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<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>News Articles</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>LS passes Dam Safety Bill</td>
<td>C: 12; B: 12; D: 10</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>UGC recommends 20 institutions for Institutes of Eminence status</td>
<td>C: 9; B: -; D: 7</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DU among institutions named for eminence tag</td>
<td>B: 1; D: -; T: -</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>U.S. formally withdraws from INF arms treaty</td>
<td>C: 14; B: 14; D: 12</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Census may skip caste count</td>
<td>C: 9; B: 9; D: 7</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Practice cum Revision - MCQs</td>
<td>@end of the video</td>
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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; T – Thiruvananthapuram
LS passes Dam Safety Bill

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The Lok Sabha on Friday passed the Dam Safety Bill, 2019 by a voice vote.

The Bill seeks to provide for institutional mechanism for surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of specified dams across the country.

Speaking in the House, Jal Shakti Minister Jangir Prasad rated the Bill as a major reform in the field of water management. He said the Centre had no intention of taking over the powers of States through the draft law, adding that “Water is a State subject.”

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.

Dam Safety Bill - 2019 provides for
- Surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of specified dams across India

Important Provisions of the Bill:
- **Section 5: Setting up National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS)**
  - Composition:
    - Chair - Chairperson of CWC
    - Up to 10 representatives of Centre
    - Up to 7 representatives of States (in rotation)
    - Up to 3 dam safety experts

- **Section 6 - function of NCDS**
  - Policy formulation → dam safety and prevention of dam failures
  - Analyse causes of dam failures → prescribe changes in dam safety practices

- **Section 8 - Setting up of National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA)**
  - Head: Officer not below Additional Secretary

- **Section 9 - Functions of NDSA**
  - Implement policies formulated by NCDS
    - Resolve disputes between State Dam Safety Organisations (SDSOs)
    - Inspection & investigation of dams
    - Accredite → Construction, design and alteration agencies
* Section 14 - Setting up of SSOs by State govt.
  - NDSA will act as SSO if
    - dam - owned by one state, situated in another
    - dam - extends to multiple states
    - dam - owned by Central PSU
  - Functions of SSO - Surveillance, inspection of operation of dams; keep database of all dams; safety measures to dam owners

* Section 11 - State Committee on Dam Safety by State Government
  - Functions - review the working of SSOs, order dam safety investigations, assess impact on upstream & downstream states

* Section 35 - Obligations on dam owners
  - Dam safety unit in each dam
  - Inspect before and after monsoons, during and after earthquakes, floods
  - Risk assessment studies - emergency action plan
  - Comprehensive dam safety evaluation - major modifications to original structure, seismic events, etc.

* Section 41 - Offences and penalties
  - Obstructing a person discharging duties
  - Refusing to comply with directions
    - Fine/1 year imprisonment/both

  - If Offence leads to death
    - 2 years imprisonment

**Significance:**
* Union Water Resources Ministry
  - 5344 large dams in India
  - 293 dams more than 100 years old
  - Safety concerns
* Tiware dam breach, Ratnagiri, Maharashtra
* Bill - uniform dam safety procedures across India
* ↓ dam failures & safeguard life and properties
* Precautionary actions - ↓ water scarcity

Why are some states unhappy?
1) Water - State subject - encroaches upon state sovereignty
2) Section 24 - NDSA to perform the role of SSO
   - Objection by Tamil Nadu - Mullaperiyar and Parambikulam - with Kerala
UGC recommends 20 institutions for Institutes of Eminence status

The UGC recommends 20 institutions for Institutes of Eminence status. These institutions are: IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Roorkee, IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, IIT Guwahati, IIT Bombay, IIT Patna, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kharagpur, and IIT Kharagpur. These institutions are considered to be the best in the country and are expected to play a significant role in the development of higher education in India.

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.

News:

- UGC recommended 20 institutions for Institute of Eminence status
  - IIT Madras & Kharagpur, Delhi University, etc.
- UGC denied IOE status for 5 private institutions
  - not placed in global or national rankings
- Satya Bharti foundation - Greenfield Institution

Institutions of Eminence Status:

- Granted under Institutions of Eminence Scheme
- Empowering Higher Education Institutions
- To become world class teaching & Research institutions
- 10 Public & 10 Private institutions
- To enhance affordable access to high quality education for ordinary Indians
- Enabling regulatory architecture issued by UGC

UGC Guidelines, 2017 and UGC Regulations, 2017

Aim:

- Higher educational institutions to top 500 of world ranking in next 10 years

Salient Features:

- Greater autonomy → admitting foreign students (30%)
- Recruiting foreign faculty (25%)
- Online courses upto 20% programs
- Academic collaboration with top 500 world
  Ranking (without permission of UGC)
- fix and charge fees from foreign students without restriction
- flexibility in framing course structure
**Public Institutions**: financial assistance of up to 1000 crore over 5 years period.

- Institutions selected by Empowered Expert Committee
  - also to monitor & review implementation plans of applied institutions

**DECLARED IoE**

**Public**
- IISc, Bangalore
- IIT, Bombay
- IIT, Delhi

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**U.S. formally withdraws from INF arms treaty**

*Russia is responsible for its demise*

The U.S. and Russia terminated a Cold War-era missile pact on Friday in a move that raised the specter of an arms race between the global superpowers.

*The INF Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF)*

![Mike Pompeo]

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**News:**

- US & Russia terminated Intermediate - Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty
  - Danger of arms race

**INF Treaty:**

- Treaty between USA & Union of Soviet Socialist Republics → signed in 1987
- Elimination of Intermediate - Range missiles & Shorter - Range missiles

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**Part A—Preliminary Examination**

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destruction of Ground launched Ballistic &amp; Cruise missiles [GLBM &amp; GLCM]</th>
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<tr>
<td>* Range → 500 - 5500 kms</td>
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<tr>
<td>* associated launchers, support structures &amp; equipment → destroyed</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Destabilising weapons → little warning &amp; time for decision-making</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Raises spectre of miscalculation</td>
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<td>* Within 1991</td>
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<tr>
<th>Designed to eliminate all &quot;INF Treaty - Prohibited Systems&quot;</th>
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<tr>
<td>* Ensures compliance</td>
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<td>* Total ban on possession, production &amp; flight testing</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Resulted in elimination of an entire category of weapons</td>
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<td>* Treaty crucial to Euro-Atlantic region</td>
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<th>Recent Developments:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Russia developed, produced, tested and deployed → new intermediate-range missile</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. 9M729 or SSC-8</td>
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<td>2. Mobile, easy to hide</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Capable of carrying nuclear warheads</td>
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<td>4. Can reach European capitals</td>
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<td>* Violates INF Treaty</td>
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<td>* Threat to NATO allies</td>
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Census may skip caste count

A large number of caste names are difficult to tabulate, says official

Census 2023 is unlikely to collect "castewise" data as it was in 2011 by another ministry, the new head of the commission raised concerns over the collection of caste data, which was not permitted in 2011 due to legal constraints.

News:

→ 2021 Census unlikely to collect castewise data
→ 2011 Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC)
→ Difficulty in enumerating caste data:
  1) Lack of Standardisation:
     Single caste - Multiple names - Confusion
     Eg: Yadav Caste → also called Yadus, Yaduvanshis
  2) People confuse caste with gotra
→ 2011 Census → Information was recorded on paper → later scanned and fed to database → So many datasets

How Census 2023 will be done?

→ Involves 31 lakh enumerators → govt teachers
→ Digital enumeration - Android based mobiles - web app developed by Registrar General
→ 3 phases
  1) House listing
  2) Enumeration
  3) Revision
Q1. Recently the Dam Safety Bill 2019 was passed in Lok Sabha. ‘Water’ comes under which list in Schedule 7 of Constitution of India.
   a) Union List  
   b) State List  
   c) Concurrent List  
   d) None of the above

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements with reference to the ‘Institutions of Eminence’ scheme.

1. Under this scheme 15 public and 15 private institutions are to be identified to emerge as world-class Teaching and Research Institutions.
2. Under the scheme all the Institutions of Eminence will be provided financial assistance of up to Rs. 1000 Cr by the Central Government.
3. Greenfield category institutions are also considered for this status.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1 only  
   b) 1 and 2  
   c) 3 only  
   d) 2 and 3
Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty.

1. It is for the elimination of the Intermediate-Range Missiles and Shorter-Range Missiles.
2. It is a trilateral treaty between India, U.S.A and Russia.
3. It only prohibits the flight-testing of the banned missiles.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Census in India

1. The 2011 Census has ‘third gender’ as a separate category.
2. The first Census in independent India was conducted in 1951.
3. Census Act 1948 bounds every citizen to participate in the exercise of census.

Select the correct answer from following code

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

Practice Questions – Prelims
Answers
3rd August 2019

Q1. Option ‘b’ – State List
Q2. Option ‘c’ – 3 only
Q3. Option ‘a’ – 1 only
Q4. Option ‘d’ – 2 and 3