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Preliminary Examination

Paper-I: Current Events of National and International Importance

Paper-II: Current Events of State Importance and Important Government Schemes and Programs

❖ State government issues order constituting Quantum Task Force

Context: The State government has issued an order constituting the Karnataka Quantum Task Force, with the goal of establishing the State as a national hub for quantum technology and innovation.

- Arindam Ghosh, JRD Tata Chair Professor, and J.C. Bose National Fellow in the Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, has been appointed as chairperson of the task force.
- The Director of the Department of Science and Technology (Government of Karnataka), and the Managing Director of Karnataka Science and Technology Promotion Society, will serve as the member-secretaries.
- The task force has been formed to implement the outlines and strategies of the 'Karnataka Quantum Roadmap', which was recently unveiled at the Quantum India Bengaluru Summit. The Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology, and Science & Technology issued the order in this regard.
- According to the government, the task force will provide the necessary policy formulation, strategic direction, and institutional guidance to foster quantum technology research, innovation, start-up support, and industrial adoption in Karnataka.
- The committee will be responsible for blueprinting and overseeing the development of key cutting-edge infrastructure in Karnataka, including the mega Quantum City in Hesaraghatta.
- The 16-member committee comprises prominent experts from academic institutions, research centres, the tech industry, and senior government officials.

Main Examination

Paper-I: Essays

Essay – 1: Topic of International/National Importance

Essay-2: Topic of State importance/Local Importance

Paper-II: General Studies 1

❖ Year-long events to mark 75th anniversary of Kagodu Satyagraha

Context: Activists from several progressive organisations have decided to observe the 75th anniversary of the historic Kagodu Satyagraha — considered the first peasant movement in independent India — through a series of programmes spread across this year. The initiative aims to revive public memory of a movement that shaped the course of land reforms in the country.

The revolt's roots

- In March 1951, tenant farmers of Kagodu village in Sagar taluk revolted against landlords over a dispute regarding the size of the kolaga (a container used to measure and divide agricultural produce). Dissatisfied with the landlords' unilateral changes to the terms of yield-sharing, the tenants refused to comply.
- The landlords retaliated by barring them from entering the very land they had tilled for generations.
- When the farmers defied the order, they were beaten up by the police and landlord supporters.
- Mass arrests followed, and the unfolding events drew nationwide attention.
- H. Ganapathiyappa, a schoolteacher who played a central role in organising the movement, is remembered as one of its key architects. Prominent socialist leader Ram Manohar Lohia visited Kagodu and expressed solidarity with the tenants.
- He was subsequently arrested at Sagar railway station and lodged in the Central Prison in Bengaluru.
- Though land rights were not granted to the tenants immediately, the movement laid the foundation for the landmark land reform legislation in the decades that followed.

Fading memory

- Seventy-five years on, very few of those who participated in the movement are still alive. Former minister and senior politician Kagodu Thimmappa, now in his 90s, was a high school student when the satyagraha unfolded.
- “The present generation has forgotten the struggle and sacrifice of those who led the satyagraha,” said Shivananda Kugve, State vice-president of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and a native of Kugve near Sagar.
- “People now have land, but they do not remember those responsible for it. We want to reach out to people across the taluk and recall those days,” he said.

- The raitha sangha, along with the Dalit Sangharsha Samiti and other cultural organisations of the taluk, plans to hold seminars in villages of Sagar taluk to highlight the significance of the satyagraha.
- The first programme of the anniversary year was held recently at Vadnala village, near Sagar, where a memorial to Ganapathiyappa stands. Speaking at the event, Meti Mallikarjun, professor of linguistics at Sahyadri College, Shivamogga, drew comparisons between the Kagodu Satyagraha and two other landmark movements — the Chavdar Tank Satyagraha led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in 1927, which challenged the exclusion of untouchables from a public water tank, and the Dandi Satyagraha led by Mahatma Gandhi. He said it paved the way for significant legislation in the years that followed.

Theatre to retell

- Shivamogga Rangayana, the State government's theatre repertory, has proposed to adapt novelist Na. D'Souza's celebrated novel Kolaga — which is based on the Kagodu Satyagraha — for the stage this year.
- The State government has announced financial support for the production in its Budget. Separately, activists in Sagar are also planning to stage plays drawing on narratives from the days of the satyagraha.

❖ Industrial output slows to 4.9% in new data series

Context: The base year has been revised to 2022-23 from 2011-12; growth rate in April was slower than 5.8% recorded in the corresponding period last year; mining and quarrying output declined by over 5%.

- India's industrial output, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), grew 4.9% in April 2026 under the **revised series with 2022-23 as the base year**.
- The growth rate was slower than 5.8% recorded in April last year with 2011-12 as the base year.
- **The new series has broadened the coverage of the index by incorporating water supply, sewerage and waste management activities and gas supply, while retaining the existing three core sectors — mining, manufacturing, and electricity.**
- Of the four sectoral indices, three grew at a slower pace and one shrunk in the reporting month on a year-on-year basis. While mining and quarrying output declined by over 5.1%, manufacturing sector output grew at 6.2% in the reporting month, slightly slower than the 6.3% in 2025. The electricity and gas supply sector grew at 4.9% while water supply, sewerage and waste management grew at 6.6%.
- **The base years of major macroeconomic indicators, which were earlier 2011-12, were revised in 2026 beginning with the GDP. The IIP is the latest in the measures that have been revised to 2022-23 as the base year.**

- Besides adding new sectoral divisions, the **new series also entails “improved granularity”**. For instance, **mining sector index will now include data classification for fuel minerals, metallic minerals, including rare earth minerals and non-metallic minerals, including minor minerals. Similarly, the electricity index has been classified into renewable and non-renewable sources.**
- **The new basket of goods to calculate** IIP consists of 1,042 products mapped to 463 item groups. The older series had just 839 items mapped to 407 item groups. Further, the weights provided to each sector and each industry within the manufacturing sector has been revised in line with the updated Gross Value Added (GVA) 2022-23 series.
- The new IIP series has also enabled users with a formula to link the older and new series of data to ensure comparability.
- **Within the manufacturing sector**, which constitutes about 75% of the IIP basket of goods, six industries contracted, including major ones like manufacture of “coke and refined petroleum products”, which shrank 0.4%, and “wearing apparel” industry in which the output declined 7%. Manufacturing of wood products other than furniture shrank the most, with output dipping 12.5%.
- The rest of the industry categories within the manufacturing sector grew, with electrical equipment industry output increasing 19.2% in April 2026.
- Under use-based classification, the series classifies the industries into **primary, capital goods, intermediate goods, infrastructure/construction goods, consumer durables and consumer non-durables**.
- Growth in three of the six categories slowed in April 2026 on a year-on-year basis. Primary goods, consumer durables, and consumer non-durables grew 0.8%, 4.3% and 2.8% respectively in April 2026, slower than the same month in 2025. Intermediate goods output grew faster by 0.19% clocking a growth rate of 7.7% in April 2026, as against the same month in the previous fiscal.
- Capital goods and infrastructure goods output growth quickened to 16% and 7.1% respectively in the reporting month as against the same month in the previous fiscal.

❖ **Manufacturing grows to 3-month high: PMI**

- India's manufacturing sector activity growth accelerated to a three-month high in May, **driven by demand strength, infrastructure projects and new business gains, even amid inflationary pressures, a monthly survey..**
- The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) posted 55.0 in May, above the April reading of 54.7, indicating the strongest improvement in the sector's health in three months.
- HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is a gauge of overall conditions derived from measures of new orders, output, employment, supplier delivery times and stocks of purchases.
- In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.
- Goods makers reported the fastest expansions in new orders and output since February and cited factors like demand strength as the main reason behind the upturn.'

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❖ Three judicial officers sworn in as judges of Karnataka High Court

Context: Three judicial officers — Rajeshwarai Narayana Hegde, K.G. Shanthi and M. Brungesh — were sworn in as additional judges of the Karnataka High Court.

- Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru of the Karnataka High Court administered the oath of office to the newly appointed judges.

New judges

- Born on March 18, 1966, in Halageri, Uttara Kannada, Justice Hegde secured her law degree from Dharwad University. Enrolled as an advocate in 1991, she was appointed Munsif in 1998 and rose steadily, serving in various taluks and districts. She had served as Principal District and Sessions Judge in Davangere and Chikkamagaluru prior to her elevation to the Karnataka High Court.
- Justice Shanthi, born on May 3, 1968, in Virajpet, Kodagu, to an Army veteran father who had taken part in the war against Pakistan and China, holds B.Com and LLM degrees. She enrolled as an advocate in 1992. She practised in Mysuru and Madikeri, and joined the judiciary in 1998.
- In addition, she had served as Principal District and Sessions Judge at Dharwad and Ballari.
- Justice Brungesh, born on August 16, 1968, in T. Narsipur, secured third rank in LLB from JSS Law College, Mysuru. Enrolled as an advocate in 1991, he practised law before joining the judiciary in 1998. Apart from serving as a judicial officer in various districts, he had also served as a senior faculty at the Karnataka Judicial Academy, training hundreds of judicial officers for five years.
- He also held key posts, including Director of the Arbitration Centre, Bengaluru, and Principal District and Sessions Judge at Kodagu and Mandya district prior to his elevation.

❖ Centre clears five new judges for SC; strength rises to 37

Context: The Centre on Monday cleared the appointment of five judges to the Supreme Court, taking the court's strength to 37, close to its revised sanctioned strength of 38.

- In a post on X, Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal said the President had approved the appointments under Article 124(2) of the Constitution.
- Those appointed are Justice Sheel Nagu, Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court; Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court; Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court; Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh; and senior advocate V. Mohana.

- Ms. Mohana was one of the leading counsels in a series of cases highlighting structural career inequalities for women officers in the armed forces. Currently, the Supreme Court has only one woman judge, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, who is also part of the Supreme Court Collegium. Justice Nagarathna was appointed to the Supreme Court in August 2021.
- The appointments follow the Collegium's recommendation on May 27, 2026.
- The development comes weeks after the Centre, on May 5, increased the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court from 34 to 38 judges through the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026.

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❖ Bellatrix Aerospace to help launch South Korean VLEO satellite mission

Context: Space start-up Bellatrix Aerospace will help South Korean space company TelePIX in an upcoming Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO) satellite mission.

- The TelePIX and Bellatrix will custom develop a VLEO Earth observation satellite around the Chouette payload, aimed at securing high-quality geospatial data.
- Under the partnership, the TelePIX's high-resolution wide-swath optical payload Chouette will be integrated with the Bellatrix Aerospace's VLEO satellite platform powered by Air-Breathing Electric Propulsion (ABEP). Bellatrix will provide the satellite bus, including propulsion, power, thermal control and attitude control systems, while TelePIX will supply the optical payload and support system integration. The VLEO satellites operate at altitudes of approximately 150 km to 250 km, lower than conventional Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites.
- However, the VLEO environment presents significant atmospheric drag, making high-efficiency propulsion technology essential for long-term operation.
- The TelePIX said that Chouette has been designed with a form factor optimised specifically for the VLEO environments, unlike conventional optical payloads currently on the market. Through this collaboration, the companies aim to realise a satellite system capable of stable operations even in the VLEO conditions. The Chouette features a wide-swath optical imaging system with more than twice the observation width of comparable satellites currently on the market. Combined with the TelePIX's proprietary AI-based image processing technology, the payload is designed for applications across defence, disaster response, and environmental monitoring.

❖ IAF chief visits France to hold talks on Rafale acquisition

Context: Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh arrived in France on Monday on a four-day visit amid India's move to acquire 114 Rafale fighter jets in a deal estimated to be worth ₹3.25 lakh crore.

- The visit comes days after the Union Ministry of Defence issued a Letter of Request to the French government, formally initiating the acquisition process, sources said, in one of the Indian Air Force's (IAF) largest-ever fighter aircraft procurement programmes.
- France is expected to respond within the next two-three months, and negotiations are likely to conclude within a year.
- During his visit, the Air Chief Marshal will interact with senior French military officials, and visit Dassault Aviation, manufacturer of the Rafale fighter aircraft. The proposed acquisition is part of the IAF's multi-role fighter aircraft programme to address the declining strength of the fighter squadron.

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❖ Ethical use of AI in cultural space to be a key focus area at BRICS culture meetings

Context: The ethical use of artificial intelligence in the cultural space will be one of the focus areas for discussion during the BRICS culture working group meetings beginning from Thursday, the Union Culture Ministry.

- Creative economy, culture climate and sustainable development and cultural and creative industries are some of the other areas of deliberation, Union Culture Secretary Vivek Agrawal said at a press conference in which he unveiled the comprehensive road map and calendar for the 2026 BRICS Culture Track.
- He said that there was a line-up of major cultural events around the BRICS summit scheduled across the country over the coming months. Varanasi is set to host second Culture Working Group Meeting, following the successful completion of the 1st Culture Working Group (CWG) meeting held virtually on April 29–30.
- “As one of the world’s oldest living cities, Varanasi will serve as the backdrop for five critical thematic panel discussions aimed at shaping the final outcome document,” Mr. Agrawal said.
- The five themes are: creative economy and people-to-people cooperation, copyright and ethical AI in the creative economy, cultural heritage protection and return of cultural property, collaborative approaches to safeguarding shared heritage and culture as a driver of sustainable development.
- The culture track will feature a total of four official meetings alongside major public festivals, bringing together the 11 member nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Indonesia) along with 10 newly joined partner countries.
- After Varanasi, the third BRICS CWG meeting would be held in Bhopal followed by the BRICS Culture Festival and the BRICS Culture Minister’s meeting. A BRICS theatre festival would be held in Delhi in October.

-----Best Wishes-----