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

The Hindu News Analysis – 27th June 2020 – Shankar IAS Academy

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy

Practice Prelims MCQs @ End of the video
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-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.

- 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

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
- Government Budgeting.
“Guns, germs and steel” crisis

• ‘Guns’ crisis - border dispute India currently facing, especially with China along LAC - associated military crisis.


• ‘Steel’ crisis - problems faced by Industries and businesses due to lockdown - pushed them to the verge of bankruptcy - economic crisis.

• Common requirement to resolve all the three

  ✓ Need for significant and abundant financial resources.

Military crisis

• Calls for immediate and strategic military action by Indian defence and foreign affairs establishments.

• Situation necessitates higher expenditure by govt - India needs to increase its defence spending by an additional 1% to 2% of GDP.

  ✓ India’s defence budget for 2020-21 - 2.1% of GDP - 1.5% of GDP without the defense pensions.

  ✓ SIPRI in 2019:

    ➢ India spent 2.4% of its GDP - third largest military spender

    ➢ China’s defence budget is nearly four times larger - world’s second largest military spender.
Health crisis

• COVID-19 crisis – demanding constant monitoring in all spheres by the Health Ministry and local administration.

✓ Govt. spending on health – 1.5% of GDP

➢ China – 3% ; USA – 9%

✓ Central government will need additional funds – equivalent of at least 1% of GDP to continue the fight against COVID-19

Economic crisis

• Four major drivers of Indian economy severely impacted by lockdown

  1. People’s spending on consumption
  2. Government spending
  3. Investment
  4. External trade.

✓ External trade fell even before the pandemic, from 55% of nominal GDP in 2014 to 40% in 2020.

✓ Investment is not a viable option – due to drastic fall in demand.

✓ People’s spending on consumption – the largest contributor to growth.

➢ Government needs to inject incremental funds of 5% of GDP – to stimulate consumption and absorb economic shock.
Arranging finance to address 3 crises together imposing additional spending of 8% of GDP

• Through levying tax
  ✓ Reintroducing wealth tax
  ✓ Imposing large capital gains tax

• Through large borrowing - government debt will rise dramatically
  ✓ Could lead to 'junk' crisis - will trigger panic among foreign investors - money invested will be pulled out - affects investment driver.

• Printing money - monetizing the fiscal deficit
  ✓ RBI purchases government bonds directly from the govt. and prints more currency to finance it - Inflation Question.

Author’s view

• Either of two options
  1. To execute bold choice of borrowing or printing money and start a rescue mission
  2. To do nothing and hope the situation resolves itself.

• Suggestion - govt. to borrow and deal with the consequences of junk crisis, later.
International routes will be opened case by case: DGCA

‘Scheduled commercial operations suspended till July 15’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

While most international flights will remain suspended in the country till July 15, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday said it was considering re-opening some overseas routes on a case-by-case basis.

“Scheduled commercial passenger operations will remain suspended till 23.59 hours of July 15,” said the DGCA in a circular, extending its earlier restriction that was in force till June 30. It added, “international scheduled flights may be allowed on selected routes by the competent authority on a case-to-case basis (sic).”

While domestic flights resumed in the country from May 25, the ban imposed on international flights is in place for more than three months. The

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.
- 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.

- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
- Important International institutions, agencies and fora-their structure, mandate.

P8 - 10 → C, B, D, H, T
News

- Directorate General of Civil Aviation is considering re-opening of some international air routes on a case to case basis.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

- India’s regulatory body in the field of Civil Aviation.
- deals with safety issues in aviation sector.
- Responsible for
  - Regulation of air transport services to/from/within India.
  - Enforcement of civil air regulations, air safety and airworthiness standards.

- comes under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- Important functions
  - Registration of civil aircrafts.
  - Formulation of standards of airworthiness for civil aircrafts registered in India.
  - Licensing of pilots, and engineers, and conducting examinations.
  - Conducting investigation into aircraft accidents and taking accident prevention measures like formulation and implementation of safety aviation management programmes.
  - Coordinating all regulatory functions with International Civil Aviation Organization.
Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)

• Was initially set up as a cell in DGCA.
• Now independent department under Ministry of Civil Aviation.
• Responsibilities – laying down standards and measures with respect to security of civil flights at domestic and international airports of India.

Airports Authority of India (AAI)

• Constituted by an Act of Parliament.
• By merging National Airports Authority and International Airports Authority of India.
• Design, Development, Operation and Maintenance of international and domestic airports and civil enclaves.
• Control and Management of the Indian airspace extending beyond the territorial limits of the country, as accepted by ICAO.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

• Specialized agency on UN
• Established in 1944.
• Headquarters – Montreal, Canada
• To manage the administration and governance of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, better known as Chicago Convention.
• Works with the Convention’s 193 Member States and industry groups to reach consensus on international civil aviation Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and policies.
• Policies include support of safe, efficient, secure, economically sustainable and environmentally responsible civil aviation sector.
Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA)

- Founded by the member states of ICAO in 2016.

- Goal:
  ✓ To achieve carbon-neutral growth globally from 2020 onwards.
  ✓ Decision taken to adopt measures to address any annual increase in total CO2 emissions from international civil aviation sector, above the 2020 levels.

- CORSIA applies only to international flights.
- Domestic flights are covered under UNFCCC Paris Agreement.

International Air Transport Association (IATA)

- A trade association for the world’s airlines, representing some 290 airlines or 82% of total air traffic.

- Founded in 1945 and head quartered in Montreal, Canada.

- Works in many areas of aviation activity and helps formulate industry policy on critical aviation issues.

- Not an intergovernmental agency.

✓ Includes members from both national carriers and private airlines across the world

➢ Ex: Air India is a member of IATA
The pandemic imposes a steep learning curve

Though online instruction will shape education in the future, there is much to absorb in the context of COVID-19

A cross the world, education has been dealt a significant blow by the COVID-19 pandemic. Instruction has moved online, across the country, schools, colleges, universities and research institutions have had to cancel face-to-face classes, with no idea of when it will be possible to safely resume. Higher education has gone digital where possible, but this is simply not realizable in many parts.

The pandemic imposes a steep learning curve. The [C, B, D, H, T] Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy

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.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
Adoption or shift to online education to be done with Planning and Sensitivity

- Diversity in institutions
- Because of contrasting realities in rural versus urban infrastructure – digital divide, in terms of availability of resources and connectivity.
- Variable quality of staff
- Diverse types of subjects to be taught
- For achieving inclusive education
  - Digital tools such as Artificial Intelligence – Personalized and specialized learning experiences – differently abled students
  - online higher education using massive open online classrooms

National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL)

- Initiated by seven IITs along with the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in 2003.
- Funded by Union Ministry of HRD.
- Provides E-learning through online Web and Video courses in Engineering, Science and Humanities streams – Certification courses
- Anyone can learn freely from these courses anywhere anytime – no pre-requisites, no age limit, no entrance criteria to enrol
- Learning can be done by watching videos and this is tested by the weekly assignments.
- For certification, one has to pay a fee and exams at centres in online and offline mode.
**SWAYAM**

- Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds.
- Portal for national massive open online classrooms.
- An initiative of Union MHRD.
- To ensure best quality content is produced and delivered, nine National Coordinators were appointed.
- NPTEL - official SWAYAM national coordinator for engineering.
- Hosts courses, taught in classrooms from Class 9 till post-graduation.
- Courses can be accessed by anyone, anywhere, anytime, free of cost.

**Online education**

- Human touch might be lost but has potential to touch more humans - accelerate democratisation of knowledge and the wide distribution of learning opportunities
- For evaluation and examination purposes - move from the idea of proctored examinations.
• The Nai Talim strategy - by Gandhi.

✓ New Learning or Experimental Learning

✓ This is a work centric approach with four basic principles.

1. Education or learning in mother tongue along with handicraft work,

2. Work should be linked with most useful vocational needs of the locality,

3. Learning should be linked with vocational work, and

4. Work should be socially useful and productive.

✓ Self-study, self-evaluation based assignments and experimental approach from Nai Talim can be taken
Q1. Consider the following pairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deficit type</th>
<th>Indicates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Fiscal deficit</td>
<td>Govt’s borrowings going towards meeting expenses other than interest payments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Primary deficit</td>
<td>Total borrowing requirements of the Government from all sources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Revenue deficit</td>
<td>Excess of revenue expenditure over revenue receipts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3
Focus on revival, not debt, says Finance panel

Not time for fiscal consolidation: Singh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government need not, at present, focus on fiscal consolidation and increased public debt, rather it should concentrate on the fastest possible revival of the economy, 15th Finance Commission Chairman N. K. Singh, said on Friday.

He said there was acute pressure on the finances of both the Central and State governments given the much lower growth number and revenue receipts.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting of the Commission with the Economic Advisory Council, Mr. Singh said this year, the fiscal numbers look to be way out of what they have been considered, and the Finance Ministry itself has increased their borrowings from the Reserve Bank and the State governments are also going to borrow more.

He further said, “This is not the time to talk of fiscal consolidation.

“This is the time in which the world believes, I think, that what needs to be protected is the expenditure over fiscal deficit and this is exactly what the Central government has done,” Mr. Singh added.

Fiscal deficit could touch ₹85,000 crore: Palaniswami

S. GANESAN
TRICHY

Tamil Nadu’s fiscal deficit could touch ₹85,000 crore this year due to the pandemic if the existing trend of revenue shortfall continues, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami said here on Friday.

“Revenue receipts have dried up over the past two months. With industries and businesses remaining shut, we will sustain a shortfall of about ₹12,000-₹13,000 crore a month as per the Finance Secretary’s projections,” he told journalists. A month ago, Mr. Palaniswami, citing a Finance Department estimate, had put the anticipated revenue shortfall, vis-a-vis budget estimates of revenue receipts, at ₹35,000 crore.

He said a decision on extending the lockdown beyond June 30 or expanding it would be taken based on inputs of the expert committee and the Centre’s decision. “The committee meeting is scheduled for Monday.”
Fiscal Deficit - When the Govt's non-borrowed receipts fall short of its entire expenditure, it has to borrow money from the public to meet the shortfall. This excess of total expenditure over total non-borrowed receipts is called Fiscal Deficit.

\[ FD = \text{Total Expenditure} - (\text{Total Receipts except borrowings and liabilities}) \]

- fiscal deficit - financed through borrowing.
- Indicates total borrowing requirements of the Government from all sources.
- Fiscal deficit is a key variable in judging the financial health of the public sector and the stability of the economy.

Primary deficit is fiscal deficit minus interest payments. It indicates how much of the Govt's borrowings - going towards meeting expenses other than interest payments.

Revenue Deficit - the excess of revenue expenditure over the revenue receipt - Indicates shortfall of Government's current receipts over current expenditure.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements with reference to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

1. It publishes the Global report on Trafficking in Persons.

2. Blue Heart Campaign is an initiative of UNODC.

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
News

- World Drug Report, 2020 which is published by UNODC. It looks at the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on illegal drug production, supply and consumption.

UNODC

- Established in 1997
- by merging United Nations Drug Control Programme and Centre for International Crime Prevention
- Mandate:
  - Make the world safer from drugs, organized crime, corruption and terrorism.
  - Achieving health, security and justice for all by tackling these threats and promoting peace and sustainable well-being of the world.
  - Focus on human trafficking and gender equality.
  - Reports Published:
    - the World Drug Report
    - Global Report on Trafficking in Persons.
• Implementation of Mandates

✓ offers practical assistance and encourages transnational approaches to actions in all regions of the world through its global programmes and a network of field offices.

✓ Supports member states in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

➢ Rule of law, and effective and humane justice systems with health-oriented responses to drug.
Focus - Five normative areas of activities

- Strengthening member states' capacities to confront threats from transnational organized crime
- Countering terrorism
- Tackling corruption and its catastrophic effects on societies
- Strengthening crime prevention and building effective criminal justice system
- Support members in building balanced, evidence-based approach to world drug problem addressing both supply and demand.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

1. It publishes the Global report on Trafficking in Persons.

2. Blue Heart Campaign is an initiative of UNODC

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

- other important functions
  - campaigns on world drug day.
  - international anti corruption day.
  - blue heart campaign against human trafficking.
Living on the margins, but central to the economy

The lockdown has lifted in most places and the economy is slowly re-opening, but there is a severe shortage of labour. Ajeet Mahale and K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj report on how cities that had turned their backs on migrant workers for more than two months now want them back.

Until the novel coronavirus outbreak and the consequent lockdown imposed by the government to curb its spread, migrant workers lived hidden from the public gaze in the Garden City of India. The workers who had built the fast-growing city’s houses, apartment complexes, workplaces, and other imposing and immediately visible structures, and others who had worked in them, were largely “invisible” themselves. They lived in structures held up flimsily by tin sheets; these were the boxes that these builders called home. Like the Indian community in London in Salman Rushdie’s Satanic Verses, migrant labourers in Bengaluru were a “city visible but unseen”.

But when the lockdown was imposed and economic activity came to a grinding halt, these workers emerged on the streets, demanding that they be allowed to go home. With no public transport to take them anywhere, and as they were abruptly left unemployed and hungry, many decided to do what was unthinkable until then – walk to their towns and villages situated as far as in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand.

Seeing the humanitarian crisis unfold before its eyes, the Karnataka government then organised Shramik special trains to take the workers home. Since the beginning of May till June 24, around 4.6 lakh migrants, the majority of them working in Bengaluru, boarded 284 Shramik special trains to leave Karnataka. (The data does not include those who hitched rides or attempted to leave the city on foot.) Bengaluru is no
back in the State, assuring them that they would get work as the economy was reopening.

However, the workers were desperate to leave. They recounted bitter experiences of life under lockdown. Several said that they were not receiving any of the promised food and other rations. Ravindra Ram, 32, from Jharkhand, who was working at a construction site of a large apartment in south-east Bengaluru, pointed to a 3-storey apartment complex he had helped build. In the first week of May he told *The Hindu*: “We have built so many houses. Can’t we just go back to our own home?”

On May 6, the Karnataka government decided to cancel all the Shramik special trains that it had scheduled to take the migrant workers back home. The fact that it made this decision soon after meeting the Confederation of Real Estate Developers’ Association of India (CREDAI) Bengaluru chapter sparked anger among trade organisations, workers unions and activists. Faced with a massive backlash, the government has had to re-introduce the trains on May 8. Thousands boarded these trains and left the city.

But did others wait for the govt to change its decision on train services and began walking back thousands of kilometres to U.P., Bihar, Jharkhand, and other places as of charge of putting migrants on trains.

Now the city’s civic body runs a transit centre where migrant workers who want to return home can collect and stay at till they catch a train home. The number of workers who want to return home has come down to a few hundred everyday. The State government is now bearing the cost of their journey home, unlike earlier.

The question of coming back

With the lockdown lifted and the economy re-opening cautiously and calmly, CREDAI is now mulling running chartered trains from U.P. and Bihar to bring migrants back to Bengaluru to kick-start work. “We are confident that they will return. We are ready to run chartered trains to bring them back,” said Suresh Hari, Chairman, CREDAI, Bengaluru.

But will the labourers return? Many vowed never to come back, but they may not have that luxury. Already some workers from the northern parts of Karnataka are returning to Bengaluru as they have promised work. Industry remains optimistic of their return, at least after the ongoing monsoon sowing season, or once the COVID-19 curve is flattened.

Meanwhile, labour organisations hope that the crisis will serve as a wake-up call for the government, industry and citizens. “We see this as an opportunity to push for better living conditions for workers and better contracts. The crisis we face today is because the sector works under the informal sub-contract system. Employers desperately seeking labour seem to be willing to listen, at least for now. I hope this is not temporary and will translate into a behavioural change,” Vasudevan said.

Exodus from Mumbai

The workers’ longing to go back home and industry’s hope that they will return is different in Mumbai. Late May, Jayaram Raut and 30 others

ji Ali in the scorching heat. *Majboori hate, ishtii ja rahi hain (We’re helpless, that’s why we are leaving),* Raut said.

“In all my time in Mumbai, I never thought I would be leaving the city under such circumstances and that too in such a manner.”

Home for him and his fellow workers is Ganjam district in Odisha. Their work involved renovating buildings. Raut, a painter by profession, said they had been working at a high-rise apartment at a tony neighbourhood at Kems Corner when the lockdown was imposed. “We had received ₹2,000 each [from the contractor] last month [April] to get bare essentials, but now even that is over,” he said as the group halted at a bus stop surrounded by high-rise buildings in Worli.

With very few trains going to Odisha, Raut and his group had grown fed up of waiting. They had engaged a truck to pick them up from Thane. When they got no transport to Thane, they decided to walk. “I have worked in so many buildings here,” he pointed to the skyline of high-rise buildings opposite the Nehru Planetarium.

With migrant workers like Raut fleeing the city, the construction sector is among the worst hit, said Sunil Rana, a contractor and supervisor working in Mumbai for nearly a decade. “The chances of new projects starting are low. Even current projects may find it hard to get additional labour if required,” he said. Rana also left Mumbai to return to his home in Jharkhand.

In all my time in Mumbai, I never thought I would be leaving the city under such circumstances and that too in such a manner.

JAYARAM RAUT

Construction worker

in the running of the Shramik special trains. Central Railway (CR), which caters to the bulk of the trains coming into the city from different parts of the country and especially those coming from States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, witnessed a peak on May 25 and May 26 when 75 Shramik special trains were run, each carrying around 1,400 passengers.

Due to the labour crunch, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), which is building a slow of public infrastructure projects including several metro corridors, adversely affected for jobs on behalf of its contractors. An MMRDA spokesperson said that out of around 12,000 workers, about 6,000 had left the city, slowing down work across projects. “Many workers with small land holdings leave the city during the monsoon season. This time they left around 15-20 days earlier. We hope by the end of the monsoon season the situation in the city improves and they come back,” MMRDA’s spokesperson, B.G. Pawar, said. Workers who had left before July 1 were already returning to the city in batches, he said.

Return to the city

The number of Shramik special trains run by the Indian Railways also reduced in June. Railway officials said that since June 1 they have seen a steady increase in the number of passengers coming into the city on the scheduled trains being run by the Railways. “Many of the passengers, we have noticed, are daily-wage workers. Over the last week, we have seen all the trains that terminated in the city return full of passengers,” he said.

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
PRACTICE QUESTIONS
DISCUSSION
Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to SWAYAM portal:

1. SWAYAM seeks to bridge the digital divide for students untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy.

2. SWAYAM is an initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

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

Q4. Consider the following statements with reference to Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

1. DGCA is responsible for regulation of air transport services to/from/within India.

2. It co-ordinates all regulatory functions with International Civil Aviation Organisation.

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
Answers

1. Option ‘c’ – 3 only
2. Option ‘c’ – Both 1 and 2
3. Option ‘a’ – 1 only
4. Option ‘c’ – Both 1 and 2
Practice Question – Mains

GS – III

Q. India requires significant financial resources to resolve the gravest confluence of military, health and economic crises, faced by it. Discuss the available sources of revenue for the government to finance its needs?

(150 words, 10 marks)
LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE

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