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Govt. mulling changes to laws to address inter-regulatory issues

PM discusses economy at FSDF meet

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held a review meeting on Thursday with the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDF) during which she discussed the state of the economy in detail.

“The Council reviewed the current global and domestic macro-economic situation and financial stability and vulnerabilities issues, including those concerning NBFCs and credit rating agencies,” the government said in a release.

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-IV


- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDF):

- Apex level forum → Setup in 2010
- Body to strengthen and institutionalise the mechanism
  - maintaining financial stability
  - enhancing inter-regulatory coordination
  - promoting financial sector development

Composition:
- Chairman → Union Finance Minister
- Members:
  - Ministers of State incharge of DEA
  - Heads of all Financial Sector Regulatory (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDAI, IBBI)
  - Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, DEA

- Secretary:
  - Dept of Financial Services
  - Min of Corporate Affairs
  - Min of Electronics & IT

- Chief Economic Adviser

Responsibility:
- deals with issues relating to
  - Financial Stability
  - Financial Sector Development
  - Inter-regulatory Coordination
  - Financial literacy
  - Financial inclusion
  - Macroprudential Supervision of the economy
FSOC Sub-Committee:

* Headed by RBI Governor
* Members:
  * All members of FSOC
  * Additional Secretary DEA
  * Financial Stability Unit of RBI → Secretariat

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Changing the status quo

The Home Ministry's move to merge the Assam Rifles with the ITBP is a step in the right direction

N.M. NATHANAKUMAR

The Ministry of Home Affairs has proposed that the Assam Rifles should be merged with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and serve under the operational control of the Ministry of Home Affairs. At present, the Assam Rifles, a Central Paramilitary Force, is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence and operational control of the Army. The Home Ministry is opposed to this proposal.

History of Assam Rifles

Formed in Assam in 1863 to assist the British rulers in maintaining peace in the Northeast, the Assam Rifles, which had just about 750 men, proved its capability and efficiency. This necessitated its expansion. The unit was converted into the Assam Military Police Battalion with two additional battalions in 1870. They were known as the Lushai Hills Battalion, Lakhimpur Battalion and Sylhet Hills Battalion. Just before World War I, another battalion, the Darrang Battalion, was added. They all rendered great service by assisting the British in Europe and West Asia during the war. These battalions were then renamed Assam Rifles. They continued

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Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—200 marks

- Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-IV


- Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.
* All the CAPFs, except Assam Rifles having the DG (Chief) from IPS Officers
  * Assam Rifles - Lt. Gen, Indian Army

* Assam Rifles:
  * Admin Control - Ministry of Home Affairs
  * Operational Control - Ministry of Defence

* Concept of `dual control`
  * absurd
  * Lack of coordination

* Proposals of Union Home Ministry
  1. Give the operational control of Assam Rifles to MHA
  2. Merge Assam Rifles to ITBP

* Assam Rifles:
  * To guard Indo- Myanmar border
  * To conduct COIN operations in North East

* Indo- Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
  * Initially
    - border intelligence and security along Indo- Tibetan border from Ladakh to Kumaon hills
  * Since 2004 - assigned to guard entire India- China border
    - replaced Assam Rifles in guarding the India- China borders of Sikkim & Arunachal Pradesh.

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* One Border, One Force
  * Recommended by Govt in 2004
  * Recommended by GoM in 2001
  * 'On the same border, there shall be one force'

* Group of Ministers (GoM)
  - Setup by PM in 2000
  - to review national security system in its entirety
  - to consider the recommendations of Kargil Review Committee

* History of Assam Rifles:
  * 1835 - Cachar Levy
  * 1870 - Converted into Assam Military Police Battalion

* During World War I - assisted British Forces in Middle East & Europe
  - in recognition of fighting shoulder to shoulder with Rifle Regiments of British earned the name 'Assam Rifles'

* Friends of the North East people after 1962 Sino-Indian War - placed under Operational Control of the Indian people

Opposition:
* from Indian Army
  * for national Security reasons
  * 80% staff in top posts in Assam Rifles at present are from Indian Army
  * demands merging Assam Rifles with it.
Way Forward:

- Operational control - to be given to MHA
  - Initial leadership - IPS Officer
  - Later - directly recruited officers in Assam Rifles
  - tussle between IPS officers and CAPF offices - Coordination issues

- CCS to take merger issue - on priority basis

- Modalities of absorbing officers to AR or merging of ITBP to be worked out - to handle repatriation

Kerala on its way to achieve 100% Internet penetration

It has the second highest coverage, report shows.

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-II

General Studies-I : Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

- Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

PAPER-IV

General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
### News:
- Kerala Fibre Optic Network Project
  - Internet to every household in the State
  - Free internet for 20 lakh BPL households

### India Internet 2019:
- No. of internet users in India
- Basic profile of internet users
- Released by Internet and Mobile Association of India and Nielsen company
- Internet Penetration:
  - Relationship between no. of Internet users and demographic data of a country
  - Defines a portion of digital divide in the country

### Facts:
- Internet users in age group 5-11 years
  - 6.6 crore users
- 2/3rd of Internet users -> Age group 12-29 years
- Internet penetration higher in Urban India
- Better internet connectivity
- 'On-the-Go' Consumption
- Rural India = devoid of Internet
- Highest Internet Penetration
  - Delhi - 69%
  - Kerala - 54%
- Lowest Internet Penetration
  - Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, etc.

### Visible gender divide
- Female internet population half of male internet population
- Apparent in rural areas
- Highest proportion of female Internet Users -> Kerala, T.N., Delhi

### TRAI Report:
- No. of internet subscribers per 100 population
  - Delhi
  - Punjab
  - Himachal Pradesh
  - Kerala
  - Bihar - Lowest

### Importance of Internet Connectivity
- Access to information
- Helpful in every sector
- Instant exchange of information
- Stay always connected
- Promotes e-commerce
- Access to e-governance services
Maharashtra tops in justice delivery

Report brings to light key issues across four pillars of police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid.

India Justice Report 2019:
- On capacity to deliver justice
- Released by Tata Trusts in partnership with other NGOs
- Based on 4 pillars
  - Police
  - Prisons
  - Judiciary
  - Legal Aid
- Access to justice
  - A fundamental right under Articles 14 & 21
- Report on
  - 18 large-medium states
  - 7 small states

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<th>RANKING</th>
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<tr>
<td>Large Medium States</td>
<td>Maharashtra (5.92)</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh (3.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smaller States</td>
<td>Kerala, Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Bihar, Jharkhand</td>
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Pillars:
- Prison - Overcrowding, Women Staff, Correctional Staff, etc
- Police - Human resources, filling vacancies, modernisation, etc
- Judiciary - Vacancy in High Courts and Subordinate Courts, Clearance rate, budget, etc
- Legal Aid - Central & State budget, % of women lawyers, rural coverage, etc

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**Ranking - Observations:**

- Serious lacunae in our justice delivery system
- Stark contrast between top & bottom performer.

**Overall Summary:**

a) Police force training
   - Only 6.1% received training in last 5 years

b) Representation of Women
   - Just 7% of 2.4 million police persons
   - 28% in lower judiciary; 12% at High Court level.

c) Undertrial Prisoners
   - In 2016 - 67.7%
   - Overcrowded prisons - 114%

d) Underrepresentation of SCs, STs, OBCs and women

e) Pending cases
   - 2.8 crore in Subordinate Courts
   - 24% cases → pending (>5 years)
   - 23 lakh cases → pending (>10 years)

f) Poor access to judiciary
   - per capita public spending on legal aid is ₹0.75 per annum
Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements with reference to Financial Stability and Development Council.

1. The council and its sub-committee are headed by the Union Finance Minister.
2. The Governor of RBI and the Chief Economic Adviser are members of the committee.

Which among the above statements is/are not correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Previous Year Question – UPSC Prelims 2016

Q1. With reference to ‘Financial Stability and Development Council’, consider the following statements.

1. It is an organ of NITI Aayog.
2. It is headed by the Union Finance Minister.
3. It monitors macro prudential supervision of the economy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. According to the India Internet 2019 report, the Internet penetration is higher in Urban India due to better internet connectivity. The report is released by

(a) Telecom Regulation Authority of India
(b) International Telecommunication Union
(c) Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
(d) Internet and Mobile Association of India

Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. The India Justice Report- 2019 is released by

(a) NITI Aayog
(b) Ministry of Law and Justice
(c) Tata Trusts
(d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Practice Question – Mains
GS - III

Q1. The administrative and operational co-ordination among different Central armed Police Forces (CAPF) is the need of the hour. Suggest suitable measures to increase the administrative and operational efficiency of CAPFs in the light of the above statement.

Practice Question – Prelims
Answers

Q1. Option ‘c’ – 2 and 3 only
Q2. Option ‘a’ – 1 only
Q3. Option ‘d’ – Internet and Mobile Association of India
Q4. Option ‘c’ – Tata Trusts

LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE

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