India planning bloodbath: Imran

India is planning a "bloodbath" in Kashmir, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan told the UN General Assembly on Friday. "There are 900,000 troops there, they haven't come to, as Narendra Modi says, for the prosperity of Kashmir... These troops, what are they going to do? There will be a bloodbath," he said. 

Global call: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the

Kerala to demolish flats and remove debris by Feb. 9, 2020

Unite

Clean India Mission an inspiration to the world, PM tells UN General Assembly

HC seeks explanation from 10 medical colleges

Chennai

Shocked by the charge that 10 private medical colleges had "sold" 207 MBBS seats for hefty sums, the Madras High Court suo moto included the colleges as respondents to a writ appeal and asked them for an explanation.

Tamil Nadu • Page 8

Udit Surya's father

Sriram Lakshman

New York

In an address to the 74th session of the UN General Assembly that combined elements of a campaign speech and a call to action, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday sought unanimity in combating terrorism and said the UN needed to adopt a new direction.

"When a developing country is able to successfully implement the world's biggest sanitation campaign..." he said.

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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H – Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram*
Down to zero: STR’s shrinking buffer zone

‘Absence of ESZ in places sets a dangerous precedent’

B. Aravind Kumar
Chennai

Sattanamangalam Tiger Reserve that registered the highest growth in tiger numbers in the country last four years, will have no eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) or the most just one kilometre, around its boundary.

According to a draft notification, the extent of ESZ reduces from zero to one kilometre around the tiger reserve, and activists in the western region are alike in their opinion that the reduction of ESZ from the default 10 km radius to zero kilometre was to help the mining lobby.

The notification itself states that the STR is highly critical to accommodate the self-over population of tigers from the Mudumalai, Bandipur Tiger Reserve and Nilgiri North Forest Division. On a higher scale, similarly, the BR Tiger reserve and Kollagad Forest Divisions connecting on the other side with the Hasamantu Range.

Bridging landscapes

It further states that the STR acts as a bridge between the two major landscapes, the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats, ensuring a vast territory for tigers, and thus enhancing the condition of conservation through exchange of genes between meta-populations. Therefore, considering the ecological and conservation value of wildlife, it is necessary to conserve and protect the area around the STR as ESZ, for the better management and protection of wildlife, especially tigers.

In such a context, activists are shocked to know that there will not be any ESZ along the border in many stretches of the tiger reserve, spread over an area of 48.694 sq. km. The boundary description shows that the ESZ would be zero kilometre in TN. Palyam block in Erode district. Granite quarries near the Bhavani Sagar dam, that are crucial elephant habitats and corridor, and TN, Palyam areas, have been purposefully excluded from the eco-sensitive zone to facilitate the mining lobby, said an activist, requesting anonymity.

“It is unacceptable to not have an ESZ along the boundary. The ESZ is created to prevent man-animal conflict. It not only defends the purpose, but also sets a dangerous precedent,” said K. Khalila, president, OSAI, an environmental NGO.

STR officials were unwilling to comment on the draft notification. They say that a district committee, headed by the Collector, decided on the draft. Activists claim that STR officials have not been willing to disclose the details for years, keeping it a secret until now, when it has come into the public domain. However, activists argue that STR officials should have objected to the draft and must have impressed upon the Collector, the need to have a bigger ESZ. Inside the ESZs, commercial mining, stone quarrying and crushing units are prohibited, they point out.

Revenue enclosures

K. Mohanan, an environmental activist fighting the mining lobby in the landscape, said: “The buffer on the southern side should have been up to the lower Bhavani Canal. Only mining is permitted in the ESZ and not agriculture, which should be promoted.” In fact, organic farming and agro-forestry should be promoted in the ESZs, according to the draft. Activists also say that the STR has a number of revenue enclosures eyed by the rich. “There is a real estate boom, with local lands being bought by individuals,” said a local activist.
• Tiger Reserves - Project Tiger, 1973
  ➔ for protection of tiger and its prey
  ➔ Tiger Reserve
    - Core zone - Critical tiger habitat
    - Buffer zone - Peripheral to core zone
  ➔ wildlife - human coexistence

• Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary and Tiger Reserve
  ➔ became a tiger reserve in 2013 (STR)
  ➔ under section 38 V of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
  ➔ strategic confluence of Western ghats and Eastern ghats
  ➔ accommodate spill over tiger populations from Mudumalai & Bandipur Tiger Reserves.

• Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ) or Ecologically Fragile Areas
  ➔ notified by MoEF&CC around protected areas, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries
  ➔ shock absorbers to protected areas
  ➔ Limit ~10 km - Wildlife Conservation Strategy, 2002
    - declared under section 3 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986
Q. With reference to 'Eco-Sensitive Zones', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Eco-Sensitive Zones are the areas that are declared under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. The purpose of the declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones is to prohibit all kinds of human activities in those zones except agriculture.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2 (Correct)
‘Panchsheel must for peace’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The Chinese envoy on Friday urged India to follow the principle of peaceful co-existence as devised in the Nehruvian era.

At a reception to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, Ambassador Sun Weidong said the bilateral relationship had received a new boost after the Wuhan summit last year and differences were being addressed.

“The principle of Panchsheel should be followed in bilateral relations between India and China to ensure peaceful coexistence. We have some differences but those differences are being dealt with by special mechanisms. Both sides should keep making progress so that our old relationship can be strengthened in the near future,” Mr. Sun said at the event organised by the India-China Friendship Association.

“Relationship between our two countries acquired new a new spirit after President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi met in Wuhan last year and ever since our relationship has moved ahead,” said the Ambassador.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)
- Current events of national and international importance.
- History of India and Indian National Movement.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-II

General Studies-I : Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.
- Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present: significant events, personalities, issues.

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.
People's Republic of China
- Celebrated 70th anniversary
- Government of China - set up in 1949

China-India Friendship Association
- National People's Organization of People's Republic of China
- initiated in 1952 - by Chinese Cultural Art Circles
- suspended in 1962 - resumed in 1992
- aims at
  - enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between Chinese and Indian peoples,
  - safeguarding world peace
  - promoting exchanges and cooperation between China and India on various fields

Chinese Ambassador to India
- Urged India to follow Panchsheel - devised in Nehruvian era

Principles of Panchsheel
- response to the demand of new principles for the conduct of international relations
  - conduct → co-exist, prosper together in peace and harmony
- first formally enunciated in ‘the Agreement on Trade and Intercourse between Tibet Region of China and India’
  - Signed on 29th April 1954
  - between China and India
Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence or Panchsheel

1. Mutual respect for each others’ territorial integrity and sovereignty,
2. Mutual non-aggression,
3. Mutual non-interference,
4. Equality and mutual benefit,
5. Peaceful co-existence.

- Joint Statement on 28th June 1954
  - India and China - elaborated - vision of Panchsheel
  - Panchsheel Framework - not only b/w 2 countries but also for relations with all other countries

Panchsheel

- incorporated into the Ten principles of International Peace and Cooperation
  - Declaration - 1955 Bandung Conference of 29 Afro-Asian Countries
- Unanimously adopted by UNGA - Dec 1957
- Accepted as core principle of NAM by Conference of Non-Aligned nations - 1961
- should be an ideology for the entire world
  - non-use of power
  - tolerance approach
  - neither interfere nor being interfered with
Chandrayaan’s Vikram had hard landing, says U.S. space agency

Its orbiting spacecraft could not get clear pictures of the crash site

Vikram’s precise location eluded the sharp senses of the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) mission. The U.S. space agency’s LROC has officially said the Vikram module is “out of sight.” The landing site, NASA said, was located in the Mare Nectaris, an ancient sea floor that is now solidified into a hard, flat surface. India’s Chandrayaan-2 team could not detect any signs of Vikram’s crash site from the spacecraft’s images

NASA’s - Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) mission

found that Vikram had a hard landing

Chandrayaan 2 - India’s 2nd Moon Mission

Constituents - Orbiter + Lander (Vikram) + Rover (Pragyan)

Objective: Soft land near Lunar South Pole + explore it

Vikram Lander - Crash Landed

HARD LANDING

- greater speed and force
- May damage the spacecraft

SOFT LANDING

- perfect touchdown without damage
* ISRO's technologies in Vikram for soft landing
  - Retro rockets to reduce speed, position detection cameras, altimeters, solar panels, etc
* NASA's LRO - failed to get Vikram's crash site
  - Vikram hiding in Shadow

**Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) - NASA**
- 1st mission of Lunar Precursor Robotic Program (LPRP)
- LPRP: Precursor to prepare for future human flights - to moon
- LRO - launched in 2009
  - LRO - reconnaissance of Moon's mission
    - information on suitable landing sites
    - take high resolution images of sites
    - check for potential resources
Unite against terrorism: Modi

In an address to the 74th session of the UN General Assembly that combined elements of a campaign speech and a call to action, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday sought unanimity in combating terrorism and said the world needed to adopt a new direction.

"When a developing country is able to successfully implement the world's biggest containment campaign against the nation of India, I believe that the world must see it as a victory against terrorism, and that the world stands as one against terrorism," Modi said.

Mr. Modi said, "The lack of unanimity amongst us on the issue of terrorism denies those very principles that are the basis for the creation of the UN. And that is why, for the sake of humanity, I firmly believe that it is absolutely imperative that the world unites against terrorism, and that the world stands as one against terrorism," About 20 minutes before Mr. Modi's speech began, protesters started to gather outside the UN to protest India's actions in Kashmir.

The crowd included Indian Americans. The Coalition Against India in the United States.

Modi touts development schemes

PM Modi laid out his government's achievements in the field of development, including the launch of various initiatives such as Aadhaar, the world's largest biometric identity card system, and the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, a campaign to eliminate open defecation.

In addition to these initiatives, Modi also highlighted the country's progress in other sectors such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

Solar energy

Modi announced a target of 400 GW of solar energy capacity for India by 2022, which he said would help the country achieve its goal of becoming a net-zero emitter by 2070.

Opposite streams: (Below) Kaushik Gujarati and other Indian-Americans in a support rally for Narendra Modi outside the UN, and (top) a protest against the requisitioning of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-II

General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

- Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times

PAPER-III

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

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Important International institutions, agencies and fora.

PAPER-IV


- Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.
News

- PM’s address at 74th Session of UNGA

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

- One of the main organs of United Nations
- Established in 1945
- 193 member states represented in UNGA
- Deliberative, policy making organ of UN

- Decision on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters - two-third majority
- Decision on other matters - Simple majority

- President - Elected every year by UNGA

- 74th Session of UNGA - Sep 2019
  “Galvanizing multilateral efforts for poverty eradication, quality education, climate action and inclusion”

- Activities of UNGA:
  - Many spheres
    - Political  Humanitarian  Legal
    - Economic  Social
  - 2000 - Millenium Development Goals
  - 2015 - Sustainable Development Goals

PM’s address

- On terrorism
  - Biggest challenge in the world
  - Lack of unanimity among the member nations
  - Urged all the nations to unite against terrorism
• Initiatives of Government of India
  ➔ Clean India Mission (Swachh Bharat Mission)
    - Universal Sanitation Coverage
    - Mission Co-ordinator - Secretary of Ministry of Jal Shakti
  ➔ Sub-missions
    ➔ Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)
    ➔ Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)
  ➔ Achieve Clean India by 2019
  ➔ Financial Inclusion - PM Jan Dhan Yojana
  ➔ Biometric identities - Aadhaar
  ➔ Health coverage - Ayushman Bharat

• On environment
  ➔ India - Country with lowest emissions per capita

• Targets of India
  ➔ Nationwide campaign to make India free of single-use plastic
  ➔ Eradication of Tuberculosis by 2025
    - National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis 2017-25
    - Elimination by 2025
  ➔ To build 450 GW of renewable energy capacity
    (No time frame)
International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CORI)

- Generation of exchange of knowledge on different aspects of disaster and climate resilience of infrastructure
- Creation of mechanism to assist countries to upgrade their capacities and practices regarding to infrastructure development in accordance with risk context + economic needs
- Launched by India with countries such as UK, Australia, Fiji + Maldives

Quotes by PM during address

- Kaniyan Poongundranar
  - "Ya-dum, Oo-ray, Yaava-yum ke-lir"
  - (We belong to all places and to everyone)
  - Belonging beyond borders
  - Need for collective efforts to address serious global challenges and issues

- Swami Vivekananda
  - ‘Harmony and peace; And NOT Dissension’
10-year sanitation plan to focus on waste management

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi set to declare that India is completely open defecation free (ODF) on October 2, the Centre has launched a 10-year strategy to maintain these gains and shift focus to solid and liquid waste management in rural areas of the country.

“The first priority is to sustain the gains of ODF, to prevent slipbacks and continue behaviour change. It may be less glamorous, but it is essential,” said Drinking Water and Sanitation Secretary Parameswaran Iyer.

Among other things, this will entail reaching out to “left-behind” households who have not been covered under the ODF drive.

The issue came to the limelight again when two Dalit children in Madhya Pradesh were killed while defecating in the open earlier this week. Their family did not have a toilet despite having applied for one.
Open Defecation Free (ODF)

- Termination of faecal-oral transmission by
  - no visible faeces found in environment
  - every household and institution → Safe technology option for disposal of faeces
    - No contamination → surface soil, ground and surface water
    - Excreta inaccessible → flies or animals
    - No handling of fresh excreta
    - Free from odour and unsightly condition

10 year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029)

- Launched by Dept. of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Focus on → sustaining sanitation behaviour achieved under SBM-Grameen

- Ensuring ‘no one is left behind’

- Increased access to solid and liquid waste management

- Prepared in consultation with all stakeholders lays down framework to guide stakeholders
  - ODF Plus

- Sustaining through
  - Capacity strengthening
  - IEC (Information, Education, Communication)
  - Organic waste management
  - Plastic Waste management
  - Grey water management
  - Black water Management

- Innovative models for Sanitation Financing
Q1. Consider the following statements, with reference to Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ).

1. They are declared under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2. It acts as shock absorbers to the protected areas by managing human activities around the areas.
3. Commercial use of natural water resources and use of polythene bags by shopkeepers is a prohibited activity in ESZ.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1 only
   b) 1 and 3
   c) 2 only
   d) 2 and 3

Q2. Which among the following is not a principle under the “Principles of Peaceful Co-existence”?

1. Mutual respect for sovereignty
2. Mutual non-aggression
3. Mutual interference
4. Mutual benefit

Select the correct answer from the code given below.
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 and 4 only
   c) 3 only
   d) 3 and 4 only
Q3. With reference to Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, consider the following statements.

1. It is a robotic moon mission of European Space Agency.
2. It is expected to provide critical information about the suitable safe landing sites in the moon.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 or 2

Q4. Consider the following statements about United Nations General Assembly.

1. It is the only UN body with universal representation.
2. Secretary General heads the General Assembly.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims

Q5. Consider the following statements with reference to the “10 Year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029)”.  
1. It focuses on sustaining the sanitation behavior change achieved in the Swachh Bharat Mission – Grameen.  
2. It is launched by the Ministry of Health and family Welfare.  
Which among the above statements is/are correct?  
a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2  

Practice Question – Prelims  
Answers  
Q1. Option (c) – 2 only  
Q2. Option (c) – 3 only  
Q3. Option (b) – 2 only  
Q4. Option (a) – 1 only  
Q5. Option (a) – 1 only