CONSTITUTION AND POLITY

Supplementary Demands For Grants

The Lok Sabha is discussing supplementary demands for grants for 2019-20. This includes 78 grants and four appropriations.

About:

- If the government needs to spend any additional money, it can introduce Supplementary Demands for Grants during the year. The additional grant required to meet the required expenditure of the government is called Supplementary Grants.
- When grants, authorised by the Parliament, fall short of the required expenditure, an estimate is presented before the Parliament for Supplementary or Additional grants. These grants are presented and passed by the Parliament before the end of the financial year.
- When actual expenditure incurred exceeds the approved grants of the Parliament, the Ministry of Finance presents a Demand for Excess Grant. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India bring such excesses to the notice of the Parliament.
- The Public Accounts Committee examines these excesses and gives recommendations to the Parliament. The Demand for Excess Grants is made after the actual expenditure is incurred and is presented to the Parliament after the end of the financial year in which the expenses were made.

GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.

Scheme For Comprehensive Rehabilitation Of Beggars

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has proposed to restructure & formulate a scheme namely "Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Beggars".

About:

- It will be a comprehensive scheme for persons engaged in the Act of begging which would cover identification, rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counselling, education, skill development with the support of State Governments/UTs/Local Urban Bodies and Voluntary Organizations.
- The scheme will be implemented in the selected cities having large concentration of Beggar community during the financial year 2020-2021.
- 100% Assistance under the Scheme shall be provided to the States/UTs for its implementation.

National Commission For Indian System Of Medicine Bill 2019

Rajya Sabha passed the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill 2019.

About:

- The Bill seeks to repeal the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970.
- The Bill provides for the establishment of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM). The NCISM will consist of 29 members, appointed by the central government.
- Functions of the NCISM include: (i) framing policies for regulating medical institutions and medical professionals of Indian System of Medicine and (ii) ensuring coordination among the autonomous boards set up under the Bill.
- The Bill sets up following autonomous boards under the supervision of the NCISM:
  - the Board of Ayurveda and the Board of Unani, Siddha, and Sowa-Rigpa,
  - the Medical Assessment and Rating Board for Indian System of Medicine and
  - the Ethics and Medical Registration Board:
- The central government will constitute an Advisory Council for Indian System of Medicine, which will be the primary platform through which the states/union territories can put forth their views and concerns before the NCISM.
- There will be a uniform National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for admission to under-graduate education in each of the disciplines of the Indian System of Medicine in all medical institutions regulated by the Bill.

Call Data Records (Cdrs)

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has been asking operators for call data records (CDRs) by the bulk. The government seeking such details on specific dates for certain pockets in the country without mentioning the reason is highly unusual.

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Plot-1441, Opp. IOCL Petrol Pump, CRP Square, Bhubaneswar-751015
Ph.: 8984111101, 8093083555. Web: www.vanikias.com, E-mail: vaniksias@gmail.com

About:
- A Call Data Record (CDR) of a subscriber is a string of information about that mobile phone number for a particular time period.
- This string of information includes details such as the name of the subscriber, the details of calls made by this subscriber during a given time period, the duration of each call, whether the call terminated normally or abnormally, rough location of the caller etc.
- Under the new guidelines, only an officer of the rank of SP and above was authorised to seek details from telecom operators, and inform the DM of CDRs obtained every month. The current request is not in line with these guidelines.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS

Herd Immunity

UK has retracted under criticism after suggesting it would allow COVID-19 to pass through the population, so that 'herd community' could be achieved.

About:
- Herd immunity refers to preventing an infectious disease from spreading by immunising a certain percentage of the population.
- While the concept is most commonly used in the context of vaccination, herd community can also be achieved after enough people have become immune after being infected.
- The premise is that if a certain percentage of the population is immune, members of that group can no longer infect another person. This breaks the chain of infection through the community ("herd"), and prevents it from reaching those who are the most vulnerable.
- "Herd immunity threshold" is the number of immune individuals above which a disease may no longer circulate.

Scenario in UK:
- However, the discussion on herd immunity to fight COVID-19 in the UK has not been based on this conventional definition.
- The UK government had wanted the entire population to be exposed to the novel coronavirus infection, so that the majority could develop immunity to COVID-19.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- EVERYDAY SCIENCE, SPACE, NUCLEAR, DEFENCE ETC

Ibuprofen

The World Health Organisation (WHO) advised patients suffering from COVID-19-like symptoms to avoid the anti-inflammatory drug ibuprofen, unless prescribed by doctors, as it may make patients more vulnerable to COVID-19.

About:
- Ibuprofen is an anti-inflammatory drug. Common medicines that contain ibuprofen include Brufen and Combiflam tablets.
- Ibuprofen, a non-steroid, is used for relief from joint pain, migraine, fever, body ache, and even pain during the menstrual cycle. Its function is to reduce pain, swelling, and fever by suppressing substances that produce swelling in the body.
- Other non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) include aspirin, cortisone, naproxen and diclofenac.

Chemical-Free Hand Sanitizer

IHBT scientists develop new sanitizer without chemicals like parabens, triclosan, and phthalates.

About:
- A new hand-sanitizer has been developed by the scientists of CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT) based in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh.
- The natural flavours, active tea constituents and alcohol content in this hand-sanitizer have been used as per the guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Chemicals like parabens, triclosan, synthetic fragrance and phthalates have not been used in this product.
- The technology has been transferred to Palampur based company M/s A.B. Scientific Solutions for the commercial production of this newly developed hand-sanitizer. An agreement has been

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Ph.: 8984111101, 8093083555. Web: www.vanikias.com, E-mail: vanikias@gmail.com

signed between CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT) and the company.

DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Tejas Aircraft

In a big boost to 'Make in India', Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) cleared acquisition of 83 indigenous Tejas fighter aircraft for Indian Air Force (IAF) with more advanced configuration than the 40 currently on order.

About:

- The Light Combat Aircraft Tejas has been indigenously-designed by Aircraft Development Agency (ADA) under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- While orders of 40 Tejas aircraft had been placed with HAL in initial configurations, DAC paved the way for procurement of 83 of the more advanced Mk1A version of the aircraft from HAL by finalising the contractual and other issues.
- The proposal will now be placed for consideration of Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns: What do you understand by DeepFake? Discuss the challenges posed by DeepFake.

DeepFake is a synthetic media in which a person in an existing video/image is replaced with someone else. It uses machine learning and artificial intelligence to manipulate the audio/video that has a tendency to deceive. It has gained attention due to fake news, celebrity pronographic materials etc. that is easily circulated online.

Challenges posed by DeepFake

- Compromises individual's identity and reputation: Wrong action videos/audio can mislead anyone into believing that action is done by someone who has actually not done it. For example, pornography.
- Misrepresentation of Information and Personalities: Especially in politics that could lead to social engineering.
- For example candidates in elections showcasing that they know more than one language while communicating through social media.
- Risk of Financial frauds: It could also lead to financial frauds thereby creating challenges to the overall financial system.
- Cybercrime: It also presents a threat to secure cyber systems and veracity of online content in the times when the menace of fake news and ill use of social media is rampant.

Conclusion

- It's important that credibility of the online content remains intact so that above-mentioned challenges do not compromise their integrity. Hence measures like detection of the source of media using blockchain, better monitoring and reporting mechanism for online content backed by robust laws like Deepfakes Accountability Act of USA and vigilante administration like that of Chinese in cyberspace is utmost important.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs

1. With reference to the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, consider the following statements:
    1. It has been indigenously-designed and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
    2. It is an Indian single-engine, delta wing, multirole light fighter.
    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
2. With reference to the hand-sanitizer, consider the following statements:
    1. CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT) scientists have recently developed a new sanitizer.
    2. Chemicals like parabens, triclosan, synthetic fragrance and phthalates have not been used in this product.

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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

3. With reference to the "Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Beggars", consider the following statements:
   1. The Ministry of Health has proposed to restructure & formulate a scheme namely "Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Beggars".
   2. The scheme will be implemented in all cities in India during the financial year 2020-2021.
   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

4. With reference to the supplementary demands for grants, consider the following statements:
   1. When grants, authorised by the Parliament, fall short of the required expenditure, an estimate is presented before the Parliament for Supplementary or Additional grants.
   2. When actual expenditure incurred exceeds the approved grants of the Parliament, the Ministry of Finance presents a Demand for Excess Grant and the Comptroller and Auditor General of India bring such excesses to the notice of the Parliament.
   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

5. With reference to the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill 2019, consider the following statements:
   1. The Bill seeks to repeal the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970.
   2. The Bill provides for the establishment of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) which will consist of 29 members, appointed by the central government.
   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

6. With reference to the 'herd community', consider the following statements:
   1. It refers to preventing an infectious disease from spreading by immunising a certain percentage of the population.
   2. "Herd immunity threshold" is the number of immune individuals above which a disease may no longer circulate.
   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

7. What is Ibuprofen, recently seen in news?
   (a) An anti-inflammatory drug
   (b) Missile defence system
   (c) First operational hypersonic glide vehicle system
   (d) A foreign substance that causes a fever in an animal's body.

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Ph.: 8984111101, 8093083555. Web: www.vanikias.com, E-mail: vaniksias@gmail.com