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The new facts on the ground for Kashmir

India cannot claim the moral high ground any more that it has kept the State's integrity intact.

Lok Sabha endorses Centre's decisions on Kashmir

President’s declaration ending special status under Art. 370 notified in Gazette

PAPER III

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

- Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure; devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.

PAPER IV


- Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
- Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security, money-laundering and its prevention.
- Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
⇒ Call for an analysis of immediate implications of the constitutional changes made and proposed
      Jammu & Kashmir (Reorganisation) Bill, 2019
⇒ Bills
      Jammu & Kashmir Reservation (2nd amendment) Bill, 2019
⇒ Resolutions:
   1. To recommend/req President to stop the operation of Article 370
      → Article 370 became inoperative with the declaration of the President through
         public notification yesterday

⇒ Greater counter terrorism preparedness
   * Questionable
      - Efficient and apt human intelligence necessary
      - Unrealistic expectation by changing
        administrative and political setup

⇒ Decision of the Central Govt - Unpopular in Kashmir Valley
   ➔ Disaffection - can be exploited by Pakistan,
     & (extremists, terrorists, insurgents)
   ➔ 1960s - mass dilution of Art 370
      - Operation Gibraltar by Pakistan (Aug 1965)
        • to infiltrate soldiers/people - to
          manipulate public opinion of people
          of Jammu and Kashmir

⇒ In 2009 - Pakistan altered the integrity of PoK
   In 2019 - India proposes to alter the territorial
      integrity of State of Jammu & Kashmir
   ➔ If done, India can’t claim the moral
      high ground anymore that it has kept the
      state’s integrity intact
⇒ Even after bifurcations, there will be demands
   to further divide the state - to be rejected
   ➔ to ensure stability and absence of turbulence
⇒ Cycle of Violence since 1987
   ➔ Allegations of rigging - unfair conduct of elections
      - also successive elections - lead to people
        having ‘mistrust’ with the way elections
        were conducted

⇒ Decision to remove ‘state’ status and
   reorganising into two Union territories
   under Centre - Self-defeating strategy
   - Purely relying on militaristic tools,
     rather than CBMs

⇒ Proposal of Ladakh as UT:
   ➔ Demand since 1990s - limited to Leh
     District only
     - in Kargil - Shia population - opposed
       such demands fearing Buddhist
       domination
   ➔ Govt should protect the interests of Muslims in Kargil - to avoid Kargil
      becoming a zone of disaffection
Practice Question – Mains
GS-II

Q. Discuss the various implications of the proposed reorganization of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.
India tells China to avoid commenting on Ladakh

KALLOI BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

The formation of the Union Territory of Ladakh under the Jammu and Kashmir Re-organisation Bill, 2019, is an internal affair of India, and India expects other countries to avoid commenting on its internal developments, an official of the Ministry of External Affairs, in a meeting with senior Chinese diplomats in New Delhi to create greater consensus in favour of peace in Afghanistan. The implication of this parity agreement between the Taliban and the U.S. will be felt across South Asia and in the West Asia. Pakistan is waiting anxiously till its biggest strain — India’s move to end the special status to Jammu and Kashmir indicates that the government is bracing for serious geo-strategic shifts that will unfold in South Asia over the next few months.

Afghanistan shadow over India’s move

Real reason lies in global context

KALLOI BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Indian MEA (External Affairs):

- J&K Bill - an internal affair of India
- India - never comments on internal affairs of other countries - expects the same

India - China boundary disputes:

- In Jammu & Kashmir:
  - Aksai Chin and Shakesam valley

- Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.

- Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
Aksai Chin:
- Uninhabited Territory; was integral part of J&K
- 1962 Indo-China war - China took authority
- Indian claims - Aksai Chin part of Leh in Ladakh

Shaksgam Valley: (Trans-Karakoram Tract)
- 1947 India-Pak War - Pakistan occupied Kashmir
- Shaksgam Valley - part of Pak
- 1963 - Pak-China, boundary settlement - Shaksgam valley was ceded to China

Role of geo-politics in Afghanistan and Pakistan on Kashmir:
- US Special Representative - Mediation between Afghan govt ↔ Taliban + Pakistan
  - 'Doha Negotiations' - positive results
- US-Taliban peace agreement → Implications in South & West Asia
- 1988 - Similar situation
  - Geneva Accord 1988 & Withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan - Victory of Mujahideens

- Mujahideens → Now Taliban - Controlled by Pakistan
- Pakistan - diverted arms & resources for Afghan Mujahideens to Kashmir in early 1990s
- Result: Insurgency at its peak in 1990s in Kashmir
- US - Afghan peace treaty - expected
  - Strengthen Pakistan & Taliban
- So - proactive step by Indian govt - firm grip over Kashmir
Q. Consider the following statements.

1. India shares boundary with Afghanistan.
2. India shares its longest international boundary with Bangladesh.
3. India shares its international land boundary with 7 countries.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2  
b) 2 and 3  
c) 1 and 3  
d) 1, 2, and 3
**Consumer Protection Bill 2019**

* To protect rights of consumers by establishing authorities → timely & effective administration & settlement of consumers’ dispute
* Replaces Consumer Protection Act, 1986
* Disposal of consumer complaints → Speedy manner
* Consumer → buys goods or avails services for consideration → offline and online transactions

**Salient Features:**

⇒ **Consumer Rights**

1. To be protected against marketing of g1/pls - hazardous to life and property
2. To be informed → Quality - Potency - Standard → Quantity - Purity - Price
3. Assured of access to g1/pls at competitive prices
4. Due consideration of consumer interests
5. Seek redressal against → Unfair trade practices → Restrictive trade practices → Unscrupulous exploitation of consumers

⇒ **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)**

* Executive Agency → to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class
* Empowered to investigate, recall, refund, impose penalties
* To initiate class action
* Penalty → ₹ 10 lakh & 2 years imprisonment → imposed on manufacturer, endorser or publisher

⇒ **Simple Dispute Resolution Process**

- e-filing
- filing at nearest commission

⇒ **Mediation:**

- Alternate Dispute Resolution Mechanism
- Reference by Consumer forum (NCDRC)
- No appeal

⇒ **Product Liability:**

- Responsibility of

  \[
  \text{Manufacturer} \rightarrow \text{Product Service Provider} \rightarrow \text{Product Seller}
  \]

  Compensation → Injury Damage

⇒ **Regulations to prevent unfair trade practices on e-commerce & direct selling**
Auto firms seek stimulus to spur demand
To meet FM with two key requests — cut in GST rate, steps to boost liquidity

Part A—Preliminary Examination
Paper I - (200 marks)
• 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-IV
• Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

Pg. 13 → B
Pg. 14 → C, T
Pg. 16 → D

Automobile Industry in India:
• Unprecedented decline in Sales
• Slowdown in demands across categories
• Sales ↓ over 12% in Second quarter of 2019 compared to Second quarter in 2018

Automobile retailers ← hit by decline in sales
• Manpower Cutting - to tide over the impact
• Last 3 months - almost 2 lakh jobs have been cut across automobile sector

Representatives of auto industry - to meet Union Finance Minister
• Seek stimulus package to spur demand
• Proactive measures by government - can generate good demand in the upcoming festive season

Important demands of the auto industry:
1) Reduction in GST
• GST for automobile sector - 18 to 28%
• Rationalisation of GST required
• ↓ GST - ↓ cost of production - ↑ final price - ↑ demand

2) Measures to improve liquidity
• Liquidity crunch - less flow of money to people
• NBFC crisis - Non-banking Financial Companies - Eg: IL&FS crisis
• NBFCs - Reduced their lending
• NBFCs - financed Vehicle Sales
• ↓ lending - ↓ loans - ↓ demand - ↓ sales
3) **Import duty to discourage import of auto Components from China**
   - 20% of total auto components imports - worth over USD 1 billion
   - Adverse impact on Indian auto manufacturers

4) **Focus on Make in India initiative**
   - Incentive to domestic industries
   - ↑ Competitiveness
   - ↑ GDP

5) **Implementation of BS VI by April 1, 2020**
   - Additional economic burden
   - ↑ Vehicle cost
   - Govt help & support to increase demand - essential

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**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

**DISCUSSION**
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.
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Practice Question – Mains

GS-II

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