### The Hindu News Analysis – 27th August 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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PM rejects scope for third party mediation in Kashmir

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday categorically rejected any scope for third party mediation between India and Pakistan on Kashmir, saying the two countries could discuss and resolve all issues historically and “we don’t want to bring in any third country.”

Mr. Modi made these remarks while interacting with the media alongside U.S. President Donald Trump, who ahead of his meeting with the Prime Minister had said he would discuss the Kashmir issue with him on the sidelines of the G7 summit in the French town of Biarritz.

“All the issues between India and Pakistan are bilateral in nature, and we don’t want to involve any third country. We can discuss and resolve these issues bilaterally,” Mr. Modi said.

“When I had called Prime Minister (latter) Khan after the elections, I told him that Pakistan has to fight against poverty, India has to also fight against it. Pakistan has to fight against terror and disease, and India has to also fight against them,” he said.

On his part, Mr. Trump said he and Mr. Modi spoke about development of economic growth on Tuesday night and he feels that both India and Pakistan could resolve it on their own.

“We spoke about Kashmir, the Prime Minister really feels he has a situation under control. They speak with Pakistan and I’m sure that they will be able to do something that will be very good,” Mr. Trump said.

India - US bilateral meeting

+ on 26th Aug 2019
+ On the sidelines of G7 Summit
+ Meeting between Heads of Governments
+ Before the meeting
  * Internationalisation of India’s internal matter with respect to Jammu and Kashmir - by Pakistan, China
  * Frequent assertions by US President to mediate between India and Pakistan
+ After the meeting
  * US President - Both India and Pakistan can resolve it themselves

India’s Stand - “All the issues between India and Pakistan are ‘bilateral’ in nature - we can discuss and resolve the issues bilaterally.”

Meeting

* principally focussed on trade and energy
* Importance of energy imports from the US
* discussion on military and other things
Pakistan Prime Minister: (after India-US bilateral meeting)

- Govt. of Pakistan will stand by Kashmiris till India lifts the restrictions in the valley
- Pakistan Nation should stand with Kashmiri Nation
- declares himself as ‘ambassador’
- will raise Kashmir issue on every international forum
- also in upcoming UN General Assembly
- urged people of Pakistan to hold weekly protests to support the Kashmiris
- Comments to provoke international community by using “nuclear capability” of 2 nations

Hundreds of new fires flare up in Amazon

Thousands of new fires have flared up in the Amazon, Brazil's environment minister said Thursday, as the world's largest rainforest area continues to burn to clear land for crops and cattle in a region under the watchful eyes of the global community.

G7 pledges millions to fight Amazon fires

The G7 has agreed to spend $208 million on the Amazon, mainly to send fire-fighting aircraft to tackle the huge blazes engulfing many parts of the world's biggest rainforest, the Presidents of France and Chile have said.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Distribution of key natural resources across the world, (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-II

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

- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

PAPER-IV

Amazon rainforest
- a tropical rainforest
- occupies drainage basin of River Amazon and its tributaries in northern South America
- Bounded by
  - North - Guiana Highlands
  - West - Andes mountains
  - South - Brazilian Central plateau
  - East - Atlantic Ocean
- Rainfall everyday
- layered vegetation
- one of the most important carbon banks

Lungs of the world
- rich in biodiversity
- natural defense against global warming
- Porto Velho city, State of Rondonia
- Fires in Amazon
  - aggravated because of clearance for cropping and grazing
- G7 - agreed to spend €20 million on the Amazon to send fire-fighting aircraft to tackle fire in world's biggest rainforest
  - agreed to support a medium-term reforestation plan
  - to be revealed at the UN in September

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-III
General Studies—II: Governance, Constitution, Policy, Social Justice and International relations.
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States
- Issues relating to poverty and hunger.

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.
- Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.
NYAY scheme - Nyuntam Aay Yojana
- Minimum income guarantee scheme
- Chhattisgarh - launch a pilot project of the scheme
- NYAY - Justice
- promotes social justice and economic justice
- Minimum Income Guarantee - just and non-exploitative society
- Preamble, DPRP - Article 38 - Social order

NYAY - Slogans
- Surgical strike on poverty
- diesel for the engine of Indian economy
- Remonetising the economy

Important provisions of NYAY
- Target: 20% poorest families in the State
- ₹ 72000 a year - for one family
- Money - to the bank account of a woman in the family

NYAY Scheme
- distilled down from the idea of Universal Basic Income
- fastest way of reducing poverty
- helps to manage the risks of poverty
- guarantees a minimum living standard - amidst uncertain employment

NYAY - relevant to inject financial fluidity especially rural economy
- a basic level of support for the poor
- Helpful - education, health etc.
- acts as a cushion to survive under extreme situations
Imports from U.S. to grow, trade Ministers to meet soon

PM: India planning to increase import from US

- Including oil - estimated $4 billion imports in the pipeline

India - U.S. trade status

- Total goods and services trade - $142.1 billion
- US exports - $58.9 billion
- US imports - $83.2 billion

PM to Houston in Sept, 2019

- Meet CEOs of top US energy companies
- Objectives
  - How India could import more oil?
  - India to invest in US Energy Sector

Houston, Texas - Energy capital of US

- Headquarters - more than 500 oil and gas exploration firms in US
- One of the highest oil producers in the world
- Permanent Secretariat - World Energy Cities Partnership
PM highlights war on single-use plastic

At G7 session, he speaks of conserving water, harnessing solar energy and protecting flora and fauna

PM Modi addresses the G7 summit in Biarritz, France on Friday, 24th August, 2019. He once again reiterates India's commitment towards a green and sustainable future, highlighting the need for concerted action to address the global challenges of climate change, water stress and air pollution.

India's commitment

In his address to the G7 summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi brushed off accusations of lack of commitment in reducing carbon emissions and called for a collective effort to meet the targets set by the Paris Agreement. He highlighted India's efforts in the field of renewable energy, water conservation and afforestation, and stressed the importance of global cooperation in addressing climate change.

In his speech, Modi said, “India has a clear policy framework for reducing its carbon footprint. We have set ambitious targets for renewable energy and electric mobility. We have made significant progress in water conservation and afforestation. India is committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.”

PM: India's large-scale efforts

- Eliminating single-use plastics
- Conserving water
- Harnessing solar energy
- Protecting flora and fauna

PM: India would achieve most of the COP 21 climate change goals in 18 months

2015: 21st Session of UNFCCC - COP 21
- Paris Climate Agreement - reduce global temperature rise - well below 2°C above the pre-industrial level
- Pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C

Part A - Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- General issues on environmental ecology, biodiversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization.

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.

PAPER-IV

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

- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

⇒ Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

⇒ Heart of Paris Climate Agreement

⇒ India’s Important NDCs:

1. Decreasing GHG emission intensity of GDP by 33-35% below 2005 level by 2030
2. Achieve 40% of power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources - 2030
3. Additional carbon sink - 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent - forest and tree cover - by 2030
Practice Question – Prelims
Q1. Consider the following statements.

1. The World Energy Cities Partnership is established in 1995 and it is a non-profit organization whose member cities are globally recognized as international energy capitals.
2. One or more Indian cities is/are member(s) in this partnership.
3. The Secretariat of this partnership is in Houston, Texas, USA.

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 – Prelims
Q2. “The State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice, social, economic and political”. The provision can be found in
(a) Part III of Indian constitution
(b) Directive Principles of State Policy
(c) Schedule 7 of Indian Constitution
(d) Fundamental Duties

Practice Question – Prelims
Q3. Consider the following statements.

1. The Paris Agreement’s central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
2. This landmark agreement was reached in 2015 on the twenty-first session of Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2