A woman sporting a mask in Wuhan. • GETTY IMAGES

Ahead of the Lunar New Year holidays, China will step up efforts to contain the coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan. 

China has indeed some cases of Coronavirus and it is important to contain it. 

Indian treated for streptococcal infection

A 45-year-old Indian school teacher in the Chinese city of Shenzhen, being treated for a streptococcal infection, was initially suspected to be a case of the new SARS-like coronavirus.

17 new cases emerge; fears of travellers spreading infection

The National Health Commission said on Sunday that people will travel domestically and abroad during the Lunar New Year holidays.

Vijayta Singh

GoM finalises recommendations, which will be put up for public comments

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Lone, rare migratory eagle sighted in Andhra Pradesh

‘Steppe eagle spotted for the second time in two decades’

STAFF REPORTER

A lone endangered steppe eagle (Aquila nipalensis) has been sighted by a group of birdwatchers in a paddy field at Velagaleru near Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh.

The bird watchers - Y. Sravanthi, Bala Subramanyam and Bandi Sekhar - recorded the steppe eagle during the ‘Asian Waterbird Census’, a citizen science programme, recently.

Mr. Sekhar, citizen science coordinator of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER-Tirupati), told The Hindu: “This is the second time that steppe eagle has been sighted in the State in the past two decades.”

“The sighting of the endangered species highlights the need to explore the diverse avian life in the State. Steppe eagle is believed to be the second-largest migratory eagle species to India,” said Mr. Sekhar.

In winter, steppe eagle breeds in Russia, Kazakhstan and Mongolia.

Conversion of open habitats for aquaculture, pesticides and various effluents pose threat to the species. “The find emphasises the need for extensive avian surveys in the landscapes within and outside the protected areas in the State,” said Mr. Sekhar.
News

- Steppe Eagle sighted by a group of birdwatchers in A.P. - during 'Asian Waterbird Census'
- Believed to be second largest migratory eagle species to India

Steppe Eagle

- Breeding grounds - Kalmykia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China and Mongolia.
- Inhabitation - Steppe + semi-desert
- Feeds on small mammals
• Threats
  ➔ Conversion of Steppes to agri land
  ➔ Direct persecution
  ➔ Affected by powerlines - collision
  ➔ Wind energy developments
  ➔ 3 detrimental impacts on species in Russia and Kazakhstan
    - Increased mortality
    - Reduction in suitable habitat area + available food.
    - Poor breeding success.

• Threats [Contd...]
  ➔ Sold in European countries
  ➔ Vulnerable to ‘Diclofenac’ - intensively used in Pakistan and India

• Conservation
  ➔ IUCN Red List - Endangered
  ➔ CMS - Appendix I
  ➔ CITES - Appendix II
Previous Year Question – Prelims 2011

Q. The “Red Data Books” published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resource (IUCN) contain lists of,

1. Endemic plant and animal species present in the biodiversity hotspots.
2. Threatened plant and animal species.
3. Protected sites for conservation of nature and natural resources in various countries.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(a) 1 and 3
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 3 only

Previous Year Question – Prelims 2014

Q. With reference to a conservation organization called 'Wetlands International', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an intergovernmental organization formed by the countries which are signatories to Ramsar Convention.
2. It works at the field level to develop and mobilize knowledge, and use the practical experience to advocate for better policies.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only (Correct Answer)
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
Why ‘Make in India’ has failed

It is too ambitious, spectacularly ill-timed, and has brought in too many sectors into its fold

On September 28, 2014, the Indian government announced the ‘Make in India’ initiative to encourage manufacturing in India and rejuvenate the economy with dedicated investments in manufacturing and services. Immediately after the launch, investment commitments worth crores were announced. In 2015, India emerged as the top destination for foreign direct investment, surpassing the U.S. and China. In line with the national programme, states too launched their own initiatives. Five years later, as we brace for another Union Budget, it would be appropriate to take stock of the miscalculated initiative as the economy in general, and the manufacturing sector in particular, is on a slippery slope.

The ‘Make in India’ idea is not new. Factory production has a long history in the country. This initiative, however, set an ambitious goal of making India a global manufacturing hub. To achieve this, goals, targets were identified and policies outlined. The three major objectives were: (i) to increase the manufacturing sector’s growth rate to 15-20% per annum, in order to increase the sector’s share in the economy, (ii) to create 100 million additional manufacturing jobs in the economy by 2022, and (iii) to ensure that the manufacturing sector’s contribution to GDP is increased to 25% by 2022 (23.1% in 2015-16).

The policy approach was to create a conducive environment for investments, develop modern and efficient infrastructure, and open up new sectors for foreign capital. Designed to fall?

Given that big-ticket projects for grand initiatives such as ‘Make in India’ have long gestation periods and lag effects, assessments of such initiatives can be premature. Also, governments often use the excuse of inheriting an economy riddled with macroeconomic problems, and demand more time to set things right. This is an argument that the current government invokes frequently. However, five years is a reasonable time period to assess the direction and magnitude of outcomes. As policies change, it is to be seen that in three key variables of the manufacturing sector – investments, output, and employment growth – an examination of these will help us judge the success of the policy.

The last five years witnessed slow growth of investment in the economy. This is more so as when we consider aggregate investments in the manufacturing sector, gross fixed capital formation of the private sector, a measure of aggregate investment in the manufacturing sector, has declined to 26.6% of GDP in 2017-18 (28.1% in 2015-16). Interestingly, though the public sector’s share remained more or less the same during this period, the private sector’s share declined from 24.2% to 23.5%. Part of this problem can be attributed to the decline in the savings rate in the economy. Households savings have declined from 20.2% to 19.5%. Part of this decline was attributed to the private corporate sector’s savings, which have increased, but investments have decreased, despite policy measures to provide a good investment climate.

With regard to output growth, we find that the monthly index of industrial production pertaining to manufacturing having registered double-digit growth rates only on two occasions during the period April 2012 to November 2015. In fact, data show that for a majority of the months, it was 0% or below and even negative for some months. Needless to say, negative growth implies contraction of the sector. Thus, we are clearly waiting for growth to arrive.

Regarding employment growth, we have witnessed questions being raised over the government’s delay in releasing data on employment, as well as its attempts to revise existing data collection mechanisms. This even as the decade has been marked by employment, especially industrial employment, not growing to keep pace with the rate of new entries into the labour market.

Thus, on all three counts, ‘Make in India’ has failed.

Policy cautions

Against the previous government’s policy paralysis, the NDA government announced a slew of policies to address market failures. This has led to an army of never-ending scheme announcements. ‘Make in India’ is a good example of a continuous stream of ‘scheme’ announcements. The announcements had two major lacunae. First, the bulk of these schemes relied too much on foreign capital for investments and global markets for product. This created an inherent uncertainty, as domestic producers had to be planned according to the demand and supply conditions elsewhere. Second, policymakers neglected the third deficit in the economy, which is implementation. While economists worry mostly about budget and fiscal deficits, policy implementers need to take into account the implications of implementation deficits in their decisions. The result of such a policy oversight is evident in the large number of stalled projects in India. The scope of policy announcements without having the preparedness to implement them is ‘policy caution’. ‘Make in India’ has been plagued by a large number of under-prepared initiatives.

The question that begs an answer is, why didn’t ‘Make in India’ fail? There are three reasons. First, it set out too ambitious growth rates for the manufacturing sector to achieve. An annual growth rate of 12-15% is well beyond the capacity of the industrial sector. Historically, India has not achieved it and has had to look abroad for such a quantum leap, which is perhaps an erroneous overestimation of the implementation capacity of the government. Second, the initiative brought in too many sectors into its fold. This led to a loss of policy focus. Further, it was seen as a policy devoid of any understanding of the complexities of the domestic economy. Third, given the uncertainties of the global economy and ever-rising trade protectionism, the initiative was spectacularly ill-timed.

‘Make in India’ is a policy initiative with inbuilt inconsistencies. The bundle of contradictions unfold when we examine the incoherence of ‘smart’ policy making being made within the government. This has led to a scenario where there is a quantum jump in the ‘rate of doing business’ cooking, but investments are still to arrive. The economy needs much more than policy window dressing for increasing manufacturing activity. The government must realise that industrialisation cannot be achieved by a series of Bills in Parliament and hosting investors’ meets.

M. Suresh Babu teaches economics at IIT Madras and is the author of the book ‘Draining Shoked: India’s Industrial Growth in the Wake of Economic Reform’ (Vistaareti, 2016)
MAKE IN INDIA

• Primary goal → To make India a global manufacturing hub
• Targets 25 sectors of Indian economy
• Led by Dept for Promotion of Industry and Internal trade, MoC&I.

Objectives

- Increase manufacturing sectors’ growth rate to 12-14% per annum → to increase the manufacturing sector’s share in economy
- Create 100 million additional manufacturing jobs in Indian Economy by 2022.
- Ensure manufacturing sector’s contribution to GDP is increased to 25% by 2025.

Policy approach → To create a conducive environment for investments, develop modern and efficient infrastructure and open up new sectors to foreign capital.

Is ‘Make in India’ a success?

• Three variables of manufacturing sector have been examined.
  ➔ Investments
  ➔ Output
  ➔ Employment growth
### Indicator → Gross Fixed Capital Formation

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Public Sector</th>
<th>Private Sector</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>31.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>28.6</td>
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*Source: Central Statistical Office*

### Figure 20: Sector-wise fixed investment rate (percentage share in GDP)

- Source: Economic Survey 2018-19

**Private Sector**

- Decrease in investments

**Increase in savings**

**Private Sector**

Civilpedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
Reasons why ‘Make In India’ has failed?

- Policy not working as intended → due to ‘Policy casualness’
- Issues with policy announcement
  - Relied on foreign capital for investment
  - Implementation deficit
- Ambitious targets → impossible to achieve
- Inclusion of too many sectors
  → Loss of policy focus
- Spectacularly ill-timed

Conclusion

- Effective policy changes required

Output

- Indicator → Index of Industrial Production
  - Growth in manufacturing fell 3% or below and even negative for some months
  - Contraction in the manufacturing sector

Employment growth

- Industrial employment not grown

Result → ‘Make in India’ has failed.
Previous Year Question - Mains 2015

GS-III

Q. "Success of 'Make in India' programme depends on the success of 'Skill India' programme and radical labour reforms." Discuss with logical arguments.
146 endangered Irrawaddy dolphins sighted in Chilika

The lake is home to their highest single lagoon population

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHURANESWAR

Odisha Forest Department officials, wildlife experts and researchers on Sunday sighted 146 endangered Irrawaddy dolphins in Chilika Lake, which boasts of the highest single lagoon population of the aquatic mammal in the world.

The dolphin census was simultaneously taken up in Chilika and off Odisha coast. The Chilika Development Authority (CDA) is elated as the direct sighting of 146 dolphins means that its population in the lake would stabilise well above 150. According to last year’s census, the Irrawaddy dolphin population in Chilika was 151.

‘Direct sighting’

“The direct sighting of 146 dolphins only corroborates the estimate of the CDA, which does counting of dolphins round the year using hydrophones. Our estimated population range is 133-173,” said Susanta Nanda, Chief Executive Officer, CDA.

His confidence stemmed from the fact that dolphins were colonising new areas, which had been freed from encroachments by prawn farming gherries.

“We have noticed dolphin movements in new areas in the central and southern sectors, more specifically in the areas near Kalijai and Rambha. These areas were made free from encroachments,” said Mr. Nanda. He expressed hopes that the population is likely to increase in the next couple of years as there are enough signs of dolphins migrating from the Satapada side to other areas.

According to hydrophone monitoring carried out round the year in Chilika, the highest number of Irrawaddy dolphins (20-25) was moving around Rajhans, followed by the Magarmukh and Malatikuda areas.

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-III

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

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

PAPER-IV

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

- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
News

- Dolphin census begun in Chilika lake and Bhitarkanika National Park
- 146 Irrawaddy Dolphins sighted in Chilika lake
- Estimated population → 133 - 172

Irrawaddy Dolphins

- Found in South and South-East Asia - shallow waters, large river systems, brackish lagoons and sound
- 3 rivers → Ayeyarwady (Myanmar)
  → Mahakam (Indonesia)
  → Mekong river (Cambodia-Lao)

- Subpopulations
  → Chilika lagoon (India)
  → Songkhla lagoon (Thailand)
  → Malampaya sound (Philippines)

- Chilika → highest single lagoonal population
- **Threats**
  - Anthropogenic activities
  - Entanglement in fishing gear
  - Habitat loss
    - Dams
    - Degradation from declining freshwater flows
  - Degradation by pollutants and siltation
  - Live capturing
  - Deforestation and mining

- **Conservation**
  - IUCN Red list → ‘Endangered’
  - CITES → Appendix I
  - CMS → Appendix I
  - WPA 1972 → Schedule I (Part - I)
Chilika lake

- Shallow, brackish-water lake
- Lies in Puri, Khurda and Ganjam District, Odisha
- Asia’s largest Brackish water lake
- Formed due to silting by Mahanadi river
- A shallow lagoon → sandbar along eastern shore
- Rich in organic matter – muddy bottom
- Diverse fauna → varying degrees of salinity
- One of hotspot of Biodiversity

- Islands → Krushnaprasad, Nalaban, Kalijai, Somolo, Honeymoon, Breakfast and Birds Island, etc.
Q. Other than poaching, what are the possible reasons for the decline in the population of Gangas River Dolphins?

1. Construction of dams and barrages on rivers
2. Increase in the population of crocodiles in rivers.
3. Getting trapped in fishing nets accidentally
4. Use of synthetic fertilizers and other agricultural chemicals in crop-fields in the vicinity of rivers.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Important waterfowl habitats of India

Included in list of wetlands → Intensive conservation and management by MoEF&CC.

1st Ramsar site of India → “Wetland of International importance”.

Included in Montreux Record in 1993 → removed in 2002.
PF benefits should extend to contractual employees: SC

Judgment came on a petition filed by a govt. company

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The benefits of the provident fund should be extend-
ed to contractual employees, the Supreme Court has held in a recent judgment.

A Bench of Justices U.U. Lalit and Indu Malhotra has held that employees who
draw wages or salaries directly or indirectly from a company are entitled to provident
fund benefits under the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Act.

The judgment came on the basis of a petition filed by M/s Pawan Hans Limited,
a government company which provides helicopter support services to the oil
sector for its offshore exploration operations, services in remote and hilly areas,
and charter services for the promotion of tourism.

Company versus union
The company had filed the petition against its em-
ployees’ union, the Aviation
Karmachari Sanghatana,
which sought uniformity in
service conditions among
employees.

Of a total workforce of
840 employees, the company
had engaged 570 em-
ployees on regular basis,
while 270 employees were
engaged on “contractual”
basis.

The company implement-
ed the PF Trust Regulations
only with respect to the reg-
ular employees, even
though the term “employee”
had been defined to include
“any person” employed “di-
rectly or indirectly” under the PF Trust Regulations.

The contractual employees have been seeking
parity with the regular em-
ployees, who are covered
under the Pawan Hans Em-
ployees Provident Fund
Trust Regulations.

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.

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Employees Provident Fund (EPF) under Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952
- Managed by EPFO
- EPF
  - Employee’s contribution
  - Equal contribution by employer
- Section 12: Employer cannot deduct their share of PF from wages of employees

- Contract employees: Employed through the third agency/contractor.

- S. Court Judgment: Extend benefits of PF to contractual employees.
  - Based on a petition filed by Pawan Hans – a Govt. company.

- Section 2(f) of the 1952 Act:
  (f) “employee” means any person who is employed for wages in any kind of work, manual or otherwise, in or in connection with the work of an establishment, and who gets his wages directly or indirectly from the employer, and includes any person—
  i. employed by or through a contractor in or in connection with the work of the establishment;
  ii. engaged as an apprentice, not being an apprentice engaged under the Apprentices Act, 1961 (52 of 1961), or under the standing orders of the establishment;
State-level Pulse Polio drive launched

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Minister for Health K.K. Shylaja inaugurated the State-level Pulse Polio immunisation drive at the community health centre at Vilappil in the district.

Though India had been declared polio-free, the circulation of wild polio virus in neighbouring Afghanistan and Pakistan was a cause for concern, the Minister said.

The immunisation drive would be conducted across three days.

Door-to-door visits

Booth-level immunisation on the first day will be followed up with door-to-door visits to administer Pulse Polio drops.

As many as 24,247 vaccination booths and an equal number of teams to conduct house visits have been arranged.
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.
- Development processes and the development industry—the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests, Indian diaspora.

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

- State-level Pulse Polio drive was launched in Thiruvananthapuram.

Pulse Polio Immunization Programme

- launched in India - 1995

- also known as ‘National Immunization Days’ (NIDs)

Background


- India committed to the resolution.

- Under this programme, Children in the age group of 0-5 years administered Polio drops every year

- 2011 - Last Polio case reported in India

- 2012 - WHO removed India from the list of ‘endemic countries with active polio virus transmission’

- 2014 - WHO certified South-East Asia Region (including India) as Polio-free.
Why Pulse-Polio programme again launched?

- Circulation of wild Polio virus in neighbouring Afghanistan and Pakistan
- To maintain polio-free status
  - Booth-level Immunization and door-to-door visits will be carried out to administer polio drops

Polio

- Poliomyelitis (Polio) - highly infectious viral disease.
- Mainly affects young children under 5 years.
- It affects spinal cord that leads to paralysis.
- 3 Strains of WPV: Type 1, 2 and 3
- Transmission
  - Human-to-Human
    - faecal-oral route and oral-oral route
  - No animal reservoir
Q. Consider the following diseases:
1. Diphtheria
2. Chickenpox
3. Smallpox
Which of the above diseases has/have been eradicated in India?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) None

Current status
- WPV type 2 and type 3 - not been detected since 2015
- WPV type 1 - Probably remains in circulation

There is no cure for Polio, it can only be prevented by immunization.
- Polio vaccine, given multiple times, can protect a child for life.
Submarine-launched ballistic missile tested

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

India on Sunday successfully test-fired a 3,500-km range submarine-launched ballistic missile, K-4, official sources said. The test was carried out by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from a submerged pontoon off the Visakhapatnam coast around noon.

"The test was conducted from a submerged pontoon and has met the desired parameters. A pontoon simulates the situation of a launch from a submarine," an official source said on condition of anonymity.

The missile has been tested several times earlier as part of developmental trials to validate different parameters, the source said. "The missile ejecting from a submerged platform to the surface [sea] is the toughest part."

There are very few countries which have managed to achieve this technological breakthrough, a second official source said. "Our Circular Error Probability (CEP) is much more sophisticated than Chinese missiles," the source said. The CEP determines the accuracy of a missile. The lower the CEP, the more accurate the missile is.

Once inducted, these missiles will be the mainstay of the Arihant class of indigenous ballistic missile nuclear submarines and will give India the stand-off capability to launch nuclear weapons submerged in Indian waters. INS Arihant, the first and only operational SSBN, is armed with K-15 Sagarika missiles with a range of 750 km.

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

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

- Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.
• K-4 missile
  • Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM)
  • Developed by DRDO
  • Range - 3500 km

• INS Arinchant
  • India’s first and only operational SSBN (Submersible Ship Ballistic Nuclear)
  • Developed under Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project.

• India is now a nuclear triad like USA, Russia, China, etc

• Successful test of K-4 missile from a submerged pontoon

• Circular Error Probability (CEP)
  • Measure of precision and accuracy of a weapon system
  • Smaller the CEP, higher the accuracy
Students launch satellites using helium balloon

Around 250 teams participate in event

STAFF REPORTER
VELLORE

Twelve payloads consisting of satellites were launched using a helium-filled balloon by school students during the National Space Challenge-2020 (NNSC), organised by the National Design and Research Forum (NDRF) from the launchpad at the Vellore Institute of Technology, here on Sunday. The balloon is expected to reach an altitude of 20 kilometres.

To commemorate the Golden Jubilee of NDRF and the centenary year of Institution of Engineers (India), a national payload design contest for school students was announced on August 30, 2019. The contest was open to students from classes 8 to 12. Student teams of a maximum of 5 members each were encouraged to propose innovative payload ideas with the condition that it should not exceed 3.8 cubic cm in size and 50 grams in weight.

Across India
Teams from about 250 schools across India participated in the initial round of the contest and the NDRF selected 12 teams from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Goa for the launch on Sunday.

NDRF Chairman and Vice-President of Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology, Myswami Annadurai said, "We have to inculcate higher level of interest about space technology among school students."

Part A—Preliminary Examination
Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- General Science.

Part B—Main Examination

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.
- Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.
- Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.
News

- Students launch satellites using Helium balloon

Helium filled balloon

- High altitude balloon
- Helium is lighter than air
- Helium → inert gas and non-combustible

National Space Challenge - 2020

- School children to design, explore and innovate in making own satellites

- Under the guidance of National Design and Research Forum (NDRF) and Space Kidz India (SKi)

- Students to use teamwork, creativity & design a payload to fly into Near Space
National Design and Research Forum (NDRF)

- Autonomous forum of the Institution of Engineers (India)
- It promotes research, design, development and innovation through collaborative efforts since 1969.

Space Kidz India (SKI)

- It is an organisation creating ‘Young Scientists’ for the country
- It spreads awareness among children for a ‘borderless world’
- It creates international experiential learning for students in the field of science, technology, art and culture.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements with reference to the disease “Polio”.

1. It is caused by a virus, which mainly affects young children under 5 years of age.
2. It spreads through Human-to-Human transmission and animal-to-human transmission.
3. Once affected, it can be cured only by Chemotherapy.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

a) 1 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Why is Helium gas used in high altitude balloons?

1. Helium is lighter than hydrogen.
2. Helium is chemically non-reactive and non-combustible gas and more safe to use.

Select the correct reason(s) using the codes given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to the Irrawaddy Dolphins.

1. The population in Chilika lake is considered to be the highest single lagoonal population.

2. The highest population of this species is found in India.


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

Q4. Consider the following statements.

1. The Employees Provident Fund (EPF) is mandatory for all establishments in India in which 10 or more persons are employed.

2. The contractual workers receiving salary indirectly from the employer are not eligible for provident fund scheme.

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

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Q5. Consider the following diseases:
1. Diphtheria
2. Chickenpox
3. Smallpox
Which of the above diseases has/have been eradicated in India?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) None

Q6. The “Red Data Books” published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resource (IUCN) contain lists of,
1. Endemic plant and animal species present in the biodiversity hotspots.
2. Threatened plant and animal species.
3. Protected sites for conservation of nature and natural resources in various countries.
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
(a) 1 and 3
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 3 only
Previous Year Question – Prelims 2014

Q7. Other than poaching, what are the possible reasons for the decline in the population of Ganges River Dolphins?

1. Construction of dams and barrages on rivers
2. Increase in the population of crocodiles in rivers.
3. Getting trapped in fishing nets accidentally
4. Use of synthetic fertilizers and other agricultural chemicals in crop-fields in the vicinity of rivers.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Practice Question – Mains

GS-II

Q. ‘Make in India’ is one of the flagship initiatives by Government of India to make India as a global manufacturing hub. Critically analyse the progress of ‘Make in India’ initiative and its contribution towards India’s economic growth. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)
Practice Question – Prelims

Answers

1. Option (b) – 2 and 3 only
2. Option (b) – 2 only
3. Option (c) – 1 and 3 only
4. Option (d) – Neither 1 nor 2
5. Option (b) – 3 only
6. Option (b) – 2 only
7. Option (c) – 1, 3 and 4 only