## The Hindu News Analysis – 09th August 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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* C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; T – Thiruvananthapuram
Knee-jerk
Pakistan must reconsider its decision to downgrade diplomatic ties with India.

Pakistan’s decision to expel India’s High Commissioner, snap trade relations and observe August 15 as a black day in supposed solidarity with the people of Jammu & Kashmir is a serious setback for diplomatic relations. Wednesday’s announcements appear to be a knee-jerk reaction to the mounting pressures on the Pakistani establishment to respond to India’s executive-legislative actions that whittle down Article 370. Pakistan has consistently described chief ministers of Jammu & Kashmir as “puppets” and never recognized the legitimacy of the government in Srinagar. Its sudden concern about India’s actions in its own territory are reflective of muddled confusion. Ironically, this is the first time Islamabad has articulated that Article 370 was aligned with the interests of the Kashmiri people. Every Pakistani government and the country’s permanent establishment have continued to peddle the myth that they could unilaterally alter the status quo in J&K. Now, they feel compelled to respond to the expectations that they have themselves raised in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. Sections of Indian civil society have legitimate concerns about the actions of the BJP Government in empying out Article 370 and the continuing lockdown of the Valley, but this does not license Pakistan to interfere in what the MEA correctly described on Thursday as India’s internal matter.

Part A—Preliminary Examination
Paper I—(200 marks)
- Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination
PAPER III
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.

→ Pakistan’s knee-jerk reaction to India revoking Article 370
  * Downgrade diplomatic relations
    - expel India’s High Commissioner in Pakistan
    - will not send new High Commissioner to India
  * Suspend bilateral trade
  * Reconsider existing bilateral agreements
  * August 15 - Black Day

→ For the ‘first time’ - Pak agreed that Art 370 - in favour of kashmiris
  * What Pak govt. and establishments usually do?
    - Sell Myths - Pakistan can unilaterally alter status quo in J&K

→ Civil Society in India:
  - Concerned about Centre’s decision & Shutdown of Valley
    - this does not give
      - Pak right to interfere in J&K
  * MEA - J&K is an internal affair of India
**Practice Question – Mains**

**GS-II**

Q. India’s decision to amend Article 370 and end the special status given to J&K was heavily criticized by Pakistan. What could be its implications on the India-Pak bilateral relations?

<table>
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<th>What India must expect?</th>
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<td>1. Pak - taking Kashmir issue to UN</td>
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<td>2. Mobilise Organisation of Islamic Co-operation</td>
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<td>3. Send envoys to friendly countries</td>
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India is well placed to tackle these. Why?

- Enormous growth in India’s economic influence
- West doubts of Pak’s overt and covert support to terrorism

<table>
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<th>Why diplomacy is essential?</th>
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<td>India &amp; Pakistan - restored diplomatic relations despite all the troubles</td>
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<td>Eg. 2001 – Indian Parliament attack</td>
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<td>2003 - diplomatic ties restored</td>
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- Diplomacy keeps channels of communications open
- Recent years - Use of back channel talks - still presence of seasoned diplomats - benefits both
Food supply is at dire risk: UN

Half a billion people live in places that are turning into desert, says report

The world’s land and water resources are being exploited at “unprecedented rates”, a new UN report warns, which, combined with climate change, is making the ability of humanity to feed itself

The report, prepared by scientists from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), forewarned that opponents who are turning into desert, and is not being terraformed and used for agriculture is a problem.

Climate change will make these threats even worse, as it interacts with other challenges: droughts, floods, storms, and other types of extreme weather that threaten food security. A recent United Nations report on climate change warned that food shortages could result in the displacement of millions of people.

Climate Change & Land: an IPCC Special Report

World’s land and water resources are being exploited at “unprecedented rates”

Combined with climate change, direct pressure on human ability to feed itself

Climate Change:

- Exacerbates land degradation
- Low lying coastal areas, river deltas, drylands and permafrost areas
- Through increase in:
  - Rainfall intensity
  - Flooding
  - Drought frequency & severity
  - Heat stress
  - Dry spells
  - Wind
  - Sea-level rise
  - Permafrost thaw

- Shifting of climate zones due to global warming
- Expansion of arid climate zones
- Contraction of polar climate zones

Plants, animals experience changes in ranges, abundances, etc.

- Lower-latitude regions → yields declined
- Higher-latitude regions → yields increased
- Lower → animal growth rates & productivity in pastural systems
- Agricultural pests & diseases → responded increase decrease

- Affecting food security in Africa & high mountain regions of Asia & South America
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. With reference to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which among the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.
2. Its objective is to provide governments with scientific information at all levels to develop policies related to climate.
3. It conducts its own research.

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2
c) 2 only
d) 2 and 3
At CITES, India to seek boost to protection status of 5 species

Star tortoise, otters, wedgefish and Tokay gecko in focus

India has submitted proposals regarding 5 species to be listed in the CITES appendices at the upcoming CITES conference, scheduled later this month in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement among 183 parties committed to ensuring that international trade in wild fauna and flora is not detrimental to the conservation of the species.

The proposals submitted pertain to species that are currently listed in the Appendices to the Convention.

- Star tortoise
- Otters
- Wedgefish
- Tokay gecko

The country seeks to boost the protection of all five species that are facing a high risk of extinction. If the proposals are approved, the species listed in CITES Appendices II and III will benefit from increased protection measures.

1. **An international agreement**
   - **Aim**: To ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival
   - **Background**:
     a. Formed in 1973
     b. Drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 - Meeting - members of IUCN
     c. 1 July 1975 - entered into force
   - States and regional economic integration organizations can become a party
   - India party since 1976

2. **Three appendices on varying degree of protection**
   - **Appendix I**: Species threatened with Extinction - Trade permitted only in exceptional circumstances
   - **Appendix II**: Species not necessarily threatened with Extinction but trade must be controlled
     a. To avoid incompatible utilisation
   - **Appendix III**: Species protected in one country - the country asks other parties to control trade
Practice Question – Prelims
Q. With reference to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, consider the following statements.
1. Only states can become a party to the convention.
2. There is absolute ban on the trade of species listed in the Appendix – I
3. India is a party to this agreement.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3
News:
* Defence Acquisition Council approved procurement of 2 equipments
  1. Software defined Radio (SDR Tactical)
  2. Next Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries (NGMMCB)
* Boost to indigenization
  → Boost to 'Make in India'

Software defined Radio (SDR)
* Complex and state of art communication system
* Indigenously designed & developed by DRDO in a consortium approach
* Enables information sharing, collaboration & situational awareness
* High-speed data & secured voice communication

Anti-jamming capability
* Replaces single purpose hardware-based Communication System of Navy with
  → Multi-band
  → Multi-functional
  → Multi-role mission

SDR form factor - SDR Tactical

NGMMCB
* Will be fitted with BrahMos
* Will be deployed along coast

Developed & manufactured by Indo-Russia Joint Venture company - BrahMos Aerospace Private Ltd
  ➔ DRDO + NPO Mashinostroyenia (Russia)
  ➔ to design, develop, manufacture and market - BrahMos

BrahMos:
* Supersonic Cruise Missile System
* Only known versatile Supersonic cruise missile in Service
* First successful launch (test-fired)
  ➔ 2001
  ➔ Land-based launcher situated in Chandipur, Odisha
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the BrahMos Missile.

1. It is a Hypersonic cruise missile.
2. It operates on ‘Fire and Forget Principle’.
3. It is uniquely configured for installing in ships, submarines, aircrafts and on ground vehicles.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q1. With reference to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which among the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.
2. Its objective is to provide governments with scientific information at all levels to develop policies related to climate.
3. It conducts its own research.

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 2 only
d) 2 and 3

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. With reference to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, consider the following statements.

1. Only states can become a party to the convention.
2. There is absolute ban on the trade of species listed in the Appendix – I
3. India is a party to this agreement.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to the BrahMos Missile.

1. It is a Hypersonic cruise missile.
2. It operates on ‘Fire and Forget Principle’.
3. It is uniquely configured for installing in ships, submarines, aircrafts and on ground vehicles.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2
b) 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 3 only

Practice Question – Answers

09-08-2019

Q1. Option ‘b’ – 1 and 2 only
Q2. Option ‘b’ – 3 only
Q3. Option ‘c’ – 2 and 3 only
Practice Question – Mains
GS-II

Q. India’s decision to amend Article 370 and end the special status given to J&K was heavily criticized by Pakistan. What could be its implications on the India-Pak bilateral relations?