Delhi attacks on their colleagues

Call off 11-hour agitation after assurance by senior officers to address grievances

Kozhikode lifts title in school science mela

Kozhikode district wrested the overall championship from Palakkad with 1,374 points and 20 first ranks in the State School Sasthrolaam that concluded at Kunnammalur on Tuesday. Palakkad came second while Kannur was placed third.

HEMANI BHANDARI
VISHAL SENGHI
NEW DELHI

Thousands of Delhi police personnel on Tuesday laid siege to the force's headquarters for 11 hours and staged a virtual revolt, sparked by two attacks on colleagues. They called off
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>News Articles</th>
<th>Page Number*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Back to the blackboard (Editorial)</td>
<td>10 8 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Indian lungs under extreme stress</td>
<td>9 7 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Economic slowdown may lighten India’s carbon burden</td>
<td>9 7 9</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Activists call for city’s inclusion in National Clean Air Programme</td>
<td>2 - -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Practice cum Revision - MCQs</td>
<td>@end of the video</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H-Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram
Back to the blackboard
NEET puts the poor at a disadvantage, but the focus must be on quality of school education.

Acting out of sheer pique cannot be the ideal response to any crisis. Recent data from Tamil Nadu that became available through the Madras High Court showed a clear link between coaching classes and securing a medical seat. Some have already given in to the temptation of a knee-jerk response and called for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) to be cancelled, shunning the need for a calibrated response to what is undoubtedly a worrisome situation. As per data submitted to the Madras High Court by the government of Tamil Nadu, the bulk of the students who secured MBBS seats in the State in 2019 had taken coaching classes to prepare for the exam. Only 1.6% of all

Pg. 10 → C, D
Pg. 8 → B, H, T

Part A—Preliminary Examination
Paper I - (200 marks) Duration: Two hours

- 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.

- Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States
- 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
- Issues relating to poverty and hunger

PAPER-V

General Studies—IV: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

- Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections.
- Probity in Governance: Quality of service delivery
National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET)

- Conducted by National Testing Agency
  → for MBBS or BDS courses

Controversy:
- Attending Coaching classes
  → Clearing exam
  + Securing Medical Seat
- Data presented to Madras HC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Govt Colleges</th>
<th>Self-financing/Private Colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>With Coaching</td>
<td>3,033</td>
<td>1,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without Coaching</td>
<td>48 (1.6%)</td>
<td>52 (3.15%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Problems:
- Large amount of money needed to attend classes
  → not affordable for everyone
  → puts medical education out of reach of poorer sections of society
  → Public and state government's calling for cancellation of exam.

Author's View:
- Root cause → Quality of education in rural & urban areas
- Annual Status of Education Report, 2018
  → Very less increase in learning levels of students in upper primary
National trends:
- Basic math levels - low
- Additional 'value added' in math skills for each year of schooling - low
- Experience of subsequent cohort is unchanged over time

1/4 children leaving class 8 without basic reading skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Std VIII: % Children reading at least at Std II level: 2008 - 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>84.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>83.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>76.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>74.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>72.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suggestions:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Quality education by well-trained teachers → at initial years of schooling for strong foundational skills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Make learning meaningful &amp; fun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ State governments can provide 'free' NEET coaching classes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
‘Indian lungs under extreme stress’

Acute respiratory infections affect children the hardest, say experts

Acute respiratory infections (ARI) accounted for 65.47% of morbidity last year, which was the highest in the communicable disease category, leading to 27.4% mortality. Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal reported a large number of patients and fatalities due to ARI as per the National Health Profile-2019, which was recently released by the Union Health Ministry.

According to World Health Organisation, acute respiratory infection is a serious ailment that prevents normal breathing function and kills an estimated 2.6 million children annually every year worldwide. India faces the double burden of heavy air pollution in addition to the high rate of ARI which hits children the hardest, said experts here.

"When you breathe in polluted air, particles and pollutants penetrate and inflame the linings of your bronchial tubes and lungs. This leads to respiratory illness such as chronic bronchitis, emphysema, heart disease, asthma, wheezing, coughing and difficulty in breathing. Children seem to be most vulnerable to the harmful effects of air pollution," noted Samantha Castellino, consultant paediatrician, Surya Hospitals, Mumbai. Dr. Castellino said with the air quality deteriorating, parents should ensure their kids get minimum exposure to pollutants and are well protected to prevent respiratory issues.

Archana Bhuvan Raja, gynaecologist, Nature IVF Centre, said: “The current level of air pollution poses a high risk to pregnant women and the baby. The foetus receives oxygen from the mother, and if she is breathing polluted air, it can increase the health risk of unborn babies. Pregnant women in the first trimester need to be more careful as the risk increases and pollution can cause a medical condition called intrauterine inflammation. Prenatal exposure to pollutants increases risks of pre-term delivery and low birth weight, factors that can lead to developmental disabilities later on.”

Minoo Merchant, senior respiratory specialist, Asian hospital, Panchmahal, explained that children are particularly susceptible as they “breath through their mouths, bypassing the filtering effects of the nasal passages and allowing pollutants to travel deeper into the lungs.” Children may ignore early symptoms of air pollution effects, such as an asthma exacerbation, leading to attacks of increased severity,” he said.
* National Health Profile - 2019:
  - Released by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
  - Information on major health indicators

* High fatality due to ARI in
  - Andhra Pradesh
  - Tamil Nadu
  - Karnataka
  - Uttar Pradesh
  - Kerala
Acute Respiratory Infection:
* Prevents normal breathing
* Beginning: Viral infection in nose, trachea or lungs
* Prevents body from getting oxygen
* Symptoms:
  ▶ Early → Runny nose, cough, sore throat, etc.
  ▶ Later → High fever, chills, dizziness, low blood oxygen level, etc.
* Particularly dangerous for children, older adults, people with immune system disorders
  ▶ WHO - ARI kills 2.6 million children annually worldwide

* Cause:
  - Breathe polluted air
  - Pollutants enter respiratory system
  - Inflame linings of bronchial tubes and lungs
  - Leads to respiratory illness
    - Chronic bronchitis
    - Emphysema
    - Asthma, etc.
* Why children are most vulnerable?
  - Breathe more rapidly than adults
  - Nervous system and immune system are still developing
  - Unaware of risks, unable to make choices
  - Breathe through mouth

* High risk of ARI for pregnant women and baby
  - More care in the first trimester
  - Intrauterine inflammation
  - Developmental disabilities
Economic slowdown may lighten India’s carbon burden

Carbon dioxide emissions are poised to grow at their slowest since 2008 due to a lower demand for coal in power and manufacturing sectors, a study shows that emissions increased by 2% in the first eight months of the year, lower than any annual increase since 2008, said the research note by Lauri Myllyvirta, an analyst with the International Energy Agency. The IEA said India’s per capita emissions were about 40% of the global average and contributed 7% to the global carbon dioxide burden. The U.S., the largest emitter, contributed 14%.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks) Duration : Two hours

- 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


- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
News:
* Economic slowdown may lighten India's carbon burden

Carbon Brief:
* UK based website
* Specialises in data-driven articles and graphics to improve the understanding of climate change, both in terms of the science and the policy response

Green Peace International:
* Independent global campaigning non-governmental organisation
* to protect and conserve the environment and to promote peace across the globe
* HQ: Amsterdam, Netherlands
* Voice of the people and is concerning climate change, deforestation, ocean pollution and food supply.
International Energy Agency (IEA)

- Founded in 1974 by OECD
- HQ: Paris, France
- Initially designed to help countries coordinate a collective response to major disruptions in the supply of oil, such as crisis of 1973
- Publishes “World Energy Outlook”

Focus Areas:
- Energy Security
- Economic Development
- Environmental Awareness
- Engagement worldwide

- Carbon emissions increased by 2% in the first eight months of 2019 as compared to the same period of the last year

- Reason: slower growth in coal-based power generation
Activists call for city’s inclusion in National Clean Air Programme

Pollution levels in city were high on Tuesday too

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The city witnessed high levels of air pollution on Tuesday too with the Central Pollution Control Board’s (CPCB) Manali station recording 282 microgram/cubic metre of PM2.5, Veelacherry station 253 microgram/cubic metre and Alandur 245 microgram/cubic metre. With the wind remaining still and the break in monsoon, pollutants remain suspended in the air without being dispersed.

Part A—Preliminary Examination
Paper I - (200 marks) Duration: Two hours

- 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.

- 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.

PAPER-IV

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

- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
**News:**
- Very high levels of PM2.5 in Chennai
  - Safe limit: National Air Quality Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AQI Category (Range)</th>
<th>PM$_{10}$ 24-hr</th>
<th>PM$_{2.5}$ 24-hr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good (0-50)</td>
<td>0-50</td>
<td>0-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory (51-100)</td>
<td>51-100</td>
<td>31-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately polluted (101-200)</td>
<td>101-250</td>
<td>61-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor (201-300)</td>
<td>251-350</td>
<td>91-120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very poor (301-400)</td>
<td>351-430</td>
<td>121-250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe (401-500)</td>
<td>430+</td>
<td>250+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Possible reasons for high air pollution:**
- SILAM Model - dust and smoke from Delhi reaches Tamil Nadu
- Due to weather conditions - Temporary in nature
  - No wind circulation
  - Break in Monsoon

**Solution:**
- Chennai should be included in National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)
  - Now only Tuticorin from Tamil Nadu under NCAP
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Clean Air Programme (NCAP):</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✴ Time bound national level strategy</td>
<td>1) Stringent implementation of mitigation measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to tackle air pollution.</td>
<td>2) Evolve an effective air quality monitoring network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✴ Cut the concentration of coarse &amp;</td>
<td>3) Augment public awareness and capacity building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fine particles of PM in atmosphere</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✴ A collaborative - participatory approach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Central Ministries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- State Governments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Local bodies, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✴ Goal:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 20-30% reduction of PM 2.5 &amp; PM 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by 2024; base year: 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✴ NCAP → A 5 year action plan → 2019-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May be further extended</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Now covers 102 non-attainment cities

- Violated NAAQS

- Based on 2011-15 ambient air quality data from NAMP
  + WHO’s data on PM 2.5

102 cities from 23 states + UTs

- Maharashtra → 17 cities

- No cities from the following states
  - Manipur
  - Sikkim
  - Arunachal Pradesh
  - Mizoram
  - Tripura
  - Kerala
  - Goa
  - Haryana
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. In the context of “National Health Profile- 2019”, consider the following statements:

1. Non-communicable diseases dominates over the communicable diseases in the total disease burden of India.
2. The decadal sex ratio in India has continuously decreased since the census year 1901 till 1991.
3. Acute respiratory infection is the second largest cause of morbidity and mortality in 2018 among communicable diseases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) None of the statements.
b) All except 1 and 2
c) All except 2 and 3
d) All except 1 and 3

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

1. Its objective is to reduce the concentration of coarse and fine particles of particulate matter in the atmosphere through a collaborative and participatory approach of relevant Central Ministries, State Governments and local bodies.
2. NCAP has at least 2 non-attainment cities from each State of India.
3. It was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) All the statements
d) 1 and 3 only
Practice Question – Prelims
Q3. “CarbonBrief” often in news refers to
   a) Inter-governmental organisation dealing with steps to reduce carbon emissions.
   b) UK-based website covering the latest developments in climate science, climate policy and energy policy.
   c) UN organization covering the latest developments in climate science, climate policy and energy policy
   d) both (a) and (b).

Practice Question – Prelims
Q4. “World Energy Outlook” is released by
   a) World Economic Forum
   b) International Energy Agency
   c) International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
   d) International Solar Alliance
Practice Question – Prelims
Answers

1. Option ‘c’ - All except 2 and 3
2. Option ‘d’ - 1 and 3 only
3. Option ‘b’ - UK-based website covering the latest developments in climate science, climate policy and energy policy.
4. Option ‘b’ - International Energy Agency