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

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India builds 250 homes in Myanmar to assist Rohingya

But rebuilding refugees' trust is tough

**Rohingyas**

- Ethnic Muslim minority
- Before August 2017, 10 lakh Rohingyas resided in Rakhine state of Myanmar
- Differ from Myanmar's dominant Buddhist groups
- Formerly subjected to repeated persecution since 1940s
  - 1982 - New citizenship law made them stateless
  - 2014 - Census excluded them
  - 2015 - Not allowed to participate as voters & candidates
- Since 2016 - 7 lakh Rohingyas fled from Myanmar to camps in Bangladesh
  - Kutupalong camp
- August 2017 - Attack on Myanmar police posts by Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army
News Article:

- India has built 850 pre-fabricated homes in Myanmar to rehabilitate Rohingyas
- Friendly gesture to Myanmar Govt
- Creative incentive for Rohingyas to return
- Shwe Zar, Kyein Chaung Taung, Nan Thar Taung witnessed worst incidents of violence
- Part of agreement between India & Myanmar
- Enabling provisions for return of Rohingyas
- Socio-economic development of Rakhine State of Myanmar
- 25 million USD – 5 years

Experts:

- Myanmar Govt
- Refuses to give citizenship to Rohingyas
- Refuses to prosecute and punish military personnel and others responsible for mass killings, sexual assaults, etc
- In such situations, Rohingyas will not return
- ‘Trust’ has to be built first
- Building Trust is important than building homes
Why Space Telescopes:

- No distortion of light
- Earth - Distortion due to air movement
  - Atmosphere blocks certain wavelengths of light
- Can detect various wavelengths of light

Other famous telescopes:
- Hubble Space Telescope, NASA
- ASTROSAT, ISRO

Xi-Modi meet in Varanasi on October 12

Modi, Xi to balance ties on the Ganga

A boat ride likely to be included in summit schedule, which is yet to be finalized

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.

- India and its neighborhood- relations.
- Second Informal Summit - Chinese President and Indian PM
  - Varanasi, U.P.
- First Informal Summit - April 2018
  - Wuhan, China
- Informal Summit → one-to-one discussions
- Second Informal Summit
  - energise ties between India and China
  - 70th anniversary of China's diplomatic relations with India
  - boat ride in the Ganga River

- Minister of External Affairs → Visit Beijing
  - People-to-People exchange mechanism
    - impact on opinion making and improving relations
  - trade and commerce - will not be covered

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How will Chandrayaan 2 study the moon?

Chandrayaan-2
  ⇒ 1st mission to reach and study the South Pole of the moon
  ⇒ Orbiter + (Lander + Rover)
    - Soft land on the moon
  ⇒ Success rate of Soft-Landing - 52%
  ⇒ Energy for Lander + Rover
• 1 moon day = 14 Earth days
• Time taken for moon to complete one rotation about its axis ~ 29.5 days
  - Daylight for half of 29.5 days ~ 14 days
• Time taken for moon to complete one orbit around the earth ~ 29.5 days
  - Same side of the moon faces the earth
• Temperature of Moon during night ⇒ -180°C
• Orbiter
  - Capture images of the moon from a 100 km lunar polar orbit

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Why is India opting for overseas bonds?

Yashwant Sinha pans sovereign bonds idea

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-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.
**Sovereign bonds:**

- Government bonds
- Debt instrument to raise money
- Promises to pay periodic interest payments and also repay the entire face value of the bond, on the maturity date
- Usually issued within India
- Recent budget speech
  - India's Sovereign external debt to GDP ratio is less than 5%
  - Govt would start to borrow money from external markets, in external currencies
    - Will create demand for Govt bonds in the domestic market

**Benefits:**

- Government issues 'Overseas bonds', private sector investments will increase
  - Government Borrowing from total domestic savings – 80-85%
- Global demand for Indian Sovereign bonds only when introduced by India

**Risks**

- India's repayment of debts
  - Susceptible to foreign currencies exchange rates
  - If rupee appreciates repayment amount will be less

**Risks - Continued...**

- India not likely to be viewed as a risky market
- Govt must not think to raise more funds from external markets → debt repayment issue

1. Overseas bonds → Increase in Forex Reserves → Increase in imports (Bad for Indian economy)

- Exports needs to be encouraged

2. Sovereign bonds in domestic markets versus foreign markets:
   - If the government is not able to repay,
     - Domestic: Print new currency notes
     - Foreign: Not possible to print foreign currencies

⇒ Risks ⇒ Benefits

**News:**

- Former Finance Minister
  - 3 types of External Borrowing
    1. Indian private and public sector borrowing from abroad
    2. Resurgent India and Millenium Development Bonds Issued by SBI
    3. Sovereign bonds
- India never raised money through Sovereign bonds from external market since 1947
  - Exposure to global market risks
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. In which of the following country thousands of people belonging to the Rohingya community have fled their country due to ethnic cleansing and genocide?
   a) Bangladesh
   b) Sri Lanka
   c) India
   d) Myanmar

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements about Chandrayaan-2.
   1. The orbiter will analyse the composition of the elemental samples that are collected from the lunar surface.
   2. The main purpose of the rover is to study the lunar atmosphere.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
   c) Both 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Which of the following statement is wrong with respect to ‘sovereign bonds’?
   a) It is a debt instrument issued by the government
   b) The entire face value will be paid at the end of maturity period.
   c) They can be issued even outside a particular country
   d) Foreign exchange reserves of a particular country will reduce if the sovereign bonds are issued in external markets

Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. Which of the following is not a space telescope/observatory?
   1. Spektr-RG
   2. Hubble
   3. ASTROSAT

Choose the correct answer from the options given below.
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 and 3 only
   c) All the above
   d) None
Practice Question – Prelims
Answers
14-07-2019
1. Option d) Myanmar
2. Option d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. Option d) Foreign exchange reserves of a particular country will reduce if the sovereign bonds are issued in external markets
4. Option d) None