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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>News Articles</th>
<th>Page Number*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A welcome debate on electoral reforms (Editorial)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pothamala menhirs stand guard on ancient necropolis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Japan’s Hayabusa2 probe touches down on asteroid</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Re-admit Maldives into Commonwealth: India</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Jobless growth becomes more systemic (Editorial)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Practice cum Revision - MCQs</td>
<td>@end of the video</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A welcome debate on electoral reforms

A number of practical and constructive proposals were raised by Opposition parties in Parliament last week.

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.

- Separation of powers between various organs disputed redressal mechanisms and institutions.
- Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

Debate on Electoral Reforms in Rajya Sabha

* Initiated by TMC MP

* 6 major themes
  - Appointment System of CEC + other election commissioners
  - Money Power
  - Electronic Voting Machines
  - Simultaneous Elections
  - Role of Social Media (Cheat India platforms)
  - Use of govt. data and surrogate advertisements to target certain sections of voters

1. Appointment System of Election Commissioners
   - Article 324 - President appoints CEC + other ECs

→ The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Act, 1991

- Tenure - 6 years / upto 65 years of Age
- Role of Executive → Influences appointment
- CEC + other ECs → must be politically neutral
- ‘ Collegium ’ system of appointing CEC + other ECs

2. Money Power

→ Congress MP:

- Electoral Bonds - Absurd
- State Funding to Political Parties

* Setting up a National Electoral Fund
* Based on the number of votes obtained by the political parties
Crowdfunding in the form of small donations
Unrealistic expenditure limits set by EC
  * Raise/Remove the expenditure limits, to encourage transparency
→ CPI - Banning corporate donations in elections

3. EVMs
→ Ballot papers must be reintroduced - oppn parties
  * Few opposition parties have supported EVMs
  → BJD ⇒ Reduction in election related violence
    ⇒ VVPAT counting at the beginning of the counting process
→ BSP ⇒ Postal Ballot should be scanned before counting ⇒ Transparency

5. Other Issues debated regarding Electoral Reforms

1. Internal Democracy
  → BJD ⇒ Independent regulator to supervise and ensure inner-party democracy

2. Representation in the elections ⇒ Reforms required
  → First past the post system ⇒ Not representational
  → DMK ⇒ 2014 LS elections in UP - BSP
    vote share - 20%
    Seats - '0'
  → DMK, CPI, CPI(M) ⇒ Demand for Proportional Representation System
  → Few other MPs ⇒ Mixed System (of both the above)

4. Simultaneous Elections
  → Ruling Party Claims:
    * Minimum cycle of elections instead of 'One nation one election'
    → Lesser expenditures
    → Maximum governance
    → No electoral fatigue
  → Opposition Party Claims:
    * TMC ⇒ Consultation of constitutional experts
    ⇒ Govt must publish a 'White Paper'
    * CPI ⇒ "Unconstitutional and Unrealistic"
      ⇒ "Accountability should hold precedence over stability"

3. Electoral Rolls:
  → YSRCP ⇒ 'Fidelity of Electoral Rolls'
  → BSP, SP ⇒ Common electoral roll for all 3 tier of a democracy
    * Centre, State, Local bodies

4. Ruling Party Advantage
  → SP-MP ⇒ All MPs/MLAs should resign
    6 months before elections
    * Centre ⇒ National Govt
    * States ⇒ Governor's Rule
Practice Question – Mains
GS – II

Q. “Free, Fair and more representative elections is the need of the hour than simultaneous election”. Discuss.

1. No. of phases in elections must be reduced
   - Possible by raising more security forces
   - Reduction in election expenditure

2. Election Commission of India should be vested with power to de-register political parties

3. Governments should carry out electoral reforms by having long-term national interests in mind, instead of immediate electoral gains

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)
- Current events of national and international importance.
- History of India and Indian National Movement.

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.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Which of the following best describes the term, ‘menhir’ sometimes seen in the news?
   a) Large cemetery in an ancient city
   b) A long monumental stone of historic value
   c) Ancient paintings
   d) None of the above
Q. The “Hayabusa 2” mission was launched by which among the following space agency?

a) CNES
b) ISRO
c) JAXA
d) ESA

Practice Question – Prelims

Hayabusa – 2

* Launched by Japan
* 1st Spacecraft to collect sub-surface material from a celestial body apart from the moon
* Celestial body → Asteroid → Ryugu (300 million kms away)
* Mission of Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

- Launched → Arrived
  - Dec 2014 → June 2018
- Purpose → to collect surface samples from the asteroid
- 4 deployable surface landers & explosive devices
- Explosive devices → Created crater on the asteroid
  - Collect sub-surface samples

1st touchdown & sample collection – Feb 2019
2nd touchdown & sample collection – July 2019

Expected to return to Earth by 2021

Successor to Hayabusa (Japanese → Falcon)

Hayabusa → Collected dust samples from a smaller potato shaped asteroid & returned in 2010 to Earth

Other Significant Asteroid Missions by different space agencies

- Near - Shoemaker → 1996 → NASA
- Hayabusa → 2003 - 2010 → JAXA
- OSIRIS - REx → 2016 → NASA
- Dawn Mission → 2007 - 2018 (Retired) → NASA
Re-admit Maldives into Commonwealth: India

India has urged the Commonwealth to expedite readmission of the Maldives as a member country. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar conveyed India’s stand at the 5th Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting in London. “The External Affairs Minister congratulated the member countries on the 70th anniversary of the Commonwealth. He also noted that India is well on the path to fulfill all the commitments made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018. The Minister called for fast-tracking of the process of readmission of the Maldives to the Commonwealth,” the Ministry of External Affairs said.

The support came weeks after Mr. Jaishankar visited the Maldives in connection with the meeting of the Commonwealth foreign ministers. The Maldives withdrew from the Commonwealth during the tenure of its President Abdulla Yameen in 2016.

⇒ 9-11 July 2019 - Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers’ Meeting
⇒ India - to fast track the process of re-admission of Maldives
⇒ Maldives withdrew in 2016 during the tenure of its President Abdullah Yameen
⇒ At present, number of member countries in the Commonwealth - 53
⇒ Last to join - Rwanda - 2009

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.
• Important International institutions, agencies and their structure, mandate.

⇒ “The Commonwealth” - 1949
⇒ Before 1949 - “British Commonwealth of Nations”
⇒ Since 1949, independent countries from 5 regions have become members
1. The Africa
2. The Caribbean and the Americas
3. Asia
4. Europe
5. The Pacific
⇒ The membership today is based on “free and equal voluntary cooperation”
⇒ Rwanda, Mozambique - have no historical ties to the British Empire
⇒ Zimbabwe - withdrew in 2003
⇒ Gambia - withdrew in 2013
⇒ rejoined in 2018
⇒ 2019 - 70th Anniversary of the Commonwealth
⇒ New Delhi
⇒ HQ of CHRI - Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
- Premier body promoting Human Rights in the member countries of “The Commonwealth”
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. All the member countries of the Commonwealth were countries which once had historic ties with the British empire.

2. India and Maldives are member countries in this association of ‘The Commonwealth’.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 and 2
Editorial

* Authors substantiate ‘Jobless growth’ based on ‘Periodic Labour Force Survey 2017-18’

* 2 Issues:
  → Share of labour force - Shrinking
  → Unemployment levels - rising

* PLFS (2017-18) vs NSS 68th round (2012)
  → Labour force Participation Rate:
    \[ \text{Unemployment Rate} = \frac{\text{No. of unemployed Persons}}{\text{Total population}} \times 100 \]
    \[ = \frac{\text{No. of employed + No. of unemployed Persons}}{\text{No. of employed + No. of unemployed Persons}} \times 100 \]
  → 2012 → 55.5% (46.8 Crores)
  → 2017-18 → 49.7% (46.2 Crores)

* Dimension of Unemployment
  → Location - Urban, Rural
  → Gender - Men, Women
    - Urban Women - 10.8%
    - Urban Men - 7.1%
    - Rural Men - 5.8%
    - Rural Women - 3.8%

* Aspects of unemployment in women
  → Exclusion of women population from labour force
    - Women are not able to access employment when included in labour force
      - 31% → 24%

* Unemployment rates among the educated

* Unemployment levels keep increasing with the education levels

* Reasons:
  → Waiting for specialised jobs
  → Not economically deprived
* Govt’s inability to provide employment to the educated
  → Govt - Economic loss
  → Educated unemployed persons - Demoralising experience
Unemployment rates:

- Urban Women - 19.8%
- Rural Women - 17.3%
- Rural Men - 10.5%
- Urban Men - 9.2%

Unemployment rates among the youth:

- Age group - 15-29 years
- Overall youth - 17.8%

Genderwise in urban areas only:
- Urban Women - 27.2%
- Urban Men - 18.7%

Authors

- Trend of ‘Jobless Growth’
- Organised Sector → All Sectors
  - Generalised pattern
- Thorough re-examination of missing linkages between growth & employment is required

PRACTICE QUESTIONS DISCUSSION
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Which of the following best describes the term, ‘menhir’ sometimes seen in the news?
   a) Large cemetery in an ancient city
   b) A long monumental stone of historic value
   c) Ancient paintings
   d) None of the above

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. The “Hayabusa 2” mission was launched by which among the following space agency?
   a) CNES
   b) ISRO
   c) JAXA
   d) ESA
Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Consider the following statements.

1. All the member countries of the Commonwealth were countries which once had historic ties with the British empire.

2. India and Maldives are member countries in this association of ‘The Commonwealth’.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 and 2

Practice Question – Mains

GS – II

Q. “Free, Fair and more representative elections is the need of the hour than simultaneous election”. Discuss.
Practice Question – Prelims

Answers

Q1. Option ‘b’ – A long monumental stone of historic value

Q2. Option ‘c’ – JAXA

Q3. Option ‘d’ - Neither 1 and 2