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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H-Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram
Govt. ends SPG protection for Sonia, Rahul & Priyanka

They did not cooperate with security personnel, says official

On the job: CRPF personnel at the 10 Janpath residence of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi on Friday.

Special Protection Group:

* Established in 1985
* To provide proximate security cover to
  - Prime Minister and her/his immediate family
  - former PMs and their immediate family
* Uses innovative methods in overall security arrangement in collaboration with IB and police forces
* Ensures fail proof and zero-error security
* 24 x 7 protection
* Motto - "Shauryam Samparpanam Surakshanam"

The Special Protection Group Act, 1988:

* SPG - Armed forces of the Union
* Proximate Security
  - protection from close quarters during journey
  - Places → functions, residence, etc.
  - Access control to the protectees
* Section 4 (i) (ii)
  - former PM → for 1 year
  - can be extended depending on the level of threat

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)  Duration: Two hours

- 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-IV

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

- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.
* Level of threat → assessed by Central govt → Periodically
  → threat from militant or terrorist organisation
  → threat of grave & continuing nature

* Section 4 (1A) → Security can be declined by
  → PM’s immediate family
  → former PM and her/his immediate family

* General Superintendence, direction & control
  → Central Government
  → Command and Director of
    Supervision → Group

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Goyal lays out nuts and bolts of RCEP decision

At a briefing for Union Cabinet, he denied that India tried to scuttle the pact.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Goyal has repeatedly denied that India had given in any way to anyone who was seeking to scuttle the pact. In recent days, the focus was on the role of China, which has been consistently on the negotiating table. Among the reasons are those that are already in the public domain, related to the situation on the Indian border. China’s position, as Goyal has repeatedly stated, is that the border issues need to be resolved before the RCEP can be signed.

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

* 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.
* Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests.

PAPER-IV


* Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.
**Rules of Origin:**
- Set of rules in which the origin of the goods is tagged and tariffs would be imposed based on the origin of the goods.
- India’s demand for strict rules of origin.
- India’s trade deficit with the RCEP nations would further increase.

**Auto trigger mechanism:**
- To safeguard against any sudden surge in the imports and to protect domestic market against the flooding of cheap imports.
- Can be invoked practically within 15 days of imports exceeding the limit by informing the relevant country.

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**Base year of tariffs reduction:**
- 2014 as the base year for tariffs reduction as per RCEP deal.
- India’s demand for 2019 as the base year.

**Most Favored Nation (MFN) Status:**
- Unavailability of MFN clause in RCEP.
- Nation which receives the MFN status would be enjoying the tariff benefits from the nation which granted it.
- India is demanding the MFN clause in the RCEP for those countries who invest in India.

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**Maternal death rate declining: report**

2000 deaths averted per year, says SIDS bulletin

**Between life & death**

[Image: Maternal death rate declining]

- 2000 deaths averted per year, says SIDS bulletin.
- Significant in 52% states from 100 to 15. The rate has dropped substantially from 77 to 72 per 100,000 live births among other states from 1995 to 98.

**Part A—Preliminary Examination**

Paper I - (200 marks) Duration: Two hours

- 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:**

- Sample Registration System - on Maternal Mortality Rate in India 2015-17

**Sample Registration System:**

- Large scale demographic survey
- Annual estimates of birth rate, death rate, MMR, IMR, etc.
- Released by the Office of the Registrar General, Ministry of Home Affairs

**Maternal Mortality Rate:**

- Maternal deaths during a given period per 1,00,000 live births
- Maternal Deaths: Female death from causes due to pregnancy during pregnancy, childbirth or 42 days of termination of pregnancy

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**States in to 3 categories**

1) Empowered Action Group States & Assam
2) Southern States
3) Other States / UTs

**MMR for given time period**

\[ \text{MMR for 2011-13: 167} \]
\[ \text{MMR for 2014-16: 130} \]
\[ \text{MMR for 2015-17: 122} \]

\[ \sim 26.9\% \text{ reduction since 2013} \]

\[ \text{Decline in MMR} \]

\[ \text{MMR (2014-16) to (2015-17):} \]
- EAG States & Assam - 188 to 175
- Southern States - 77 to 72
- Other States/ UTs - 93 to 90

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**Top performers: [(2014-16) to (2015-17)]**

- Kerala (46 to 42)
- Maharashtra (61 to 55)
- Tamil Nadu (66 to 63)

**MMR very high in states like**

- Assam - 229
- Uttar Pradesh - 216
- Madhya Pradesh - 188

**SDG 3.1: Bring down MMR to 70 per 1,00,000 live births by 2030**

- Achieved by Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu

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**National Health Policy - 2017:**

- MMR Target - 100 per 1,00,000 live births by 2020

**Impact of Several Govt Initiatives**

- LaQshya
- Poshan Abhiyaan
- PM Surakshit Matritva Abhiyaan
- Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram
- Janani Suraksha Yojana
- PM Matru Vandana Yojana
- SUMAN
Finance Secretary, CEA admit to slowdown

They were grilled by House panel

News:
- Finance Secretary and CEA conceded that India is going through ‘economic slowdown’
- CEA
  - India growing at 5%
  - acknowledged the impact of demonetisation and GST

National Agriculture Policy, 2000:
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare
- It seeks to
  - tap the growth potential of Indian Agriculture
  - strengthen rural infrastructure
  - promote value addition
  - accelerate the growth of agro-business
  - create rural employment
  - fair standard of living
  - discourage migration to urban areas
  - face challenges of economic liberalization & globalisation
**Practice Question – Prelims**

Q1. Consider the following statements with reference to the Special Protection Group (SPG).

1. It provides proximate security cover, exclusively to the Prime Minister of India and to her/his immediate family.
2. The proximate security cover can be declined by the Prime Minister of India and her/his immediate family.

Which among the above statement/s is/are correct?

a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2

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**Practice Question – Prelims**

Q2. With reference to Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), which one of the following statement is correct?

a) MMR is the number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 100,000 pregnant women during the same time period.

b) MMR covers the female deaths from causes related to pregnancy or its management during pregnancy and childbirth or within 6 months of termination of pregnancy.

c) The Sustainable Development Goals targets to bring down MMR below 70 by 2030.

d) In India, States such as Assam, Kerala and Maharashtra have the least MMR.
Practice Question – Prelims
Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the National Agricultural Policy, 2000.
   1. The policy explicitly mentions about increasing the private sector participation in agriculture through contract farming.
   2. One of its objectives is to achieve an annual growth rate of 6% in agriculture.
   3. The policy was released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer’s Welfare.

Which of the above statements are correct?
   a) All the statements
   b) All except 1
   c) All except 2
   d) All except 3

Practice Question – Mains
GS - II
Q. “Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed Free Trade Agreement between 10 ASEAN countries and Six other nations including India”. Examine the various concerns raised by India for not signing the deal. (150 words, 10 Marks).

Practice Question – Prelims
Answers
09-11-2019
Q1. Option “d”
Q2. Option “c”
Q3. Option “c”