States on date for reopening schools
Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu among 21 yet to take a call; Delhi, Bihar look at August

Mulling it over
At least 21 States and Union Territories have not taken a decision regarding re-opening of schools, while five have planned to open sometime in the month of August or earlier

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Geological fault line offshore of Vizag
Finding of UoH research team

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

A once repetitively active fracture line or geological fault line to the east of north Andhra Pradesh with maximum activity focussed in vicinity of offshore Visakhapatnam has been uncovered by a research team from University of Hyderabad (UoH), in collaboration with National Institute of Oceanography and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

Researchers also stated that the fracture line may possibly become active again in future and turn out to be a major coastal hazardous event associated with seismicity and tsunami in and around Visakhapatnam region. The research team comprising Prof. K.S. Krishna and M. Ismaiel from UoH, K. Srinivas from NIO and D. Saha from ONGC analysed seismic reflection data in order to address a cause-effect relationship between the sediment load and response of underneath heterogeneous igneous rocks in the Bay of Bengal. They found presence of a 300 km long fracture line in the offshore region of north AP. The study concluded that fracture line activity in offshore Krishna-Godavari Basin was variable in nature, to begin with episodic starting at about 16 million years ago and resumed again at 6.8 million years.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian and World Geography - Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World

Part B—Main Examination

General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

- Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.,


- Disaster and disaster management
Geological faults

- The outer part of the Earth is relatively cold—when it is stressed it tends to break - breaks across which slip has occurred, are called faults.
- A fault is a fracture or zone of fractures between two blocks of rock.
- The blocks to move relative to each other rapidly/slowly, resulting in earthquake or a creep.
- Boundaries between tectonic plates is where most of the active faulting occurs.
- Faulting can also occur in the middle of the plates too, particularly in the continents.
- In general, faulting is restricted to the top 10 - 15 km of the Earth's crust.
- Faults may range in length from a few millimetres to thousands of kilometres.

- Fault surface can be horizontal or vertical or some arbitrary angle in between.

  ✓ Faults are classified based on the angle of the fault with respect to the surface (dip) and the direction of slip along the fault.

Source: https://earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/glossary/?term=dip
Types of faults

- Dip-slip faults

✓ Faults which move along the direction of the dip plane—classified as normal or reverse (thrust), depending on their motion.

✓ In a normal fault, the block above the fault has moved downward relative to the block below.

✓ In a reverse/thrust fault, the upper block, above the fault plane, moves up and over the lower block.

Source: https://inventionsky.com/normal-reverse-and-strike-slip-faults/
• **Strike-slip faults**

✓ **Faults which move horizontally**- classified as right-lateral or left-lateral.

✓ **Faults which show both dip-slip and strike-slip motion** are known as oblique-slip faults.

✓ **Left-lateral strike-slip fault**- displacement of the far block is to the left when viewed from either side.

✓ **Right-lateral strike-slip fault**- displacement of the far block is to the right when viewed from either side.

National Institute of Oceanography (NIO)

- Headquarters - Dona Paula, Goa.
- Regional centres - Kochi, Mumbai and Visakhapatnam.
- One of the 37 constituent laboratories of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).
- Established in 1966 following the International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE).
- Principal focus of research - observing and understanding special oceanographic characteristics of the Indian Ocean.

International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE)

- Took place between 1959-65.
- Sponsored by the Scientific Committee on Oceanographic Research (SCOR) and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.
Q. Consider the following statements regarding ‘geological faults’, which are fracture or zone of fractures between two blocks of rock:

1. In a normal dip-slip fault the upper block, above the fault plane, moves up and over the lower block.

2. In a thrust fault, the block above the fault would move downward relative to the block below.

3. Faults which move horizontally are known as strike-slip faults.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

• Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

• India and its neighborhood- 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, Indian diaspora.
QUAD - Quadrilateral Security Dialogue

- Informal grouping between four countries - India, Australia, Japan and the USA.
- First QUAD meeting happened in 2007; the next meeting was conducted only in 2017.
- Meetings usually take place only at the level of senior officers.
  - In 2017, the first minister-level meeting was held - significant.
- Seen as a regional counterweight to China and to counterbalance rising China's influence in Indo-Pacific region.

Malabar Exercise

- Trilateral naval exercise between India, USA and Japan.
  - 1992 - naval exercise between India & USA.
  - 2007 - Japan became a permanent partner.
- Australia - not a part; wanting to join.
  - India refusing admission due to Chinese concerns.
News
• India plans to include Australia in Malabar Exercise.

Possible Implications
• China’s ruling party is critical of India’s decision.
  ✓ Seen by China as ‘putting more pressure on China’ - India is risking harsh consequences.
  ✓ Possibility of opening up a new front of conflict between India and China in the Eastern Indian Ocean.
• No benefits for India if India’s deterrence potential is not improved through Malabar Exercise – Need for a strategic rationale.
  ✓ Unwillingness of USA, Japan to transfer strategic technologies to India.
• Possibility to draw India into the security dynamics of the Asia-Pacific through Military-Quad.
  ✓ US and Japan – South China Sea issue is more threatening than Indian Ocean Region.
• Decision of India to include Australia in Malabar exercise – direct move.
  ✓ China’s moves – indirect, does not cross the threshold of conflict with India;
  ✓ India needs to be ready for the consequences.
• Short term gains only for India; would be ineffective in the long run.
  ✓ India is not acquiring any sort of combat and deterrence capability.
Q. ‘India’s plan for naval coalition building alone will not credibly deter China’s military power in the Indian Ocean’. Comment.

(150 words, 10 marks)
UN draft declaration goes soft on demand for reform

Process of membership expansion likely to slow down

RAKOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI
Despite India’s repeated demands for reform of the UN Security Council, the process of the expansion of the membership is expected to slow down this year with the final draft of the Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the U.N. favouring a softer approach to the issue.

“We reiterate our call for reforms of three of the principal organs of the United Nations. We commit to instil new life in the discussions on the reform of the Security Council and continue the work to revitalise the General Assembly and strengthen the Economic and Social Council. The review of the peace-building architecture has our full support,” the final draft says. The Declaration is a powerful reiteration of the UN’s founding principles that brought a new world order 75 years ago.

Mention of ‘discussions’ in this key anniversary document is being interpreted as dilution of the progress made on the path of reform of the principal organs of the UN during the 122nd plenary meeting of the General Assembly. At the meeting on September 15, 2008, the General Assembly on the basis of previous resolutions had “decided” to proceed with the “modalities in order to prepare and facilitate intergovernmental negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council”.

The final draft for the upcoming UNGA is also a step down from the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on September 16, 2005 when the call for reform was demanded against the backdrop of widespread unilateral decisions as seen during the Iraq war of 2003 and the “war on terror”.

The 2005 Resolution had expressed strong global will to stop misuse of military power and said, “We are determined to reinvigorate the intergovernmental organs of the United Nations to adopt them to the needs of the twenty-first century”.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Important International institutions, agencies and fora - their structure, mandate.
News

• The draft Declaration on the Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of UNGA: ‘commits to instil new life in the discussions on the reforms in UNSC, then to revitalize the UNGA and to strengthen ECOSOC.’

  ✔ Criticised as softer approach and dilution of progress made towards the reforms in UN organs.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

• Established in 1945 under the charter of the United Nations.

• Occupies a central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations.

• Only UN body with universal representation.

• Unique forum for multilateral discussion.

• Plays a significant role in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law.

• Each year, in September, the full UN membership meets in the General Assembly Hall in New York.

• Decisions on important questions require two-thirds majority of the members of General Assembly, present and voting.

• The annual session can be conducted in a place other than UN Headquarters – based on decision in previous session or at the request of a majority of the Members of the United Nations.
According to the **Charter of the United Nations**, the **General Assembly** may:

- Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States;
- Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General;
- Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament;
- Discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, make recommendations on it;
- Discuss, with the same exception, and make recommendations on any questions within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;
- Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields;
- Make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among countries;
- Consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs.
- The Assembly may also take action in cases of a threat to the peace, breach of peace or act of aggression, when the Security Council has failed to act owing to the negative vote of a permanent member. In such instances, according to its “Uniting for peace” resolution of 3 November 1950, the Assembly may consider the matter immediately and recommend to its Members collective measures to maintain or restore international peace and security.
United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

- Primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- 15 Members - 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members.
- Each Member has one vote.
- Under the UN Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with UNSC decisions.
- The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or an act of aggression.
- It calls upon the parties - to settle disputes by peaceful means - In some cases, can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

- Principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, implementation of internationally agreed development goals.
- United Nations’ central platform for reflection, debate, and innovative thinking on sustainable development.
- 54 Members - Elected by the General Assembly for the term of three years - important decision - require two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. With respect to United Nations, consider the following statements:

1. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is the United Nations’ central platform for reflection, debate, and innovative thinking on sustainable development.

2. The membership of ECOSOC is less than 20.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following national parks:

1. Kaziranga National Park
2. Manas National Park
3. Dudhwa National Park
4. Gorumara National Park

The Greater one-horned rhino is found in which of the above national parks?

(a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 2 and 4 only  
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only  
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
The Greater one-horned Rhino

• Also known as the Indian rhino.
• One of the largest of the rhino species.
• Once widespread across the entire northern part of the Indian sub-continent.
  ✓ Strict protection and management by Indian and Nepalese wildlife authorities brought them back from the brink.
• Present population - increased to around 3,500 rhinos in north-eastern India and the Terai grasslands of Nepal.
• Herbivorous mammal.
• Lives in Tropical and Subtropical Grasslands, Savannas, and Shrublands.

• Conservation status:
  ✓ ‘Vulnerable’ category - IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
• Commonly found in Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan and India.

✓ India:

➤ Assam:
  ▪ Kaziranga National Park,
  ▪ Manas National Park,
  ▪ Orang National Park,
  ▪ Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.

➤ Uttar Pradesh – Dudhwa National Park.

➤ West Bengal:
  ▪ Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary,
  ▪ Gorumara National Park.

✓ Kaziranga, Manas and Pobitora in Assam have the highest population density of Indian rhino in the world.

Source: https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/greater-one-horned-rhino
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following national parks:

1. Kaziranga National Park
2. Manas National Park
3. Dudhwa National Park
4. Gorumara National Park

The Greater one-horned rhino is found in which of the above national parks?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. The Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institution Award for 2019 was given to which one of the following?
(a) Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
(b) National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology
(c) National Dairy Research Institute
(d) Central Arid Zone Research Institute.

Best research institute award for CMFRI
KOCHI
The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has been adjudged the best research institute of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The CMFRI won the Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institutions award, the highest award of the ICAR with a cash prize of ₹10 lakh, in the category of large institutions. This is in recognition to the CMFRI’s performance in marine fisheries research during 2014-2019. This is the second time that CMFRI is bagging the prestigious award, says a press release here.
Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)

- Established by in February, 1947, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- Later joined the ICAR family in 1967.
- Headquarters - Kochi, Kerala.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

- An autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- Established on 16th July 1929, as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, in pursuance of the Royal Commission Report on Agriculture.
- Apex body for co-ordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in India.
- Played a pioneering role in ushering Green Revolution and subsequent developments in agriculture in India through its research and technology development.
  - Visible impact on the national food and nutritional security → since 1950-51 to 2017-18, increase in production of
    - Food grains - 5.6 times,
    - Horticultural crops - 10.5 times,
    - Fish - 16.8 times,
    - Milk - 10.4 times,
    - Eggs - 52.9 times.
- Played a major role in promoting excellence in higher education in agriculture.
Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institution Award

• Objectives:
  ✓ To recognize outstanding performance by the ICAR institutes, DUS (Distinctiveness, Uniformity and Stability) centres, Central and State Agricultural Universities.
  ✓ To provide incentive for outstanding institutional/University performance.
  ✓ To promote a sense of institutional pride in achievements.

Nature of the Award
An individual award under the award consists of ₹ 10,00,000 in cash, a citation and a plaque for SAUs and DUs and for other ICAR Institutes.

A total of three individual awards have been provided. The three awards will be given to the following three categories of institutions.

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<th>State Agricultural Universities And 4 Deemed Universities of ICAR</th>
<th>One award</th>
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<td>ICAR Institutes</td>
<td>One sanctioned for large institutes (sanctioned scientific cadre strength more than 60)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>One for small institutes, NRCs and Project Directorates etc. (sanctioned scientific cadre strength up to 60)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: icar.gov.in
Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. The Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institution Award for 2019 was given to which one of the following?
(a) Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
(b) National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology
(c) National Dairy Research Institute
(d) Central Arid Zone Research Institute.
PRACTICE QUESTIONS
DISCUSSION
Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding ‘geological faults’, which are fracture or zone of fractures between two blocks of rock:

1. In a normal dip-slip fault the upper block, above the fault plane, moves up and over the lower block.

2. In a thrust fault, the block above the fault would move downward relative to the block below.

3. Faults which move horizontally are known as strike-slip faults.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. With respect to United Nations, consider the following statements:

1. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is the United Nations’ central platform for reflection, debate, and innovative thinking on sustainable development.

2. The membership of ECOSOC is less than 20.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims

Answers

Q1. Option ‘d’ – 1, 2, 3 and 4
Q2. Option ‘a’ – Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
Q3. Option ‘a’ – 1 and 2 only
Q4. Option ‘a’ – 1 only
Practice Question – Mains

GS - II

Q. ‘India’s plan for naval coalition building alone will not credibly deter China’s military power in the Indian Ocean’. Comment.

(150 words, 10 marks)
LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE

SUBSCRIBE