The Hindu Daily Analysis, 15th April 2017

What’s Inside:
- News Analysis
- News Editorials
- Map Study
- MCQs
- Descriptive Question

“The greatest sin is to think yourself weak”
- Swami Vivekananda
Reform in Science set up sought

1. Heads of India’s top scientific, administrative bodies have jointly conveyed to Prime Minister that science in India needs a major revamp.

2. They have proposed an over-arching science and technology body that marries research and industry, and will report directly to the Prime Minister.

3. We have lost the ability to recognise excellence amongst our own

4. In a false sense of egalitarianism, we often chose the mediocre at every level.
• “Ease of Doing Science”
• Financial Advisers are officers deputed from the Union Finance Ministry.
• New authority: SPARK (Sustainable Progress through Application of Research and Knowledge).

[104th Indian Science Congress was held at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh in January 2017
Theme ‘Science and Technology for National Development’.]
Judicial Opinion on Personal Laws need review.

FinMin: Judicial view that personal laws need not conform to Constitutional rights would be reviewed in the near future.

Constitution Bench of the S.C. is scheduled to hear a batch of petitions challenging whether personal law practices like triple talaq and polygamy violate the constitutional rights of Muslim women.

Article 13: The Centre has in that case sought the court to re-open the debate as to whether personal laws can be brought under the ambit of Article 13 (laws inconsistent with or in derogation of the fundamental rights) of the Constitution.
If the Supreme Court agrees that personal laws are to be included in the definition of laws under Article 13, then, a particular personal law of a religion would be held to be violative of the fundamental rights.

Freedom of religion: The Centre has also asked the Supreme Court to determine whether: the triple talaq, nikah halala and polygamy are protected under the Freedom of religion under Article 25, and whether this Article is subject to fundamental rights, especially the right to life and freedom of speech and expression.
Court Rulings in the Past:

(i) The Bombay High Court had held that personal law is not ‘law’ under Article 13.

(ii) When Supreme Court was asked to consider if unilateral divorce by talaq and polygamy were violative of Articles 14 and 15.

**Article 14:** Right to Equality before Law

**Article 15:** Prohibition of Discrimination on the basis of Religion, Race, Caste, Sex or place of birth.
Articles in Constitution

Article 25. Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion.

Article 26. Freedom to manage religious affairs.

Article 27. Freedom as to payment of taxes for promotion of any particular religion.

Article 28. Freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in certain education institutions.
Keep out non-serious parties: MPs’ panel

Registered-Unrecognised Parties: It is mandatory for every Political Party to register itself with ECI.

1. The Commission has, over a period of time, identified various parties which have not contested polls since 2005 and has ‘delisted’ 255 of them.

2. There is a need to keep non-serious parties out of the political system, and to ensure they do not misuse facilities like tax exemption.

3. Their registration should be regulated by law, suggested the parliamentary panel.
4. The poll panel believes that most of them exist on paper to help people convert their back money into white by accepting donations.

5. The poll panel believes that most of them exist on paper to help people convert their back money into white by accepting donations.

[There are over 1,780 registered, but unrecognised political parties in the country.]
1. Deployed by the US military for the first time in combat.

2. **GBU-43 Massive Ordnance Air Blast Bomb (MOAB)** is one of the most powerful non-nuclear weapons in the possession of any military worldwide.

A quick look at two of these deadly air-delivered monster munitions:

1. **Aviation Thermobaric Bomb of Increased Power:** Also known as the ‘Father of All Bombs’ (FOAB), it is the Russian answer to the American bomb.

2. **GBU-43 MOAB:** Designed to destroy underground facilities, caves and tunnels, the US had developed the GPS-guided bomb for the 2003 invasion of Iraq but it was never used. MOAB detonates before hitting the ground (Concussive bomb)
Business:

‘Maintain EPFO interest rate at 8.65%’ : MoL&E?

Delay in interest credit The latest tussle between the Finance Ministry and the Labour Ministry has led to a delay in crediting interest amount for 2016-17 to about four crore active subscribers.

Who is the head of Central Board of Trustees?
Editorial-International: China- Deal with N.Korea before it’s too late.

1. N. Korea might conduct its 6th Missile test today.
2. President Donald Trump, who has made North Korea a key foreign policy concern of his administration.
3. In late March, the U.S. had commenced installation of the so-called Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) anti-missile system in South Korea in response to missile tests by the North.
4. U.S. and South Korea have emphasised that intercepting the North Korea’s advanced development of inter-continental ballistic missiles was the real objective behind the new system.

5. But apprehensive that its own nuclear infrastructure would be inevitably exposed to snooping by the THAAD radar, China has sought to counter Seoul with trade and tourism boycotts.

6. Threat of unilateral action against South Korea in the event that China fails to rein in North Korea may partly echo the mood in Washington after the recent missile strikes in Syria.
7. If the Chinese government views Pyongyang’s growing nuclear capability with concern, as it professes to, then it must do much to use its leverage effectively.

8. Merely stressing the need for a peaceful resolution to the conflict is not enough.

9. Japan, Washington’s important regional ally, would view with no less consternation any potential threat to stability in its neighbourhood.
10. His latest positive observations on China point to a shift from open confrontation to a possible constructive engagement.

11. Notable here, for instance, is a willingness to eschew the previous rhetoric on China as a currency manipulator.

12. Against this emerging backdrop, a return to a reasoned and nuanced approach on North Korea would be a most positive development in these volatile times.

   That would, however, require a spectacular roll-back by Pyongyang of its current nuclear capability which includes long-range missiles that can reach targets in the Pacific.
Lead Article: China.

- The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, was in Arunachal Pradesh recently, which has greatly ruffled China’s feathers.
- **China calls** Arunachal Pradesh as ‘Southern Tibet’
- The prolonged stay of His Holiness in the Tawang Monastery was objectionable to China.
- Dalai Lama spoke critically of China during his present visit to Arunachal Pradesh, something he had previously avoided.
• Choice of words by Dalai Lama, this time round:
  — “I’ve long forgiven China’s Communist Government for occupying Tibet”; we support a ‘One China policy’, “all we want is the right to preserve our culture, language and identity”; “the 1.4 billion Chinese people have every right to know the reality (of Tibet)”, “once they know the reality they will be able to judge”, “until now there has been only one-sided, wrong information” -- these words were bound to irk China.
To top it up, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister’s statement that the State did not share its borders with China but with Tibet and asking India to stick to its ‘political pledges’ and not hurt China-India relations.

[Rail lines: The most ambitious among these is the 378km Bhalukpong-Tenga-Tawang line in northwestern Arunachal Pradesh. The other two are the 248km line to Aalo in the central and the 227km line to Parasuramkund in the southeastern part of the state. ]
• It must not be overlooked that the Sino-Indian conflict of 1962 occurred soon after China’s disastrous Great Leap Forward, in which a large number of Chinese perished, and the Dalai Lama fleeing Tibet and taking sanctuary in India. In 1962, Beijing had masked its intentions skilfully, while India, in the absence of any major overt action by China, was lulled into a false sense of complacency.

• We need to ensure that there is no repetition of lack of vigil on our part.
The Tawang factor

Indian commentators keep referring from time to time to the fact that China had shifted its stand on Tawang. This may be true, but there is little doubt about the centrality of Tawang (the birth place of the sixth Dalai Lama) in China’s scheme of things for this region.

During several rounds of discussions on the Sino-Indian border, the Chinese Special Representative for boundary talks, Dai Bingguo, made it amply clear to me that Tawang was non-negotiable.
In 2005, China signed an Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question (Dai Bingguo and I were the signatories) which stipulated that areas with settled populations would not be affected in any exchange. Even before the ink was dry, China began to dissimulate as far as Tawang was concerned.
Currently, China has jettisoned the Guiding Principles laid down by Deng Xiaoping, “coolly observe..., hide your capacities, bide your time”.

Contd....
The OBOR outlier

• Through OBOR, China is constantly seeking ways to isolate India.
• It is engaged in building advantageous power relations, acquiring bases and strengthening ties with countries across Asia, Africa and beyond. China’s OBOR initiative signifies its new outreach, extending from the eastern extremity of Asia to Europe — the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor represents its most significant strategic aspect — and has the backing of most countries in the region.
India is an outlier in this respect.

• India is perhaps the only major Asian nation that has not yet endorsed the concept.

• If as China anticipates that OBOR has the potential to alter the status quo across the region with **most nations accepting a long-term commitment to China**, India could find itself friendless in Asia and beyond.
Column: Anger against Doctors.

1. All reports suggest that most of these patients could not have been saved with the infrastructure available in the institution, yet their deaths have been seen as a case of neglect by medical personnel.

Why Increase in Attacks:
It is being said that attacks are symptomatic of a larger malaise, manifested in:

1. general increase in violence as a method of demonstrating power,
2. loss of faith in institutions,
3. anger against perceived marginalisation, and
4. lack of understanding of science and society.
The present health-care system in India has inequity built in. Patients can see

1. The demand by doctors for better pay is seen as selish.

2. It has to be coupled with demands for patient care such as better access, better facilities, and more personnel so that individual attention can be given.

3. At present, most doctors are not advocates for patients. They play along with governments unwilling to spend on health care and accept the prevalent view that providing public sector health care is a favour and not a right.

4. Doctors are seen as a part of the power structure.
1. Also, tremendous technological advances in medicine are not available to the majority in India.

2. Increasing privatisation, corporatisation and commercialisation of medical care have ensured that many procedures cannot be accessed by the general public. Examples of the privileged having access to extremely expensive care in the private sector propagates the idea that modern medicine can salvage even the most critically ill provided enough money is spent.
What can be done?

1. An immediate step is to ensure exemplary action against violence as a means of settling issues.

2. More long-term measures require vastly improved health infrastructure, fewer patients per doctor in line with international norms.

3. Doctors should participate in spreading understanding of science and society.
4. Peoples’ committees in hospitals will be a welcome step.
5. There must be a constant audit of the working hours of medical personnel and the fatigued doctor should not be left in the front line to deal with an emotionally charged public.
6. Social workers in crucial departments such as accident and emergency wards to handle anxious crowds will certainly reduce the stress of already overburdened postgraduates and house surgeons.
MCQs For 14th April 2017.

Q1. If a wetland of international importance is brought under the ‘Montreux Record’, what does it imply?

(a) Changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring or are likely to occur in the wetland as a result of human interference.

(b) The country in which the wetland is located should enact a law to prohibit any human activity within five kilo metres from the edge of the wetland

(c) The survival of the wetland depends on the cultural practices and traditions of certain communities living in its vicinity and therefore the cultural diversity therein should not be destroyed

(d) It is given the status of ‘World Heritage Site’
Q2. With reference to technologies for solar power production, consider the following statements:

1. ‘Photovoltaics’ is a technology that generates electricity by direct conversion of light into electricity, while ‘Solar Thermal’ is a technology that utilizes the Sun’s rays to generate heat which is further used in electricity generation process.

2. Photovoltaics generates Alternating Current (AC), while Solar Thermal generates Direct Current (DC).

3. India has manufacturing base for Solar Thermal technology, but not for Photovoltaics.
Q3. Consider the following pairs:

1. Dampa Tiger Reserve : Mizoram
2. Gumti Wildlife Sanctuary : Sikkim
3. Saramati Peak : Nagaland

Which of the above pairs is /are correctly matched?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Q4. Which one of the following is the largest Committee of the Parliament?

(a) The Committee on Public Accounts
(b) The Committee on Estimates
(c) The Committee on Public Undertakings
(d) The Committee on Petitions.

The Estimates Committee, constituted for the first time in 1950, is a Parliamentary Committee consisting of 30 Members, elected every year by the Lok Sabha from amongst its Members. The Chairman of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst its members.
Q5. The terms ‘Marginal Standing Facility Rate’ and ‘Net Demand and Time Liabilities’, sometimes appearing in news, are used in relation to:

(a) banking operations  
(b) communication networking  
(c) military strategies  
(d) supply and demand of agricultural products
MCQs for 15\textsuperscript{th} April.

Q1. What was the reason for Mahatma Gandhi to organize a satyagraha on behalf of the peasants of Kheda?

1. The Administration did not suspend the land revenue collection in spite of a drought.

2. The Administration proposed to introduce Permanent Settlement in Gujarat.

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
Q2. Consider the following statements: The most effective contribution made by Dadabhai Naoroji to the cause of Indian National Movement was that he

1. exposed the economic exploitation of India by the British;
2. interpreted the ancient Indian texts and restored the self-confidence of Indians;
3. stressed the need for eradication of all the social evils before anything else

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Q3. Mahatma Gandhi undertook fast unto death in 1932, mainly because:

(a) Round Table Conference failed to satisfy Indian political aspirations

(b) Congress and Muslim League had differences of opinion

(c) Ramsay Macdonald announced the Communal Award

(d) None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is correct in this context