1. India’s bid for UNSC seat loses speed
   - Page Number: 10, 10, 12, 10

2. Kuttanad loses paddy in 3,000 ha
   - Page Number: - , - , - , 2

3. Energy likely to be on Modi’s agenda at G7 visit
   - Page Number: 10, 10, 12, 10

4. Corporate tax will be cut gradually: FM
   - Page Number: 13, 13, 15, 13

5. A threat in the deep
   - Page Number: 3 , - , - , -

6. Soldier Number One (Editorial)
   - Page Number: 8, 8, 10, 8

7. Practice cum Revision - MCQs
   - Page Number: @end of the video
India’s bid for UNSC seat loses speed

Diplomats call for a more aggressive campaign within the organs of the UN

Despite repeated assertions of its right to a permanent seat at the UN Security Council, India’s campaign for expansion of the UNSC has slowed down, available official statements suggest.

The slow pace is evident in the fact that India’s campaign did not prompt the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to move towards the resolution for expanding the UNSC four years after the General Assembly in a landmark decision in 2015 had declared plans for the same.

Following the September 24, 2015, decision of the UNGA, the Ministry of External Affairs had stated that the negotiations for a resolution of the UNSC would begin from 2018 but initiatives on the ground narrate a different tale.

India seems to have depended on the argument that it is entitled to a seat at the UNSC because of multiple factors such as population, growing economic stature and growing global responsibilities like peacekeeping. Diplomats have suggested that a more aggressive campaign within the organs of the UN is required to push for a UNGA resolution to expand the UNSC Security Council.

**National Interest**

One of the key historic reasons for India’s quest for a permanent seat at the UNSC was to ensure protection of national interest in crucial diplomatic moments when the organ takes up contentious issues such as Kashmir. Yet, four years after the reform process received an initial boost, India stood outside as the UNSC members met for a closed meeting on Kashmir last week.

In recent years, India has insisted on getting bilateral assurance from visiting heads of states and governments, but permanent member countries such as the U.K., the U.S., Russia and France have expressed support bilaterally without actively collaborating with India in the UN for expanding the council.

**News Analysis**

Frustration of Indian diplomats at the slow movement of the process was evident in speeches delivered at meetings in various UN groups.

Delivering a joint 254 statement on behalf of Brazil, Germany, India and Japan, India’s Permanent Representative Syed Akbaruddin in 2016 stated that the grouping was eager for a forward discussion.

“Our group stands ready to discuss the criteria applied to the elections and the voting process of the elections in real-based negotiations,” Syed Akbaruddin had said.

Yet recent speeches by the diplomat at the “Pentagon” on the intergovernmental negotiations on the question of equitable representation and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council’s duration, internal delays and differences among members that is hindering India’s quest.

Diplomats have blamed China for having quietly carried out a campaign to stop the draft resolution from acquiring speed. Veteran diplomats have said that the latest UNGA meeting on Kashmir which was convened following an initiative from China showed that India will have to show more “stamina” to stop China from using the organ against India’s interest. The issue of expanding the UNSC and the real-based negotiation is expected to come up in the next UN General Assembly session in September, which will throw open a new round of multilateral diplomacy.

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**Why India needs a permanent seat?**

* to ensure protection of national interest
* protection during crucial diplomatic moments
  
  Ex: Controversial issues of India like Kashmir issue

**Bilateral assurance to India for expanding UNSC**

**Reasons**

1. UNSC reflects geopolitical architecture of the II World War
2. UNSC last expanded only once in 1963
3. Composition of UNSC still same → only 15 members
4. No permanent member from Africa
5. 75% of UNSC work focussed in Africa

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20-08-2019
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements, with reference to the United Nations Security Council.

1. It has 10 permanent and 10 non-permanent members.
2. The 10 non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis in which there are five seats for African and Asian States.
3. India is a non-permanent member. Which among the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 and 3
   c) 2 only
   d) 1 and 3
Paddy cultivation in about 3,000 hectares of land has been destroyed in Kuttanad due to breaching of bunds and flooding. Agriculture Minister V.S. Sunil Kumar has said. He was visiting paddy polders destroyed by bund breaches in Kainakary on Monday.

The Minister said that the government would compensate farmers for the crop loss. “In Kuttanad, outer bunds of 10 paddy polders have been breached. This has destroyed paddy cultivation in 1,001 hectares. Crop in another 2,372 hectares has been washed away. All farmers who suffered losses will be provided seeds free of cost in the pancha season,” Mr. Kumar said. He said that the pumping subsidy would be provided ahead of the harvest. “For the construction of outer bunds, padashthakara samithis will be provided 20% of the total cost as advance,” the Minister said.

Mr. Kumar said that the department would look into the reasons behind farmers leaving some paddy fields uncultivated in the second crop season. “We will not allow anyone to leave paddy fields fallow without valid reasons,” he said.

Mr. Kumar said that agriculture in 33,000 hectares of land had been destroyed across the State in the downpour.

**News:**

- Paddy cultivation destroyed in Kuttanad
  - Breaching of bunds
  - Flooding
  - Outer bunds of paddy polders breached
  - Padashthakara samithis → Provision of money for construction of outer bunds

**Kuttanad below sea level farming system:**

- Rice cultivation below sea level

**Fragmented landscape**

- Coastal backwaters
- Ponds
- Rivers
- Garden lands
- Paddy fields
- Canals
- Marshes

**Wetlands** - Paddy activities and fish catching

**Garden lands** - Coconut, tubers and food crops plantation

**Water areas** - Inland fishing

**Polder** - low lying piece of land that is reclaimed from waterbodies like lake or river

**GIAHS Site**
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Which among the following sites are designated as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems?

1. Saffron heritage of Kashmir.
2. Grand Anicut (Kallanai) and associated farming system in Cauvery Delta Zone of Tamil Nadu.
3. Koraput traditional agriculture.
4. Kuttanad Below Sea Level farming system
5. Ansupa Lake Below Sea Level farming system

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

a) 1, 2 and 3
b) 2, 3 and 5
c) 1, 3 and 4
d) 2, 4 and 5

GIAHS:

- Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems
- Launched by Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in 2002
- Overall goal:
  - To identify and safeguard Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity, knowledge systems and culture.
- 3 GIAHS sites in India:
  - 2011 - Saffron Heritage Site of Kashmir
  - 2012 - Koraput Traditional Agriculture
  - 2013 - Kuttanad Below Sea Level Farming System

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Energy likely to be on Modi’s agenda at G7 visit

India is a special invitee at the meet

Narendra Modi

France. The invitation to visit France was extended by Prime Minister Emmanuel Macron after Mr. Modi was re-elected to a second term in office. At the G7 summit, Mr. Modi is expected to highlight climate change and counter-terrorism with partner countries. The interactions with the French leadership are likely to include solar energy and multilateral. The Indian leader is expected to hold several bilateral meetings with global leaders, though the Ministry did not confirm the meetings.

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.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests, Indian diaspora.

PAPER-IV

General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management
- Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
News:
- Indian PM will attend the ‘Outreach session’ of the G7 Summit.
  ➔ held in Biarritz, France
  ➔ India is a Special Invitee
  ➔ visiting as a ‘Biarritz Partner’
  ➔ speak in sessions on Environment, Climate, Oceans and Digital Transformation

- Prior to G7 ➔ Bilateral meeting with President of French Republic
  ➔ maintaining high level political contacts between India and France

G7 Summit:
- Group of 7 ➔ Informal group of 7 Countries
  ➔ Canada ➔ Italy ➔ USA
  ➔ France ➔ Japan ➔ EU
  ➔ Germany ➔ U.K.

- No legal existence
- No permanent secretariat
- Official members

- Presidency ➔ Provides resources
  ➔ held in turn by 7 countries
  ➔ F, U.S., U.K., G, J, I, C

- Informal forum for dialogue between economic powers
- Coordinating economic and financial policies
- Free of specific protocol

- Outcomes of G7 ➔ Creation of
  ➔ FATF
  ➔ EBRD
  ➔ Global Fund to fight AIDs, TB & Malaria

Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project:
- Project of India in partnership with France
  ➔ Agreement on Civil nuclear cooperation, 2008
  ➔ Agreements between NPCIL & French company

- Jaitapur ➔ Western port of India
  ➔ Ratnagiri dist, Maharashtra

- Environment and CRZ clearance obtained in 2010

- Industrial Way Forward Agreement
  ➔ between NPCIL and EDF

- Prescribes way forward for implementation of JNPP

- Represents ➔ 40% of global GDP
  ➔ 10% of world’s population

- Group format changed by France
  ➔ invited partner countries - Biarritz Partners
  ➔ 4 Partner countries
  1. Protecting and promoting the democratic freedoms
  2. Major regional influence

- Non-member countries in G7 ➔ Key themes chosen by Presidency
  ➔ Expanded meeting ➔ “Outreach Session”
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the G7 summit.

1. The European Union is a part of G7.
2. It is formally known as “Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy”.

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

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. All the G7 members are members of G20.
2. India is a member of both G7 and G20.

Which among the above statements is/are not correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Corporate tax will be cut gradually: FM

Says govt. will back wealth creators

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said corporate tax rate for companies with over ₹400 crore turnover would be gradually cut to 25% and the government will support wealth creators.

In her maiden Budget last month, she had cut corporate tax rate for companies with annual turnover of up to ₹400 crore to 25% from 30% earlier.

Last year, the then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had cut the corporate income tax rate to 25% for companies with a turnover of up to ₹250 crore.

Speaking at an industry event here, Ms. Sitharaman said the corporate tax reduction for the rest of corporates would be gradual.

She did not give a time frame for the reduction.

Echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Independence Day speech, she said Indian wealth creator entrepreneurs would be given all kind of support.
- Corporate tax - a tax imposed on the net income of a company
  - Companies (Public & Pvt) registered under Companies Act, 1956 - liable to pay
  - Both domestic and foreign companies are liable
    - **Domestic company**
      - Registered under Companies Act, 1956
      - Management and control wholly situated in India
    - **Foreign company**
      - Not registered under Companies Act, 1956
      - Management and control located outside India
  - Tax rate varies for both domestic and foreign companies

- **Tax rate:**
  - **Domestic companies**
    - Annual turnover
      - \( \leq 250 \) Cr - 25%
      - \( > 250 \) Cr - 30%
  - **Foreign companies**
    - 50% - royalty received
    - 40% - other incomes

- **Finance Minister:**
  - Corporate tax for companies whose turnover is \( > 400 \) Cr, tax rate will be cut gradually to 25%
  - **2019-20 - Budget:**
    - **C. Tax for turnover \( \leq 400 \) Cr - 25%**

- **Global trend in Corporate tax** → reducing
  - Avg. Global Corporate tax → 23.03%
  - Avg. for Asian countries → 20.65%

- India's Corporate tax → largest among BRICS nations and Asia-Pacific

- **Implications of reducing Corporate tax:**
  - **↓ C. Tax, ↓ Govt. revenue → ↓ Govt. Expenditure**
  - **↓ C. Tax, ↑ surplus → capacity expansion augmenting business**
  - **↓ C. Tax, ↑ tax compliance, ↓ tax evasion**
  - **↓ C. Tax, ↑ investment**
  - **↑ capacity, ↑ output, ↑ employment**

**Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy**
A threat in the deep

Bioluminescence:
- also known as ‘Sea Tinkle’
- occurs when Noctiluca algae emit light
- Noctiluca algae
  - kind of microalgae
  - Noctiluca Scintillans → one-celled phytoplankton

phytoplankton
(base of Ocean’s food chain)  \[\rightarrow\]  diatoms and dinoflagellates
\[\Downarrow\text{Photosynthesis}\]  \[\rightarrow\text{Floating nutrients}\]

Eaten by
Small Sea animals or Zooplankton
\[\rightarrow\text{Eaten by}\]  \[\rightarrow\text{larger fish and sea creatures}\]

Part A—Preliminary Examination
Paper I - (200 marks)
- Current events of national and international importance.
- General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization.

Not capable of Photosynthesis
- Survive by trapping smaller phytoplankton

Phytoplankton
- produce half of Earth’s oxygen
- suck CO₂ from atmosphere
- absorbs 20x more CO₂ than forests

Harmful Phytoplankton blooms
- produce toxin
- kill marine animals
- poisons humans

Noctiluca replaced diatoms
- Zooplanktons cannot eat Noctiluca
- affects other sea creatures survival
Soldier Number One
This creation of the post of CDS is a comment on the security environment

The creation of the post of the Chief of Defence Staff, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in his Independence Day address, holds a long-felt and consciously articulated need to strengthen India’s defence posture. Considering that the Prime Minister underscored the announcement by saying that this was an “important” development, it gives legitimacy to the why this has taken so many decades. Indeed, Manohar Parrikar, as Defence Minister, had said “now was the time. Yet, not before 40 minutes came and went, Arun Jaitley and Nirmala Sitharaman, and his big day was not taken. Since then it has been a “meaningful” advisory position in the government. But the military yarns have been the same. The exigencies of this becoming reality. Ultimately the decision must have been taken in partage by the current strategic environment. What was always desirable became an urgent necessity. Polite and polite, the decision affects the mediation in Kashmir by the U.S. President, the involvement pull out of American troops from Afghanistan, which would have Pakistan and to provide the dominant players on the ground with a strong chance of迆enstructure, as well as the implementation of Articles 370 and 35A, are factors that have come together to create urgency in taking this step. The issues no doubt have been a heightened sense of threat and a clear strategic imperative.

Now, the ambit of this office, the issues, and who will hold the post, will have to be decided. Considerably afteriltrated during Kargil, after which the Kargil Review Committee strongly recommended setting up the CDS. It took a fortnight after the announcement that were initially proposed within the Indian Air Force (IAF) could be pressed into a movement. The first Indian Army Chief, who had been on a foreign tour, was inadequate appreciation of the ground situation by the Indian army, and poor sharing of intelligence, and the squabbling between the IAF and the Indian army over whether to rely on IAF for a training-avision and how and who should the main, comparatively higher the initial response. The CDS is expected to ensure that the three forces are well deployed and coordinated in meeting national security challenges. It envisages he will bring the Defence Minister, conti-

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.

PAPER-IV

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

- Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

- Present strategic environment necessitated it.
- Reasons:
  1. Pulwama & Balakot - required coordination between armed forces and intelligence agencies
  2. Repeated offers by Trump - mediation in Kashmir
  3. American troops pulling out of Afghanistan - Pakistan + its proxies (Taliban) - dominant players in the region - adverse impact on Kashmir - Pakistan might use proxies in Kashmir
  4. Changes made to Article 370 and Article 35 A - All these - a tense environment

Civispedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
• CDS: fill existing gaps in defence + reduce response time
  ➔ Update and advice Min. of Defence
  ➔ A part of Cabinet Committee on Security
  ➔ Link the armed forces - planning, coordination and execution

• Revive intelligence agencies - work in tandem with armed forces
Practice Question – Prelims

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5. Ansupa Lake Below Sea Level farming system

Select the correct answer from the code given below.
   a) 1, 2 and 3
   b) 2, 3 and 5
   c) 1, 3 and 4
   d) 2, 4 and 5
**Practice Question – Prelims**

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the G7 summit.

1. The European Union is a part of G7.
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**Practice Question – Prelims**

Q. Consider the following statements.

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- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims
Answers – 20-08-2019

Q1. Option ‘c’ – 2 only
Q2. Option ‘c’ - 1, 3 and 4
Q3. Option ‘a’ - 1 only
Q4. Option ‘b’ - 2 only

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