Rajasthan: 4,538 more COVID-19 cases and 79 deaths, the highest number of fatalities on a single day so far. The overall case tally stood at 1,60,907. As of now, 47,782 persons are under treatment.

State’s recovery rate is

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT JAIPUR

The political turmoil in Rajasthan took a serious turn on Friday with the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the State police registering two criminal cases after incriminating audio tapes were made public in which a dissident Congress MLA is purportedly talking to Union

Not my voice, says Shekhawat

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat denied the Congress’s allegation that he was part of a conspiracy to topple the Ashok Gehlot government. The allegation came after audio clips

INAUKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

No country in the world can touch an inch of India’s territory, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in Ladakh on Friday.

Mr. Singh’s comments came in the aftermath of the stand-offs with China on the border, including the killing of 20 soldiers by Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley.
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Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

• Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

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

• Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

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.

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TDSAT stays TRAI order to Vodafone Idea

NEW DELHI

In an interim relief to Vodafone Idea, the telecom tribunal on Friday stayed TRAI's direction to the company to withhold a plan that promises priority 4G network to premium customers. However, the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) said TRAI can proceed with its inquiry and pass a final order at the earliest. It should be done after ensuring that requirements of natural justice are satisfied and that VIL is given opportunity to explain any alleged contravention, it said. PTI

Pg: 17 – C; 15 – D; 13 – B, H, T;
News: TDSAT stayed TRAI’s direction to Vodafone Idea to halt offering a priority 4G plan for its premium customers.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

- Function: To regulate telecom services, including fixation/revision of tariffs for telecom services.
- The 1997 Act was amended in 2000.
  ✓ Objective - to bring in functional clarity, strengthen the regulatory framework and the disputes settlement mechanism in the telecommunication sector.
  ✓ Established TDSAT.
Telecommunications Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)

• Set up to adjudicate any dispute between a licensor and a licensee, between two or more service providers, between a service provider and a group of consumers of the telecom sector.

• Also hears and disposes of appeals against any direction, decision or order of TRAI.

• In 2004, the Government included broadcasting and cable services within the purview of TRAI Act.

• Jurisdiction of TDSAT is extended to matters that lay before the Cyber Appellate Tribunal and also the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority Appellate Tribunal.

Composition of TDSAT (Appointed by C. Govt):

✓ Chairperson
  ➢ should be/should have been a Judge of the SC or the Chief Justice of a HC.

✓ Two Members
  ➢ should have held the post of Secretary to the Government of India or any equivalent post in the Central/State Government for a period of not less than two years.

  ➢ Can also be a person who is well versed in the field of technology, telecommunication, industry, commerce or administration.
• Powers and Jurisdiction:
  ✓ Exercises jurisdiction over Telecom, Broadcasting, IT and Airport tariff matters.
  ➢ TRAI Act, 1997,
  ➢ the Information Technology Act, 2000 and
  ➢ the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008.
  ✓ Exercises original as well as appellate jurisdiction in regard to Telecom, Broadcasting and Airport tariff matters.
  ✓ Exercises only appellate jurisdiction on Cyber matters.

✓ TDSAT has the same powers as are vested in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
✓ TDSAT is not bound by the procedure laid down by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
  ➢ It has the power to regulate its own procedure, which is to be guided by the principles of natural justice.
Q. With respect to the Telecommunications Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), consider the following statements:

1. It has both Appellate and Original jurisdictions.

2. It exercises jurisdiction over telecom matters only.

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
At UN meet, Modi calls for ‘reformed multilateralism’

PM says the system needs to be more representative

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Calling on members of the United Nations to pledge for reform within the world body, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the multilateral system needed to be more representative, and India believed that “the path to achieve sustainable peace and prosperity” was through multilateralism.

He was speaking at a high-level dialogue of the UN’s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on “Multilateralism after COVID-19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary?”

“Only reformed multilateralism with a reformed United Nations at its centre can meet the aspirations of humanity,” Mr. Modi said in his speech focusing on India’s battle against the coronavirus pandemic.

The PM addressed the ECOSOC gathering virtually, along with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Narendra Modi speaking at the high-level dialogue of the ECOSOC.

Outlining India’s fight against the pandemic, Mr. Modi said that India had extended assistance to more than 150 countries, and helped set up a SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) COVID-19 emergency fund in the South Asian neighbourhood.

$300 bn package

He also detailed economic measures to manage the impact of the pandemic, including a government package of $300 billion to “bring the economy back on track, build modern infrastructure and put in place a technology-driven system”.

India’s recovery rate

“In the fight against COVID, our grassroots health system is helping India ensure one of the best recovery rates in the world,” Mr. Modi said.

“The United Nations was originally born from the furies of the Second World War. Today, the fury of the pandemic provides the context for its rebirth and reform. Let us not lose this chance,” Mr. Modi added, indicating India’s push for a permanent seat in a more globally representative United Nations Security Council.

Earlier, addressing the gathering, Mr. Guterres said that the world was in the middle of a “deepening calamity” and that the COVID-19 pandemic had led to “an acute health and economic crisis, the severity of which has not been seen in nearly a century” with effects on food, trade, health, climate.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

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

- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.

- Important International institutions, agencies and for their structure, mandate.
**Multilateralism**

- The principle of participation by three or more parties.
- Refers to coordinating relations among three or more states in accordance with certain principles - quantitative definition.
- Qualitative definition - An institutional form that co-ordinates relation among three or more states on the basis of “generalized” principles of conduct.
  - Principles which specify appropriate conduct for a class of actions, without regard to the particularistic interests of the parties or the strategic exigencies that may exist in any specific occurrence.

- Two elements - indivisibility and expectation of diffuse reciprocity among members.
- Indivisibility:
  - All the parties are treated in a more-inclusive manner and are granted equal treatment.
  - Non-discrimination among all contracting parties.
  - Multilateralism to be based around socially constructed public good.
Diffuse reciprocity - arrangement is expected by its members to yield a rough equivalence of benefits over time, if not necessarily in every decision.

- Situations in which the inequality of the present exchange gives rise to the normative expectation that this inequality will be remedied sometime in the future.
- Flexible criteria of equivalence.
- Bilateralism, is premised on specific reciprocity - quid-pro-quo exchange.
- Rules must apply to all countries - no exceptions for powerful states.
- In a multilateral trade - the provision of benefits to developing or least developed countries that are not fully reciprocated - special and differential treatments.
News

• Indian PM called for ‘reformed multilateralism’.
  ✓ Multilateral system to be more globally representative.
  ✓ India wants to be a permanent member at UNSC.

Source: www.mapsofworld.com
UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

- Established by the UN Charter in 1945
- One of the six main organs of UN.
- Aim - to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development namely, economic, social and environmental.
- Central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals.

- It has 54 member Governments which are elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly.
  - Seats on the Council are allotted based on geographical representation.
    - 14 seats - African States,
    - 11 seats - Asian States,
    - 6 seats - Eastern European States,
    - 10 seats - Latin American and Caribbean States,
    - 13 seats - Western European and other States.
  - India is a member currently - term expires on December 31, 2020.
Subsidiary Bodies of ECOSOC

• **ECOSOC Functional Commissions:**
  - Statistical Commission,
  - Commission on Population and Development,
  - Commission for Social Development,
  - Commission on the Status of Women,
  - Commission on Narcotic Drugs,
  - Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,
  - Commission on Science and Technology for Development,
  - United Nations Forum on Forests.

• **ECOSOC Regional Commissions:**
  - Economic Commission for Africa (ECA),
  - Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP),
  - Economic Commission for Europe (ECE),
  - Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC),
  - Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

• **ECOSOC Standing Committees.**

• **Expert bodies composed of governmental experts.**

• **Expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity.**
Previous Year Question – Mains 2017
GS – II
Q. What are the main functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)? Explain different functional commissions attached to it.
(150 words, 10 marks)

Practice Question - Prelims
Q. Consider the following statements with reference to United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):
1. It is a principal organ of United Nations.
2. Its member Governments are elected for three-year term by the General Assembly.
3. India is currently a member.
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
**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-III**

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

- India and its neighborhood relations.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests, Indian diaspora.

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**Iran ties need quiet diplomacy**

India must continue to remain politically engaged with Tehran despite its partnership plan with China.

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**Connectivity for Afghanistan**

Providing connectivity for Afghanistan through Iran is the only option to lessen its dependence on Russia, which has enjoyed support in Delhi, Kabul and Tehran since 2000. Chabahar port on Iran’s Oman coast is about 1,200 km from Kandahar, is well suited but road and rail links from Chabahar to Kandahar are not enough to carry goods in Afghanistan, need to be built. With Iran under sanctions during the Ahmadinejad years (2005-09), there was little progress, BPCON had prepared engineering studies estimating that the 800 km long railway project, if approved, would cost $6 billion. Meanwhile, India, concentrating on the Afghanistan project, is estimated to cost $1.5 billion. The project was completed in 2016 at a cost of $1.9 billion.

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**Iran's nuclear deal**

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed with Iran during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s visit to Tehran in 2007 to equip and operate two terminals at the Shahid Beheshti port as part of Phase I of the project. Another milestone was the signing of the “trilateral agreement on Establishment of International Transport and Transit Corridor between Afghanistan, Iran and India. In addition to $85 million of capital investment, India also committed to provide a line of credit of $50 million for port construction. Unlike the railway line operational in 2018 and India’s wheat shipments to Afghanistan, which were using this route. A specific economic zone (SEZ) at Chabahar was planned but re-imposition of U.S. sanctions has slowed investments in the SEZ.

India was given a waiver from U.S. sanctions to continue cooperation on Chabahar as is contributory to Afghanistan’s development. Despite the waiver, the project has suffered delays because of the time taken by the U.S. Treasury to actually clear the import of heavy equipment such as rail mounted gantry cranes, mobile harbor cranes, etc.

With regard to the rail-train project, a financing MoU was signed under which India undertook to provide $500 million worth of rolling stock and signalling equipment including $250 million of diesel trains. In fact, the railway line being currently laid is already 50% of the total cost being borne by BPCON. Iran’s responsibility is for local works of land levelling and procurement. The line between BPCON and Iran’s Construction and Development of Transportation and Urbanisation (CITAS) expired last year. Further, Shahid Al Azadai, the Iranian company managing some of the work in the line, was listed by the U.S. as a special designee entity, leading BPCON to suspend its projects and to appoint another contractor.

Meanwhile, Iran has ambitious plans to extend the railway line from Zahedi in Kandahar about 2,000 km south of Kandahar. Another 300 km onwards to Tarinko on the border with Turkmenistan. Another line is to link it with the international North-South Transport Corridor towards Baghdad on the Caspian Sea. In 2020, a consortium of seven Indian companies led by Steel Authority of India Limited had also successfully bid for mining rights at Hajigak mines in Afghanistan that contain large reserves of iron ore. However, developments at Hajigak remain stalled because of the precarious security situation in Afghanistan continuing.

**Why Iran needs China**

In January 2006, just as sanctions were eased, Chinese President Hu Jintao visited Tehran and pro- po sed a comprehensive partnership to involve Chinese investment in Iran, Iranian nuclear power plants, and other sectors to be supported by the two countries. Iran responded positively to the proposals, while India was not interested in the proposals.

Meanwhile, tensions in the region have been growing since last year with missile strikes in Saudi Arabia blamed on the Houthi rebels and a U.S. drone strike in January killing Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) chief Qassem Soleimani. Since then, there have been more than half a dozen mysterious explosions involving ballistic missiles and attacks on oil tankers.

In May, the U.S. announced that it wanted the UNS Security Council (UNSC) to continue the ban on Iran’s acquisition of conventional weapons. UNSC Resolution 2231 was adopted in July 2015 by the UNSC and contains a five-year extension. However, the resolution has been repeatedly challenged because of the sanctions that it imposed as a result of Iran’s nuclear program.

In November, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that the U.S. was quitting the Iran nuclear deal, arguing that it was not in the best interests of the U.S. and the world. The deal, however, is still in effect and is being implemented by the other parties to the agreement.

Tehran’s balancing act

Just as it has been a tricky exercise for India to navigate between the U.S. and Iran, it will keep the Chabahar project going, the Raviani administration has found it a difficult balancing act to manage the hard- liners at home while coping with Trump administration’s policy of ‘maximum pressure.’

India and China are the only countries to vote with the U.S. in the UNSC. Even so, the Iran- China comprehensive, strategic partnership road map has run into opposition in the Majlis. After the recent elections, the Reformists are down from 120 seats to 20 while the Principlists (Conservat- ives) are up from 86 to 22 seats in a house of 200 members. A former IRGC Air Force commander, Moj- hammed Reza Qalibaf, former Mayor of Tehran who ran unsuccess- fully for president against Mr. Rouhani in 2013 and 2017 has been elected the new Speaker. Hard Lin- ers have accused Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif of under- secrecy surrounding the agree- ment between Tehran and Beijing. Iran may be taking over Kid Island and that Chinese troops would be sta- tioned in Iran to secure Chinese companies and investments.

Advantages and a lesson

This may well be considering a long-term partnership with China, but Iranian negotiators are wary of growing Chinese mercantilist ten- dencies. It is true that China has greater capacity to resist U.S. san- ctions compared to India but Iran realises the advantage of working with its only partner that enjoys a sanctions waiver from U.S. for Chabahar since it provides con- nectivity for land-locked Afghanistan. Iran and India also share an anti-antipathy to a Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. This is why Iran would like to have better ties with India. Nevertheless, India needs to im- prove its implementation record of infrastructure projects that it has undertaken to the joint project.

There are numerous tales of In- dian cooperation projects in Indo- nesia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myan- mar and many others. India has not been able to live up to its promise, despite having taken up the joint project and successfully completing it.

Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.

Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests, Indian diaspora.
Two stories unfolding:

1. Top-level officer in Iran’s Ports and Maritime Organisation - ‘Iran dropping India is totally false because Iran has not signed any deal with India regarding the Zahedan-Chabahar Railway project’.

2. Author: a financing MoU was actually signed between India and Iran

   - MoU between IRCON and Iran’s Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructures Company expired last year.
Proposed Iran – China relations as ‘Strategic Partners’

- An 18-page draft – being finalized or almost finalized between Iran and China.
- Proposed measures include China investing heavily in various sectors in Iran.
  ✓ In return, China would get assured oil at a cheaper price for at least 25 years.
- May naturally reduce India’s role in Iran – as China has not taken India in to confidence.

For development and operations in Chabahar Port:

- Indian diplomats must remain politically engaged with Iran so that, there is a better appreciation of each other’s sensitivities and compulsions.
- An MOU between India and Iran for the development of Chabahar Port was signed in May 2015.
  ✓ translated into a formal 10-year contract for equipping and operating the Chabahar Port – executed on May 2016.
• India has to take Iran in to confidence
  ✓ India enjoys sanctions waiver from USA to develop the Chabahar port, as it is linked with connectivity for reconstruction of Afghanistan
  ✓ India builds relations based on mutual trust and cooperation - win-win relationship.
• India should improve its performance in various projects undertaken in the neighbouring countries.

Importance of Transit corridor in Iran:
• Connectivity to Afghanistan.
Plans of Iran and others:

- To connect Zahedan with Mashhad up to Sarakhs.
- To link the railway project to the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
International North-South Transport Corridor

- An initiative of Russia, India and Iran, in September 2000.
- An inter-governmental agreement on INSTC was signed in St. Petersburg in Russia, ratified by all the three signatory states – has been in force since May 16, 2002.
- It is a multi-modal transportation route that aims to link Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea through Iran.
- Further, it takes the route to northern Europe through St. Petersburg in Russia.
- Development in progress, and overall, the development on this project has been slow.
- In 2018, Iran and India stressed on the need for inclusion of Chabahar within its framework.

Source: olivegreens.co.in
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Which of the following countries initiated International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) in 2000 to establish transportation networks and to enhance connectivity with the land locked region of Central Asia?

(a) India, Pakistan and China
(b) Russia, India and Nepal
(c) Russia, India and China
(d) Russia, India and Iran
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. UN Security Council’s Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267, 1989 and 2253 is related to

(a) Eradicating the COVID-19 pandemic

(b) Gender parity at the workplace

(c) Sanctions list of individuals and entities of ISIL (Da’esh) and Al-Qaida

(d) Child labour
UNSC 1267 Committee

- It was established in 1999 following the UNSC resolution 1267.
  - Imposed limited air and financial embargoes to compel the Taliban to cease providing sanctuary and training to terrorists, including Usama bin Laden.
- UNSC subsequently modified it by its resolutions 1333 (in 2000) and 1390 (in 2002).
  - Imposed an arms embargo, a travel ban and an asset freeze on designated individuals and entities associated with the Taliban and Al-Qaida.
  - It split the regime in two, establishing one committee for the Taliban and another for Al-Qaida.
- UNSC resolution 2253 (in 2015)
  - UNSC expanded the listing criteria to include those associated with Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, or Da’esh), in addition to Al-Qaida.
- The Committee comprises all 15 members of the Security Council and makes its decision by consensus.
• Mandates of the Committee

✓ To oversee the implementation of the sanctions measures such as assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo.

✓ To designate individuals and entities who meet the listing criteria set out in the relevant resolutions.

✓ Consider and decide upon requests for exemptions from the sanctions measures.

✓ Conduct periodic reviews of the entries on the ISIL (Da’esh) & Al-Qaida Sanctions List.

✓ Consider and decide upon requests to remove a name from the ISIL & Al-Qaida Sanctions List.

Indian Scenario

• The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 was amended in 2019.

✓ inserted new schedule, the Fourth Schedule – to list ‘individuals’ as terrorists.
UPSC Prelims Question - 2018

Q. International Labour Organization’s (ILO) Conventions 138 and 182 are related to

(a) Child labour
(b) Adaptation of agricultural practices to global climate change
(c) Regulation of food prices and food security
(d) Gender parity at the workplace

Civilspedia - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Which of the following statements is not correct with reference to ‘Serosurvey’, often seen in news?

(a) It is the collection and testing of serum specimen of a defined population over a specified period of time to estimate the prevalence of antibodies against an infectious pathogen.

(b) Alternative sample types of oral fluid, breast milk and blood collected from umbilical cords can be used in serosurveys.

(c) It does not provide information on the proportion of population which is susceptible i.e., non-immune.

(d) It includes high financial cost, substantial staff and logistical challenges.

Corporation to take up serosurvey from today

IT firms told to test samples of staff

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Starting Saturday, the Greater Chennai Corporation will send healthcare professionals to residents’ doorsteps to collect blood samples for a serosurvey. Besides detecting the virus, a serosurvey will also help find out if a person has recovered from the infection without being aware of it.

Corporation Commissioner G. Prakash said the serosurvey would be completed in 10 days, covering all parts of the city. “Random samples of blood will be collected from 12,000 residents for the serosurvey,” said Mr. Prakash.

In a serosurvey conducted several weeks ago, ICMR had found that 2% of Chennai’s residents had been exposed to SARS-CoV-2. But a serosurvey conducted for Corporation staff on Thursday showed that 15% to 20% of them were exposed to SARS-CoV-2.

Mr. Prakash said that all the information technology firms and other agencies would be asked to conduct serosurvey of their staff.

Testing to be increased
Following directions from Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Thursday, the Corporation has decided to increase the number of tests from 10,000 to 13,000 every day. But the city and the suburbs continue to report a backlog in data entry of the results.

“Doctors are doing non-medical work, including data entry, in tertiary care hospitals in Chennai and suburbs. We need IT professionals to work on various aspects of data entry and statistics of COVID-19. Many doctors are being asked to coordinate with hotels for food supply to hospitals,” said a doctor.
Serosurvey

- It is the collection and testing of serum specimen or proxy fluids (alternative sample types)
  - Alternative sample types - oral fluid, breast milk and blood collected from umbilical cords.
- Specimens from a sample of a defined population over a specified period of time is collected and tested to estimate the prevalence of antibodies against a given specific infectious pathogen, as an indicator of immunity.
- A well designed serosurvey - provide information on the proportion of population which has seroprotection and susceptible, i.e., non-immune.

• Advantages:
  - Immunity profiles may be more accurate than profiles inferred from measures of vaccination coverage (when vaccination exists) and disease surveillance.
  - Before a vaccine programme is introduced, serosurvey data can be used in mathematical models to estimate the burden of disease.
  - Settings where infections are eliminated or near elimination and there are very few disease notifications - can detect immunity gaps, before outbreaks occur - can guide vaccination activities in high-risk population subgroups.
  - Used to monitor immunity of population over time and verify that infection elimination is sustained.
Serosurvey in India

- In May, ICMR in collaboration with Dept. of Health and Family Welfare and National Centre for Disease Control conducted a community based sero-survey to estimate the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 infection in Indian population.

- Sera or blood samples from individuals are tested for presence of IgG antibodies using IgG ELISA test.

- Serosurvey helps to understand whether the person was infected by the virus and has developed antibodies against it.

- Main objective - to provide a scientific guidance from time to time and to know which areas need more strengthened containment efforts.

• Limitations:
  - High financial cost,
  - Substantial staff,
  - Substantial resource commitment,
  - Logistical challenges,
  - Difficult to obtain high community participation.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Which of the following statements is not correct with reference to ‘Serosurvey’, often seen in news?

(a) It is the collection and testing of serum specimen of a defined population over a specified period of time to estimate the prevalence of antibodies against an infectious pathogen.

(b) Alternative sample types of oral fluid, breast milk and blood collected from umbilical cords can be used in serosurveys.

(c) It does not provide information on the proportion of population which is susceptible i.e., non-immune.

(d) It includes high financial cost, substantial staff and logistical challenges.
Appeal to pause work on legal reform

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Indian criminal law cannot be overhauled in six months amidst a pandemic, 123 eminent personalities – including former Supreme Court judges, senior lawyers and academics – said in a letter to the national committee set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs to reform penal laws in the country. The July 16 letter advised the committee to pause its work.

Committee to recommend Criminal Reforms:

- Composition of the Committee:
  1. Prof. (Dr.) Ranbir Singh (Chairperson), Vice Chancellor, National Law University Delhi
  2. Prof. (Dr.) G. S. Bajpe, (Member & Convenor), Registrar, National Law University Delhi
  3. Prof. (Dr.) Mrinal Seethaiah (Member), Professor, National Law University Delhi
  4. Mr. Manish Jethmalani (Member), Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India
  5. Mr. G. P. Thareja (Member), Former District & Session Judge, Delhi:

- The Committee seeks to recommend reforms in the criminal laws of the country in a principled, effective, and efficient manner that ensures the safety and security of the individual, the community and the nation, and which prioritizes the constitutional values of justice, dignity, and the inherent worth of the individual.
- Towards this end, the Committee shall also undertake country-wide consultations with law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, judiciary, advocates, academics, and civil society including media organizations.
- The Committee will be assisted by a set of researchers and consultants.

#FugitiveEconomicOffender #SocialContract #GINICoefficient
The Hindu Daily News Analysis | 9th July 2020 | UPSC Current Affairs | Prelims & Mains 2020
PRACTICE QUESTIONS
DISCUSSION
Practice Question – Prelims
Q3. With respect to the Telecommunications Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), consider the following statements:

1. It has both Appellate and Original jurisdictions.

2. It exercises jurisdiction over telecom matters only.

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 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):

1. It is a principal organ of United Nations.
2. Its member Governments are elected for three-year term by the General Assembly.
3. India is currently a member.

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

Q5. Which of the following countries initiated International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) in 2000 to establish transportation networks and to enhance connectivity with the land locked region of Central Asia?

(a) India, Pakistan and China
(b) Russia, India and Nepal
(c) Russia, India and China
(d) Russia, India and Iran
Practice Question – Prelims

Answers

Q1. Option ‘c’ – Sanctions list of individuals and entities of ISIL (Da’esh) and Al-Qaida

Q2. Option ‘c’ – It does not provide information on the proportion of population which is susceptible i.e., non-immune.

Q3. Option ‘a’ – 1 only

Q4. Option ‘d’ – 1, 2 and 3

Q5. Option ‘d’ – Russia, India and Iran