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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H-Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram
Net loss

Disruption of connectivity should be resorted to only in the face of specific threats.

The shutting down of the Internet in Delhi and several States as a response to growing protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019, is unsophisticated and deeply damaging to social life and the economy. Meghalaya, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh were entirely cut off, and parts of Assam, West Bengal, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh were deprived of Internet access, in clumsy attempts to quell demonstrations. Such ham-handed interventions have won for India a place at the head of the table among intolerant countries that routinely shut down the Internet to block criticism of the government. Jammu and Kashmir is now acknowledged globally as a dark spot on the Internet, with service there blocked since August 4. After protests against the CAA began, other States are also experiencing shutdowns, and the fate of connectivity is being decided by officers empowered by the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 under the Indian Tele-

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

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

- Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.
- 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-IV

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

- Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention.
* Shutdown of Internet
  - Delhi, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh,
  - parts of Assam, West Bengal, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh

* Provisions that empower the authorities to shutdown the internet
  - Section 144 CrPC
    - District Magistrate - order - directing any person to abstain from certain act(s)

* In urgent cases of nuisance where there is apprehended danger

* Order - likely to prevent or tends to prevent obstruction, annoyance, injury to the lawfully employed, danger to human life, health or safety, disturbance of public tranquility or riot or an affray
- Procedure under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C. Govt</th>
<th>S. Govt</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Union Home Secretary (or)</td>
<td>* State Home Secretary (or)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An officer not below the rank of J.Sec’y to</td>
<td>An officer not below the rank of J.Secy to</td>
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<td>GoI (in unavoidable circumstances)</td>
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<td>* Copy of order forwarded to Review</td>
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<td>Committee by next working day</td>
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<td>* Review Committee</td>
<td>* Review Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Cabinet Secretary (Chairman)</td>
<td>1. Chief Secretary (Chairman)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Secretary Incharge of Legal Affairs, GoI</td>
<td>2. Secretary Law or Legal Remembrancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Secretary, DoT, GoI</td>
<td>In Charge of Legal Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Secretary to S. Govt other than Home Secretary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Implementation of the directions issued shall be determined by the Telegraph Authority.

- Review Committee

- Shall meet within 5 working days of issue of directions for suspension of Telecom Services

- Reviews the issued order whether it is in accordance with Section 5 (2) of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885

Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885

(2) On the occurrence of any public emergency, or in the interest of the public safety, the Central Government or a State Government or any officer specially authorised in this behalf by the Central Government or a State Government may, if satisfied that it is necessary or expedient so to do in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of an offence, for reasons to be recorded in writing, by order, direct that any message or class of messages to or from any person or class of persons, or relating to any particular subject, brought for transmission by or transmitted or received by any telegraph, shall not be transmitted, or shall be intercepted or detained, or shall be disclosed to the Government making the order or an officer thereof mentioned in the order:

Provided that press messages intended to be published in India of correspondents accredited to the Central Government or a State Government shall not be intercepted or detained, unless their transmission has been prohibited under this sub-section.
• Impact of Shutdown of Internet (Telecom Services)
  ➤ affects economic prospects of entrepreneurship
    - new start-ups severely affected
  ➤ cripple promotion of women's employment
  ➤ blow to digital financial transactions
  ➤ blow to e-governance initiatives of the Govt.
  ➤ affect economic productivity
  ➤ affect education & skill building process

Conclusion

* Arbitrary shutdowns - wrong road to take
* Reforms - to ensure shutdowns are not made arbitrarily
  ➤ Review committee members should include members from judiciary
  ➤ Rules should be prescribed on actions to be taken against abuse of power (or) the arbitrary issuance of the Order of Suspension
Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017.

1. Directions to suspend the telecom services shall not be issued except by an order made by the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs, in the case of Government of India.

2. The Review Committee to be constituted by the Central Government shall consist of three members where the Cabinet Secretary is the Chairman.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Afghanistan and Pakistan jolted by strong earthquake

Tremors were felt as far away as Delhi

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

A strong earthquake rattled Afghanistan and Pakistan on Friday afternoon, the U.S. Geological Survey said, forcing residents into the streets in Kabul and Islamabad.

The 6.1-magnitude quake hit around 50 km southwest of Jurm in northern Afghanistan and was over 200 km deep, the USGS said.

In both capital cities, residents felt two short tremors in quick succession, however there were no immediate reports of damage.

The quake could be felt as far away as Delhi, residents there reported, while in Lahore, panicked people came onto the streets and got out of their cars. The quake's epicentre was in a sparsely populated, remote mountain area in Badakhshan province in Afghanistan.

The USGS estimated there would be few economic losses from the quake with "a low likelihood of casualties and damage."

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.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-II

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

- Salient features of world's physical geography.
- 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.
News

* A strong earthquake hit Afghanistan and Pakistan on 20th Dec 2019 and tremors felt up to Delhi
* Badakhshan province of Afghanistan: an earthquake of about 6.1 magnitude

Earthquake

* Shaking of the earth
* Natural geological event and caused due to release of energy
* Released energy generates seismic waves in all directions

The point of origin of energy inside the earth: Hypocenter or focus

The point on the surface of the earth which is perpendicular to the focus: Epicentre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Richter Scale</th>
<th>Mercalli Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To measure magnitude</td>
<td>To measure/estimate the impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open ended logarithmic scale</td>
<td>Closed Scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[0 to ∞]</td>
<td>I to XII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicates amount of energy released</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
**Types:** based on Causes

(i) Tectonic earthquakes  
(ii) Volcanic earthquakes  
(iii) Collapse earthquakes  
(iv) Explosion earthquakes  
(v) Induced earthquakes

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**Effects of Earthquakes**

- ground shaking  
- Tsunami  
- land & mud slides  
- avalanches  
- Floods from dams  
- Structural Collapses  
- fire accidents
Practice Question – Prelims
Q. Which one of the following statements is incorrect with reference to an earthquake?

a) The point of origin of energy inside the earth is known as hypocentre or focus.

b) The point on the surface of the earth which is perpendicular to the focus is known as epicentre.

c) The magnitude of the earthquake is measured with Richter scale

d) The intensity of the earthquake is measured with Mercalli scale which is an open ended scale.

Practice Question – Mains
GS - I

Q. “An earthquake repeats itself”. In the context of the above statement, define tectonic earthquakes? Discuss the causes and effects of the earthquakes. (150 words, 10Marks)
Dual citizenship for Lankan refugees will be examined, says Centre

T. RAMAKRISHNAN
CHENNAI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is learnt to have conveyed to Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami that the State government’s proposal for providing dual citizenship for refugees from Sri Lanka will be examined.

The assurance was given when the latter met Mr. Shah in New Delhi on Thursday night and briefed him of the law and order situation in the State, according to a source in the State government.

Mr. Palaniswami explained issues concerning the police department to the Home Minister. Grant of dual citizenship hadn’t been the demand of the AIADMK for three years. It is being sought so that Tamil refugees, living in the State, can take up permanent employment or run business without hindrance.

As a large number of the refugees came to Tamil Nadu after the 1982 ethnic riots in the neighbouring country without valid travel documents, they are considered “illegal migrants.” This was the stand taken by the Centre in a case concerning 65 refugees of Kottapattu camp in Trichy. The refugees had moved the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, seeking citizenship. But, in recent years, young refugees, taking advantage of the facilities of education in the State, have pursued higher studies but they do not get jobs commensurate with their qualifications due to the “refugee tag.”

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)    Duration : Two hours

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues,
  etc.
- 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.

- History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.— their forms and effect on the society.

PAPER-III

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

- Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
Central Govt in the case concerning 65 refugees of Kottapattu camp in Tiruchi
- "As a large number of refugees came to Tamil Nadu after the 1983 ethnic riots in the neighbouring country, without valid travel documents, they are considered illegal migrants."

Dual citizenship
- Citizen of two countries at the same time
- Also called as dual nationality
- Eg: UK

Double citizenship
- Citizen of both national unit, and subnational unit
- Eg: USA, Switzerland

Citizenship in India
- Single citizenship
  - As a citizen, the individual can show allegiance only to India
- In time of war where India may be engaged
  - Section 9 of the Citizenship Act, 1955
  - Citizenship of India not terminated until C. Govt otherwise directs

Citizenship, naturalisation & aliens
- Union list of Schedule 7 of Indian Constitution
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. India follows the system of dual citizenship.
2. While ‘citizenship’ is in Union List, ‘naturalisation’ is given in the State List.
3. A person residing in the state of Punjab is a citizen of both India and her/his state as well.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1, 2 and 3
d) None of the statements
Panel okays spectrum auction plan

Over 8,300 MHz, including for 5G services, will be put up in 2020; reserve price fixed at ₹52.2 lakh crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Digital Communications Commission (DCC) on Friday approved plans to auction over 8,300 MHz of spectrum, including airwaves to be used for offering 5G services, with a reserve price of ₹52.2 lakh crore.

However, in a setback to the telecom service providers (TSPs), there has been no reduction in the reserve price, as demanded by them, for the airwaves that will be put to bid in March/April 2020.

“The DCC has today approved the recommendation of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). We are hopeful that auction should be conducted sometime in March/April,” Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash said.

Dissenting note: High reserve prices may make it difficult for telcos to bid, says COAI’s Rajan Mathews. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

The Secretary said that the entire available spectrum—a little over 8,300 MHz across 22 telecom circles with a reserve price of ₹5,22,850 crore—will be put up for bidding. Out of the 8,300 MHz of airwaves, 6,050 MHz are allocated for 5G services.

Mr. Prakash added that an ‘important change’ in the payment process for the bought spectrum has been

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks) Duration: Two hours

• 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.

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Visible light spectrum - Visible to human eye

Electromagnetic spectrum - Radio waves, visible light, infrared, etc

Radio waves (3 kHz to 300 GHz)
- Used in wireless communication - high wavelength
- Managed by government - each frequency is split into circles and divided for users

Spectrum auctioning - Govt selling exclusive rights to transmit signals to network operators
- Revenue generation

News

Digital Communications Commission
- Approved auction of over 8,300 MHz in mid 2020

Reserve price - ₹5.22 lakh crore
- To keep non-serious bidders out + ensure minimum revenue to Govt
- High reserve price - Setback to Service providers

Change in upfront payment → Now telecom companies have to pay lower amount

6050 MHz out of 8300 MHz for 5G services → inadequate
Digital Communications Commission (DCC)

* former Telecom Commission
* Set up in 1989
* Members
  - Chairman → Secretary of DoT
  - 4 full time members
  - 4 part time members
* Objectives
  - Formulating policy of DoT
  - Preparing budget for DoT
  - Implementation of Govt's policy

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the “Digital Communications Commission (DCC)”.

1. It was formed in 2018 through an act of the parliament.
2. One of its objectives is the implementation of Government’s policy in all matters concerning telecommunication.
3. The Chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India is the ex-officio chairman of DCC.

Select the incorrect statement(s) from the codes given below.

a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 3 only
I did not say referendum, says Mamata

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Clarifying that she had not used the word referendum, West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee said on Friday that she had used the word “gana-vote” in an anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) rally on Thursday.

Her use of the word created controversy with BJP leaders alleging that she was seeking “foreign intervention.”

Ms. Banerjee addressed a press conference in Kolkata following a week-long agitation programme challenging CAA and NRC.

“I said, they must do an opinion poll, in our language “gana-vote”, opinion poll, and let us see if people accept it [CAA] or not,” Ms. Banerjee said.

In Thursday’s rally the Chief Minister had used the word “gana-vote”.

The dictionary meaning of ‘gana-vote’ is plebiscite and neither referendum nor opinion poll.

It creates controversy as there is clear difference between three words—plebiscite and referendum in English. While in case of referendum the government needs to act upon it, in case of plebiscite, the government does not.
DEMOCRACY

Direct Democracy

- Citizens directly participate in day-to-day decision making & in the running of the government
- Ex: Switzerland
- Devices/instruments of direct democracy
  - Initiative, Recall, Plebiscite, Referendum

Indirect / Representative Democracy

- Representatives chosen by people actively involved in governance & administration
- Ex: India
- Citizens not actively involved
**Initiative**

* Method - people can propose a bill to legislature to enactment
  - direct participation of electorates

**Referendum**

* Procedure - proposed legislation is referred to the electorate for settlement by direct vote
* On a specific political, constitutional or legislative issue
* Mostly binding

**Recall**

* Method - Voter to remove representatives or officials before expiry of term

**Plebiscite**

* Method - obtaining the opinion of people of India on issue of public importance - direct vote
* To solve territorial disputes
* Outcome - not mandatory to implement
Import cover rises to 10 months: RBI

With foreign exchange reserves rising to $429.84 billion as at end June 2019 from $412.47 billion as at end March 2019, the import cover rose to 10 months compared with 9.6 months, the Reserve Bank

- Foreign Exchange Reserve
  - $429.84 billion in June 2019
  - $412.47 billion in March 2019
- Import cover rose to 10 months from 9.6 months

- Import Cover
  - Number of months of imports covered by available forex reserve
  - 8-10 months: for stable currency

- 1991: Balance of Payment Crisis
  - Reasons
    - Huge trade deficit
    - Gulf War 1990 - 1991

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-IV

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

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.
* Forex reserve depleted - just for few weeks of imports

* Consequences
  1) Depreciation of rupee
  2) Economic crisis - bailout by IMF & WB
  3) Structural reforms in economy

* As of December 13 - forex reserve is $454 billion
  • Need: To absorb temporary shocks

* Huge import cover maintained by China, Russia, Brazil, etc.
Previous Year Question – UPSC Prelims 2013

Q. Which one of the following groups of items is included in India's foreign-exchange reserves?

(a) Foreign-currency assets, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and loans from foreign countries

(b) Foreign-currency assets, gold holdings of the RBI and SDRs

(c) Foreign-currency assets, loans from the World Bank and SDRs

(d) Foreign-currency assets, gold holdings of the RBI and loans from the World Bank

Previous Year Question – UPSC Prelims 2017

Q. Which of the following has/have occurred in India after its liberalization of economic policies in 1991?

1. Share of agriculture in GDP increased enormously.
2. Share of India’s exports in world trade increased.
3. FDI inflows increased.
4. India’s foreign exchange reserves increased enormously.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

a) 1 and 4 only
b) 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
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.
- 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-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.
PRACTICE QUESTIONS
DISCUSSION
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements with reference to the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017.

1. Directions to suspend the telecom services shall not be issued except by an order made by the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs, in the case of Government of India.

2. The Review Committee to be constituted by the Central Government shall consist of three members where the Cabinet Secretary is the Chairman.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements.

1. India follows the system of dual citizenship.
2. While ‘citizenship’ is in Union List, ‘naturalisation’ is given in the State List.
3. A person residing in the state of Punjab is a citizen of both India and her/his state as well.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Q3. Which one of the following statements is incorrect with reference to an earthquake?

a) The point of origin of energy inside the earth is known as hypocentre or focus.

b) The point on the surface of the earth which is perpendicular to the focus is known as epicentre.

c) The magnitude of the earthquake is measured with Richter scale

d) The intensity of the earthquake is measured with Mercalli scale which is an open ended scale.
Q4. Consider the following statements with reference to the “Digital Communications Commission (DCC)”.

1. It was formed in 2018 through an act of the parliament.

2. One of its objectives is the implementation of Government's policy in all matters concerning telecommunication.

3. The Chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India is the ex-officio chairman of DCC.

Select the incorrect statement(s) from the codes given below.

a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 3 only
Q. “An earthquake repeats itself”. In the context of the above statement, define tectonic earthquakes? Discuss the causes and effects of the earthquakes. (150 words, 10Marks)
Practice Question – Answers

1. Option (c) – Both 1 and 2

2. Option (d) – None of the statements

3. Option (d) – The intensity of the earthquake is measured with Mercalli scale which is an open ended scale.

4. Option (d) – 1 and 3 only
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