India overtakes Spain in numbers even as study finds that infectivity rose from lockdown 1.0 to 3.0

Going up a rung

With 10,258 new COVID-19 cases recorded as on 10.30 pm, on Saturday, India overtook Spain to become the fifth most-affected country. Between May 30 and June 5, India recorded 8,970 new cases every day on an average, the third-highest in the world.

Country is still at risk, says WHO expert

India, China officers meet at Moldo

India and China held crucial talks between senior military commanders on Saturday in an effort to ease the tension along the border.

Lt. Gen. Harinder Singh, Commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps, led the Indian delegation to the Chinese border personnel meeting point at Moldo, opposite Chushul in eastern Ladakh.
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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H – Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram
CLARIFICATION
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following pairs:

1. Passage of ordinary bill - Majority of members present and voting.
2. Removal of Lok Sabha Speaker - Majority of all the then members of the House.
3. Impeachment of President - Majority of two-thirds of the total membership of the house.
4. Constitutional amendment under Article 368 - Majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of two-thirds of members present and voting.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
TREMBLE AFTER THE TREMORS

The GCR shook seven times in the last 20 days, fueling fears of a high-magnitude earthquake. Seismologists have ruled out an immediate threat though they insist the region remains at risk of a great Himalayan quake.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks) Duration: Two hours
- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian and World Geography-Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-II

General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.
- Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

PAPER-IV

- Disaster and disaster management.
Earthquake

- An earthquake is what happens when two blocks of the earth suddenly slip past one another.
  - The surface where they slip is called the fault or fault plane.
  - Location below the earth’s surface where the earthquake starts is called the hypocenter.
  - Location directly above it on the surface of the earth is called the epicenter.
What causes an earthquake and Where do they happen?

- The solid crust and the stiff top of the mantle of earth make up the lithosphere—made of Tectonic plates.
- They keep slowly moving around, sliding past one another and bumping into each other—causes stress on Earth’s crust.
- When the stresses get too large, it leads to cracks called faults.

- The tectonic plate boundaries are made up of many faults, where most of the earthquakes occur.
- When the tectonic plates move past each other, the rough edges get stuck—energy that would normally cause the blocks to slide past one another gets stored up.
• When the force of the moving blocks overcomes the friction of the stuck edges of the fault, it unsticks and all the stored energy is released.
  ✓ So, energy radiates outward from the fault in all directions in the form of seismic waves.
• The severity of an earthquake can be expressed in terms of both intensity and magnitude.
  ✓ Varies from place to place depending on the location of the observer with respect to the epicenter.
• Intensity is based on the observed effects of ground shaking on people, buildings, and natural features.
  ✓ Varies from place to place depending on the location of the observer with respect to the epicenter.
  ✓ Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale measures the intensity.

• Magnitude is related to the amount of seismic energy released at the hypocenter.
  ✓ Based on the amplitude of the earthquake waves recorded on instruments called seismographs.
  ✓ Richter Magnitude Scale is a logarithmic scale measuring the magnitude.

Source: usgs.gov
News:

- Minor earthquakes ranging from 1.8 to 4.5 on the Richter scale reported in the National Capital Region (NCR).

  ✓ Fear of the ‘great’ Himalayan earthquake.

- NCR is situated close to the ‘most active fault line on earth’, where the Indian Plate collides with Eurasian plates.

- Arguments:

  ✓ The minor quakes would release the energy accumulated, thus reducing the risk of a more serious earthquake.

  ✓ There is a possibility of a great earthquake, with magnitude of eight and above, striking the Himalayan region.

- Foreshocks are the smaller earthquakes that happen in the same place as the larger earthquake (Mainshock) that follows.

- Aftershocks are the smaller earthquakes following mainshock.
Practice Question – Mains

Q. The Indian states of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and NCT of Delhi are situated close to the ‘most active fault line on earth’ and may soon experience a very big earthquake” Explain. (250 words, 15 marks)
Gross Value Added numbers and the economy

Why are the GVA figures in focus now? How is the GVA data relevant when economic growth is announced in GDP terms?

The story so far: The National Statistical Office (NSO), on May 28, released its provisional estimates of national income for the financial year 2019-20. As per the NSO, real GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in the full fiscal year was estimated to have expanded by 4.2% from a year earlier, the slowest pace of growth in 31 years. And GDP growth for the January-March quarter was pegged at 3.1%. The release also detailed the estimates of the Gross Value Added, or GVA, at basic prices for the four quarters of 2019-20 as well as the comparable quarterly data for the two preceding years. Interestingly, the GVA numbers for the first three quarters revealed significant revisions from what the NSO had shared back in February, when it had announced estimates for the third quarter. While initial estimates were馒头ly revised based on the updated availability of information, the extent of these revisions has come into focus since they point to a sharper and more widespread slowdown in economic activity over the course of the last financial year than had been previously revealed.

What is Gross Value Added (GVA)?

GVA is the value of output in a particular sector after accounting for intermediate inputs. It is a measure used by the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) of 2008. As per the SNA, gross value added is defined as the value of output minus the value of intermediate consumption and is a measure of the contribution to GDP made by an individual productive, industry, sector, etc. It implies that the gross value of goods and services produced in the economy after deducting the cost of inputs and raw materials used. GVA can be described as the real entry on the income side of the nation's accounting balance sheet, and from an economic perspective represents the supply side. While India had been measuring GVA earlier, the data was aggregate and not sector-wise until recently. The February estimates also suggested that the manufacturing, construction, electricity and utility services and the trade, hotel and transport (motor vehicle services category) sectors apart, the other four sectors were recording at almost the same level or better than the comparable year earlier periods. However, last month's estimates saw significant downward revisions in the GVA data pertaining to the first three quarters for the year. The revisions, combined with a lacklustre performance in the fourth quarter, including a sharp weakening in momentum at two of the largest services sectors, ultimately lowered the overall annual GVA growth estimate for 2019-20 by as much as a percentage point to 3.3%, from the 4.9% forecast in February.

A closer look at some of the second revisions point to a deeper weakness in the service sectors than had been previously factored in. Take Trade, hotels, transport, communications and services related to broadcasting. As a result, the revisions in these services sectors alone contributed to the overall downward shift in the GVA growth rates to 4.9%, 4.2% and 3.3%.

How relevant is the GVA data given that headline growth always refers to GDP? The GVA data is crucial to understand the impact of all the sectors of the real economy that are performing. The output of all sectors is essentially a measure of a GVA combined with net taxes. While GDP can be and is also compared as the sum total of the various expenditures incurred in the economy including private consumption spending, government consumption spending and gross fixed capital formation or investment spending, there is essentially no demand in the economy. From a policymaker’s perspective, it is therefore vital to know the GVA data to be able to make policy interventions, which needed. Also, from a global data standardisation and uniformity perspective, GVA is an integral and necessary parameter to measure a nation’s economic performance, and any country which seeks to attract capital and investment from overseas does need to conform to the global best practices in national income accounting.

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-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


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


- Gross Domestic Product: The final value of the goods and services produced within the geographic boundaries of a country during a specified period of time, normally a year. It measures the aggregate production of final goods and services taking place within the domestic economy during a year.

Gross Value Added

- Value Added: Reflects only the value that is added to the raw material and it will not reflect the price of the raw material – net contribution made by a firm – to avoid ‘double counting’.
- Value added of a firm is, value of production of the firm – value of intermediate goods used by the firm.
- The value of output minus the value of intermediate consumption – GVA at Factor cost
- Represents the supply side.
- GVA is a measure of the contribution to GDP made by an individual producer or producer industry.

\[
GVA = Output - Intermediate\ Consumption
\]

GVA at factor cost + (Production taxes less Production subsidies) = GVA at basic prices
GDP at market prices = GVA at basic prices + Product taxes- Product subsidies
Drawbacks in using GVA to measure economic growth:

- The accuracy of GVA is heavily dependent on the sourcing of data and the reliability or fidelity of the various data sources, in capturing the various economic activities of a nation.
- GVA is susceptible to vulnerabilities from the use of inappropriate or flawed methodologies.

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. Gross Value Added is obtained by the addition of intermediate consumption with the value of production.
2. Gross Value Added reflects essentially on the demand conditions in the economy.

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

Q1. With reference to Padma Awards, consider the following statements.

1. The award recognizes achievements in all fields of activities where an element of public service is involved.

2. They are awarded only to Indian citizens.

3. The award amounts to a title and can be used as a suffix or prefix to the awardees’ name.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Padma Awards

- Instituted in 1954 – Presented by the President.
- Seeks to recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved.
- Three categories:
  1. Padma Vibhushan for exceptional and distinguished service;
  2. Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of a high order; and
  3. Padma Shri for distinguished service.
- All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these awards.

- Government servants including those working with PSUs, except doctors and scientists, are not eligible for these Awards.
- The award does not amount to a title and cannot be used as a suffix or prefix to the awardees’ name.
- Padma Awards Committee – constituted by PM every year – Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary.
Q1. With reference to Padma Awards, consider the following statements.

1. The award recognizes achievements in all fields of activities where an element of public service is involved.
2. They are awarded only to Indian citizens.
3. The award amounts to a title and can be used as a suffix or prefix to the awardees’ name.

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

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. The electoral college of the Rajya Sabha members includes both elected and nominated members of the Legislative Assembly of a State.

2. The term of office of the member elected to Rajya Sabha through bye-election is 6 years.

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
Rajya Sabha (Council of States)

- It is the upper house of the Parliament and represents the states and UTs of the Indian Union.

- Composition of Rajya Sabha

80. (1) The Council of States shall consist of—
   (a) twelve members to be nominated by the President in accordance with the provisions of clause (3); and
   (b) not more than two hundred and thirty-eight representatives of the States [and of the Union territories].

(2) The allocation of seats in the Council of States to be filled by representatives of the States [and of the Union territories] shall be in accordance with the provisions in that behalf contained in the Fourth Schedule.

(3) The members to be nominated by the President under sub-clause (a) of clause (1) shall consist of persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as the following, namely:

   Literature, science, art and social service.

(4) The representatives of each State [and of the Union territories] in the Council of States shall be elected by the elected members of the Legislative Assembly of the State in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

(5) The representatives of the Union territories in the Council of States shall be chosen in such manner as Parliament may by law prescribe.

- At present, there are 245 RS members.

- Life of Rajya Sabha

83. (1) The Council of States shall not be subject to dissolution, but as nearly as possible one-third of the members thereof shall retire as soon as may be on the expiration of every second year in accordance with the provisions made in that behalf by Parliament by law.

(2) The House of the People, unless sooner dissolved, shall continue for [five years] from the date appointed for its first meeting and no longer and the expiration of the said period of [five years] shall operate as a dissolution of the House:

   Provided that the said period may, while a Proclamation of Emergency is in operation, be extended by Parliament by law for a period not exceeding one year at a time and not extending in any case beyond a period of six months after the Proclamation has ceased to operate.
Election of RS members (indirect election)

- Representatives of each State are elected by the elected members of the Legislative Assembly of that State.
- The electoral college of UT of National Capital Territory of Delhi and UT of Puducherry consists of the elected members of the respective Legislative Assembly.
- Election is in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

Bye-election to RS

- Election held, when there is vacancy in RS due to reasons other than retirement of a member on the expiration of his term of office.
  - Reasons such as resignation, death of member, disqualified under Tenth Schedule.
- A member elected in a bye-election remains member for the remainder of the term.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. The electoral college of the Rajya Sabha members includes both elected and nominated members of the Legislative Assembly of a State.

2. The term of office of the member elected to Rajya Sabha through bye-election is 6 years.

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

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to the ‘TRAFFIC’:

1. It is an International agreement between Governments for wildlife trade monitoring.
2. It aims to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

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
TRAFFIC

- A leading non-governmental organisation working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.
- A joint program of World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- Established in 1976.
- Mission: To ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.
- TRAFFIC operates as a Programme Division of WWF-India, based in New Delhi since 1991.
- TRAFFIC also works in close co-operation with the Secretariat of the CITES.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

- An international agreement (multilateral treaty) between governments
- Drafted as a result of a resolution adopted by members of IUCN in 1963
- Entered into force in 1975
- Aim: To ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival
- India has become a party to this agreement in 1976
Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to the ‘TRAFFIC’:

1. It is an International agreement between Governments for wildlife trade monitoring.
2. It aims to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

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 QUESTIONS
DISCUSSION
Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. Consider the following statements.

1. Gross Value Added is obtained by the addition of intermediate consumption with the value of production.

2. Gross Value Added reflects essentially on the demand conditions in the economy.

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

Answers

Q1. Option ‘a’ – 1 only
Q2. Option ‘d’ – Neither 1 or 2
Q3. Option ‘b’ – 2 only
Q4. Option ‘d’ – Neither 1 or 2
Practice Question – Mains

Q. The Indian states of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and NCT of Delhi are situated close to the ‘most active fault line on earth’ and may soon experience a very big earthquake” Explain. (250 words, 15 marks)