Polls for Councils in J&K by month-end

They will be completed before State is formally declared a Union Territory

India counters Pak. statements on J&K at UN rights meet

‘Terrorism is the worst form of abuse’

A former legislator of Prime Minister Imran Khan’s Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Party on Tuesday sought political asylum in India, saying he fears for his life in Pakistan.

Bashir Qamar, 43, has been staying with his wife and two children at Khana in Ludhiana district of Punjab and will go to Chandigarh on Wednesday to apply for asylum.

India on Tuesday declared that Pakistan was trying to polarise the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to advance its agenda in South Asia.

India submitted a strong reminder to the UN Human Rights Council on Tuesday, saying it was trying to divide the region.

CPEC is on our territory, India reminds China

CPEC is on our territory, India reminds China

Two new species of ginger discovered in Nagaland

October 2019

India counters Pak. statements on J&K at UN rights meet

Factoring in safety (Editorial)

Practice cum Revision - MCQs

The Hindu News Analysis – 11th September 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>News Articles</th>
<th>Page Number*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>India counters Pak. statements on J&amp;K at UN rights meet</td>
<td>1,10, 1,12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kashmir apples to escape lockdown via Central route</td>
<td>11, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Factoring in safety (Editorial)</td>
<td>8, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Two new species of ginger discovered in Nagaland</td>
<td>7, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>CPEC is on our territory, India reminds China</td>
<td>11, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Practice cum Revision - MCQs</td>
<td>@end of the video</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; T – Thiruvananthapuram
India counters Pak. statements on J&K at UN rights meet

"Terrorism is the worst form of abuse"

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India on Tuesday declared that Pakistan was trying to polarise the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to advance its agenda in South Asia.

Speaking in response to multiple unilateralistic statements from Pakistan at the UN body’s 42nd Regular Session in Geneva, an Indian diplomat said that the ‘coercion and pressure’ between Pakistan’s attempts to challenge human rights in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the denial of the same rights to various communities within Pakistan.

"Jammu and Kashmir has seen unprecedented democratic processes that have been initiated. Democratic processes have been initiated."

UN Human Rights Council

- Established in 2006 by UNGA
- Reports directly to UNGA
- Replaced UN Commission on Human Rights
- UN intergovernmental body responsible for Human Rights
- Consists of State Representatives
  - primarily political body with a comprehensive human rights mandate
- Regular sessions
  - at least 3 sessions a year
  - March, June, September
- Special sessions
  - when 1/3rd of Member states request

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

- Called as "UN Human Rights" in UNO
- part of UN Secretariat - reports to the UN Secretary General
- Staffed by international civil servants
- provides technical, substantive and Secretariat support to the UNHRC

News:

- India counters the statements made by Pakistan on J and K
- Rights of minority communities - not guaranteed in Pakistan
- Terrorism is the worst form of Human Rights abuse
- Democratic processes have been initiated
Kashmir apples to escape lockdown via Central route

Government to procure produce directly from farmers

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian and World Geography-Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.
- 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.

News:

Apple from J&K will be procured by National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation India Limited (NAFED)

- NAFED appointed as Central Nodal Agency for procurement of apples during apple harvesting Season 2019-20
- Under Special Market Intervention Price Scheme of Central Govt

Apple Production:

- Manstay of farmers’ income in J&K
- Need to be protected -> otherwise, farmers pushed to penury
- 2018 - 20 lakh metric tonne (73%)

Procurement:

- 82 lakh metric tonne (60%)
- Directly from genuine apple growers
- Direct payment through Direct benefit transfer
- Enhance growers’ income by ₹2,000 cr
- Period of procurement -> 6 months
- Fair prices for various categories of apple will be fixed by price committee

Nodal agency for procurement Union -> NAFED
State -> Directorate of Horticulture, Kashmir
Market Intervention Scheme (MIS):

* Price Support mechanism
* Ad hoc Scheme
* Covers horticultural & other agricultural commodities → perishable in nature
  → not covered under Minimum Price Support Scheme
* To protect growers from making distress sale → in the event of bumper crop, during peak arrival period & price fall to very low level

Objective:

* Remunerative prices to farmers in case of glut & during fall in prices
* Implemented on a request from State governments or UTs willing to share losses → 50:50 → Centre & States except NE states → 75:25 → North-eastern States
* Share of losses restricted to 25% of total procurement value

Applicable & Sanctioned:

* Increase of at least 10% production over previous years' normal production
* Reduction in market prices by atleast 10% over the rates of previous normal season

Capping on period of stocking → 3 months

Central Procuring agency → NAFED

MIS implemented for

Commodities → apples, kinnou/malta, garlic, grapes, black pepper, etc.

NAFED:

* Established in 1958
* Registered under Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002
* to promote cooperative marketing of agricultural produce

Objectives:

* Organise, promote & develop marketing
* Processing & Storage of produce
* Distribution of agricultural machinery, implements, etc.
* Undertake inter-state import & export trade
* Act & assist for technical advice in agricultural & horticultural production
Factoring in safety

Major industrial accidents point to the need for a stronger worker safety law

India’s record in promoting occupational and industrial safety remains weak even with years of robust economic growth. Making work environments safer is a low priority, although the productivity benefits of such investments have always been clear. The consequences are frequently seen in the form of a large number of fatalities and injuries, but in a market that has a steady supply of labour, policymakers tend to ignore the wider impact of such losses. It will be no surprise, therefore, if the deaths of four people, including a senior officer, in a fire at the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation gas facility in Navi Mumbai, or the tragedy that killed nearly two dozen people at a firecracker factory in Batala, Punjab are quickly forgotten. Such incidents make it imperative that the Central government abandon its reductionist approach to the challenge, and engage in serious reform. There is not much evidence, however, of progressive moves. The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2019, introduced in the Lok Sabha in July to combine 13 existing laws relating to mines, factories, dock workers, building and construction, and other sectors.

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-III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.

⇒ India weak in promoting industrial and occupational safety

  - Consequences: fatalities and injuries
  - Steady labour supply → losses ignored

⇒ Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code Bill, 2019

  - Combines 13 existing labour laws
  - Shortcoming - Formation of Safety committees, appointment of Safety officers - discretion of state govt.

⇒ Safe work environment - basic right of workers

    - Eg: Occupational Safety and Health Convention - 1981

  - Scrutinize the new code by taking inputs from employers, employees and experts

  ↓

  give special attention to hazardous industries
Two new species of ginger discovered in Nagaland

Northwest climate conducive to genus diversity

Scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered two new species of Zingiber, commonly referred to as ginger, in Nagaland. While Zingiber perrenense has been discovered from the Peren district of Nagaland, Zingiber dimaurensense was collected from a forest.

**News:**

- Two new Species of Ginger found in Nagaland by scientists from Botanical Survey of India
  - Zingiber perrenense
  - Zingiber dimaurensense
- Ginger
  - Genus: Zingiber
  - Family: Zingiberaceae
- Zingiber
  - 141 species distributed → Asia, Australia & South Pacific
  - Centre of Diversity → Southeast Asia
  - Northeastern India → 20 species
  - Climate conducive for the growth of this genus

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Zingiber officinale Rosc:

- Known all over the world for therapeutic properties
- Consumed as a delicacy, medicine or spice
- Sterile in nature → propagates through Rhizomes
- India
  - Cultivated throughout India
  - Large scale in warm, moist regions
    - South India
- Medicinal properties (Unani classical literature)
  - Digestive
  - Anti-emetic
  - Carminative
  - Anti-tussive
  - Appetizer
  - Vermicidal, etc.
  - Laxative

- Anti-inflammatory
- Anti-oxidant
- Anti-fungal
- Anti-carcinogenic
- Anti-mycobacterial

**Other Uses:**

- Spice
- Vegetable
- Snake Poison (Indonesia)
- Antidote
- Fish & Crab Poison (China)
**Botanical Survey of India:**
- Apex taxonomic research organisation
- Under MoEF & CC
- Established in 1890
- Reorganised in 1964
- Objectives:
  - Intensive floristic survey, collecting accurate & detailed information - occurrence, distribution, ecology & economic utility of plants
  - Collecting, identifying & distributing materials → educational & research institutions
  - Custodian of authentic collections → well planned herbaria & documenting → local, district, state & national flora

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CPEC is on our territory, India reminds China
MEA rejects reference to Kashmir

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India on Tuesday rejected the reference to Jammu and Kashmir in the latest China-Pakistan joint statement and called on both countries to stop activities related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

“We reject the reference to Jammu and Kashmir in the joint statement issued by China and Pakistan after the recent visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Pakistan over the weekend and discussed regional issues. China reiterated its support to Pakistan to protect its territorial integrity and sovereignty. "India is resolutely opposed to any actions by other countries to change the status quo in PoK. We call on the parties concerned to cease such actions," said the spokesperson.
Chinese Foreign Minister: Visited Pakistan - joint statement on CPEC - China Pakistan Economic Corridor

- India - rejected claims on J & K
- Stop activities related to CPEC in Pok
- Pok - illegally occupied by Pakistan since 1947

CPEC - Part of China's One Belt One Road (OBOR)

- Kashgar, Xinjiang, China → Balochistan, Pakistan
- Vast network of infrastructure projects - roads, dams, railways, pipelines, etc.

Pakistan's interests:
1) Enhance energy requirements
2) Enhance infrastructure capacity
3) Huge employment opportunities

China's interests:
1) Access to Middle East
2) Gwadar Port → Persian Gulf
3) Commercial benefits
4) Geopolitical and strategic advantages

India's concerns:
1) CPEC - Through Pok
2) CPEC - May legitimise Pak claim over Pok
3) Maritime hegemony of China in Indian Ocean Region
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. With reference to the Market Intervention Scheme, which among the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. It is a price support mechanism announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops.
2. It covers the horticultural commodities and other agricultural commodities which are perishable in nature.
3. The losses suffered under this scheme are shared on 50:50 basis between the Central Government and all the State governments and Union Territories.

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

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

Q. The term ‘Zingiber’ recently seen in news is related to which of the following?
   a) Vaccine to prevent tuberculosis
   b) Exoplanet discovered by Kepler Spacecraft of NASA
   c) A plant genus.
   d) It is a unified mobile application for new–age governance launched by Central government.

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statement with respect to the Botanical Survey of India.
   1. It is the custodian of authentic collections in well-planned herbaria.
   2. It has a mandate to train government and non-government personnel, carry out research, and advise on matters of conservation and management of wildlife resources.
   3. It works under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
   Which among the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1 only
   b) 1 and 2
   c) 1 and 3
   d) 2 and 3