO).

"Such a phenomenon of finding macro and micro plastics in abundance on Maharashtra beaches suggests that the contaminants are land-based, like (coming from) near shore plastic industries, port areas, petroleum industries, and high tourism activities," it said.

The study, titled ‘Assessment of macro and micro plastics along the west coast of India: abundance, distribution, polymer type and toxicity’, was published in Netherlands-based journal ‘Chemosphere’ last week.

The researchers conducted the assessment of macro and micro plastic contamination for two years on 10 beaches along the western coast of India and their toxic effects on marine organisms.

The plastic contaminants on these beaches were found in various colours like white, pale yellow, dark brown, green, blue and red, said the study, led by NIO scientists Mahua Saha and Dishant Maharana.

Another answer to the ecological perils of plastic

An MSc student develops a bio straw from a common invasive grass species called ‘Potha’

HIREN UNNIKRISHNAN
KOTTAYAM
For decades, the image of a brightly coloured plastic straw in a fresh coconut or tropical cocktail served as the poster picture of a ‘really cool life’.

The world, however, has moved on and those little plastic tubes now signal a catastrophic damage to the ecology.

Amidst the rush to find an organic and durable alternative to this single-use plastic material, Shiju Joy, a second-year MSc student with the School of Environmental Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University in Kottayam, has now come up with a zero-waste solution to the issue.

 Named the bio straw, the product was developed from the stem of a common invasive grass species, locally called ‘Potha’.

The student began looking into the organic solution after being taken aback by the pictures of wild and aquatic animals ingesting plastic.

He zeroed in on the grass stem after a six-month-long search, which began with the bamboo stalks and expanded to other alternatives under the guidance of his teachers at the varsity.

*The grass, which belongs to the Pennisetum species, has a hollow stem and can be used after cleaning with distilled water and subjected to a specific treatment process to prevent microbial growth,* explained Mr. Joy.

To improve the durability component, he suggests the treated tubes to dry under the sun for certain hours.

*"If treated and stocked properly, these straws will have a shelf-life of up to 10 weeks, which could be sold at a price almost equal to or even less than the plastic straws," he added.

Mr. Joy now seeks to take up the bio straw’s production on a commercial scale with the varsity’s help. As part of it, he has also moved an application for patent protection.

Commenting on the initiative, Dr. C.I.T. Aravindakumar, Pro-Vice Chancellor, MGU, said the varsity would soon take up a research on expanding the shelf life of the bio straw at least up to one year.

Grass-roots initiative

“It is a significant grass-roots initiative with immense growth potential, as these bio straws are kept free of any chemicals or preservatives. The varsity has decided to promote the commercial production of these bio straws through the Business Incubation Centre under it besides exploring the possibilities of its marketing as well,” he said.
### Plastic Terminologies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plastic Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Macroplastics</strong></td>
<td>are large (&gt;20 mm) plastic debris such as plastic bottles [1].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mesoplastics</strong></td>
<td>are large plastic particles such as virgin resin pellets and are usually defined as 5–10 mm in range [4].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Microplastics</strong></td>
<td>are small plastic fragments typically less than (&lt;5 mm) that are derived from the breakdown of macroplastics [1].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nanoplastic</strong></td>
<td>are small microplastic particles defined in the range 0.2–2 mm [3].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Microbeads/ microexfoliates</strong></td>
<td>are small plastic granules commonly manufactured and used in personal care products such as toothpaste and facial cleansers [9].</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*High Tide Line*
- Line of intersection of the land with the water's surface at the maximum height reached by a rising tide.

*Low Tide Line*
- Line of intersection of the land with the water's surface at the minimum height reached by a falling tide.

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Source: UNEP
**Findings**

* Abundance of macro and microplastic contaminants on beaches in Maharashtra at the HTL as compared to Karnataka and Goa

* White-coloured plastics observed most frequently in studied beaches

* Litopenaeus vannamei (commercially important shrimp species) recorded toxicological changes at highest exposure dose of PE microbead

**Reasons for plastic pollution in beaches**

1. Near shore industries
   - Plastic industries
   - Petroleum industries

2. Increased tourism activities

[**National Institute of Oceanography (NIO)**](#)

* One of the constituent laboratory of CSIR

* Established on 1st Jan 1966 following International Indian Ocean Expedition in the 1960s

* Headquartered at Dona Paula, Goa

* Multi-disiplinary oceanographic research institute

* Focus: To observe and understand special oceanographic characteristics of the Indian Ocean
National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)

* Established in November 1993
* Ministry of Earth Sciences, GoI
* Chennai, Tamil Nadu

* To develop reliable indigenous technologies to solve engineering problems - harvesting of non-living & living resources in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone

Second News Article

* Post-Graduate Student, School of Environmental Sciences, has invented a bio-straw

  - from the stem of a common invasive grass species

    - locally called as ‘potha’ grass

    - species: Pennisetum

    - has hollow stem

    - can be used after cleaning with distilled water and subjecting to a specific treatment process

      - to prevent microbial growth

  - As of now, shelf life: 10 weeks

  - Cost-effective & environment-friendly
India, Iran agree to accelerate Chabahar port development

Indians in Tehran raise concerns over Citizenship Act

SUHASINI HAJAR
NEW DELHI

Days after his visit to Washington, External Affairs Min-
ister Subrahmanyam Jaish-
ankar met with Iranian
Foreign Minister Javad Zarif
for a meeting of the 19th In-
dia-Iran joint commission, in-
cluding talks on the Cha-
bahar port, during a visit
that could see him dealing
with concerns of Indian ex-
patriates over the Citizen-
ship (Amendment) Act as
well.

In a tweet after the meet-
ing on Sunday, Mr. Zarif said they had “excellent discus-
sions on closer bilateral rela-
tions and regional and glo-
bal issues affecting our
respective countries,” ad-
ding that India-Iran ties are “ancient, historic and
unbreakable”.

Productive meeting
Mr. Jaishankar said the meet-
ing with Mr. Zarif and the
Iranian delegation had been
“very productive”. “We re-
viewed the entire gamut of
our cooperation [and] agreed
on accelerating our Cha-
bahar project,” he said in
a tweet.

The meeting of the two
ministers was the first since
last month, when Mr. Zarif
had told a group of visiting
Indian journalists that he
was “disappointed” that In-
dia had allowed itself to be
“bullied” by the United
States and stopped all oil im-
ports from Iran. Speaking in
Delhi, Iran’s Ambassador Ali
Chegeni had earlier suggest-
ed that India’s adherence to
U.S. sanctions was also af-
fecting Chabahar port de-
velopment plans.

In Washington last week,
however, a senior U.S. offi-
cial made it clear that it
would continue its “narrow
exemption” to India to de-
velop the Chabahar port, re-
cognising its role as “as a life-
line to Afghanistan in terms
for India to be able to export
humanitarian supplies and
potentially helping Afghanis-
tan diversify its export op-
portunities.”

Subsequently, diplomats
from India, Iran and Afghan-
istan met in Delhi on Friday
and discussed several new
initiatives for the trilateral
project at Chabahar.

Citizenship Act bagged
Meanwhile, the Mehr news
agency reported that a
“number of Indian business-
persons, professionals, un-
iversity and seminary stu-
dents and scholars living in
Iran” sought a meeting with
Mr. Jaishankar to discuss
protests in India.

MEA officials did not re-
pond to a query about
whether the groups had
been granted a meeting with
Mr. Jaishankar, or if the CAA
had come up during his talks
with the Iranian leadership.
Mr. Jaishankar is expected to
meet with Iranian President
Hasan Rouhani before he
leaves Tehran on Monday
and travel next to Oman for
bilateral talks.

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.

- 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.
News

* Indian External Affairs Minister in Iran for 19th India-Iran joint commission

**India - Iran bilateral relations**

* Shared borders till 1947 - Strong Commercial, energy, cultural and people to people links
* Diplomatic links established in 1950
* 2001: Tehran Declaration
* 2003: The New Delhi Declaration

1) Cultural ties
   * People to people exchange

2) Commercial ties
   * Bilateral trade during 2018-19: USD 17 billion
   * Dominated by Indian import of Iranian Crude oil
   * India stopped oil imports from Iran
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements with reference to World Trade Organization (WTO).

1. It's not a UN body but deals with the rules of trade between the members of the United Nations only.

2. The members of the WTO have right to approach its Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) to resolve their disputes.

3. The Appellate Body of DSB is composed of seven members with a four-year tenure.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below.

(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 2
(d) 1 and 3
Q2. Consider the following statements.

1. The RBI Act 1934 enables RBI to determine the inflation target in terms of the Consumer Price Index on its own.

2. The Monetary Policy Committee has set an inflation target of 6± 2% for the period 2016-2021.

3. Wholesale price Index is used to determine inflation target.

Which among the above statements are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) None of the above
Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to the ‘Tendu leaves’.
1. It is a Minor Forest Produce.
2. The leaves are used as wrappers of tobacco to produce bidi (beedi).
3. Madhya Pradesh is one of the leading producers of Tendu leaves.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2, and 3
Practice Question – Prelims
Q4. In which one of the following States is Kawal Tiger Reserve located?

a) Bihar  
b) Tamil Nadu  
c) Arunachal Pradesh  
d) Telangana
Practice Question – Prelims

Q5. Consider the following statements with respect to the National Institute of Ocean Technology.

1. It is one of the constituent laboratories of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research.

2. The main aim of starting this institute is to develop reliable indigenous technologies to solve the various engineering problems associated with harvesting of non-living and living resources in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone.

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
Q6. Consider the following.

1. Persian Gulf
2. Gulf of Oman
3. Caspian Sea
4. Red Sea
5. Black Sea

Which of the above shares boundaries with Iran?

a) 1, 2, and 3 only
b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
d) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Option ‘b’ – 2 and 3
Q2. Option ‘d’ – None of the above
Q3. Option ‘d’ – 1, 2, and 3
Q4. Option ‘d’ – Telangana
Q5. Option ‘b’ – 2 only
Q6. Option ‘a’ – 1, 2, and 3 only
Q. What are the key areas of reform if the WTO has to survive in the present context of ‘Trade War’, especially keeping in mind the interest of India? (250 words, 15 Marks)
LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE

SUBSCRIBE