<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>News Articles</th>
<th>Page Number*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The new facts on the ground for Kashmir (OPED)</td>
<td>B: 9, C: 9, T: 11, D: 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lok Sabha endorses Centre’s decisions on Kashmir</td>
<td>B: 1,10, C: 1,10, T: 1,12, D:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>India tells China to avoid commenting on Ladakh</td>
<td>B: 1,10, C: 1,10, T: 1,12, D:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Afghanistan shadow over India’s move</td>
<td>B: 11, C: 11, T: 13, D:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Consumer Protection Bill gets RS green light</td>
<td>B: 7, C: 7, T: 9, D:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Auto firms seek stimulus to spur demand</td>
<td>B: 13, C: 14, T: 16, D:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Practice cum Revision - MCQs</td>
<td><strong>@end of the video</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* B – Bengaluru; C – Chennai; T – Thiruvananthapuram; D – Delhi
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


- 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 bills.

- Jammu & Kashmir (Reorganisation) Bill, 2019
- 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)
- 1965 - max 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 highground 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
| ➡️ Grant should take steps to prevent polarisation within the state on "regional" and "religious" lines |
| ➡️ Political reservation for the people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes (Gujjar, Bakarwal...) |
| ➡️ Denied / No credible steps taken in J&K Legislative Assembly as demanded by Indian Constitution |
| ➡️ New constitutional changes made & proposed - enable political reservation for the people from the Scheduled Tribes |
| ➡️ Will make state political structure more inclusive |

| ➡️ Poverty - Widespread poverty - Union Home Minister |
| ➡️ Author - only 10.35% of the population of Jammu and Kashmir lives below Poverty Line |
| ➡️ Those who are not permanent residents can't purchase land in Jammu and Kashmir |
| ➡️ Successive State Governments have liberally given lands to Non-state investors on 99-year lease |

| ➡️ Removal of Impediments: |
| ➡️ An outsider can now buy land - Jammu & other region within J&K |
| ➡️ Children of women marrying citizens outside J&K - can now inherit |
| ➡️ Refugees from Sialkot to enjoy rights for citizenship, employment, land, voting, ... |
| ➡️ Return of Kashmiri Hindus - On 19th Jan 1990 - Kashmiri Hindus asked to leave / convert to Islam / Die - they left their homes, other immovable properties - Security environment - now not conducive to return |
India tells China to avoid commenting on Ladakh

Afghanistan shadow over India's move

Real reason lies in global context

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.

India tells China to avoid commenting on Ladakh

- J&K Reorganisation Bill 2019 passed in both Houses of Parliament

- Chinese Foreign Ministry:
  * Change in status of Ladakh - unacceptable
  * Criticised ending special status to J&K

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 Shaksgam valley
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

Shaksam Valley: (Trans-Karakoram Tract)
- 1947 India-Pak War - Pakistan occupied Kashmir
- Shaksam Valley - part of Pak
- 1963 - Pak-China boundary settlement - Shaksam 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
**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

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**Salient Features:**

⇒ **Consumer Rights**

1. To be protected against marketing of goods - hazardous to life and property

2. To be informed
   - Quality
   - Potency
   - Standard
   - Quantity
   - Purity
   - Price

3. Assured of access to goods 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
  - Manufacturer
  - Product Service Provider
  - Product Seller
  Compensation
  - Defective Product
  - 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

Mohan紅 said the industry has been suffering under burdensome GST rate, which experts believe is in the range of 25% in the case of most of the auto-mobiles.

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
General Studies—II: Technology, Economic Development, Bio diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management
- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.
### 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: E.g: IL&FS crisis
   - NBFCs - reduced their lending
   - NBFC - financed vehicle sales
   - ↓ lending - ↓ loans - ↓ demand - ↓ sales

3. **Import duty to discourage import of auto components from China**
   - 27% 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
Practice Question – Prelims

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

Practice Question – Mains GS-II

Q. Discuss the various implications of the proposed reorganization of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Practice Question Prelims Answer

Option – d – 1, 2 and 3
LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE

SUBSCRIBE