

CURRENT AFFAIRS

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1. PM to host Xi, Putin, Sharif virtually for SCO summit: The Hindu – Page 1,8

Why is it in news?	Prime Minister Narendra Modi will “virtually host” Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Central Asian Presidents as India chairs the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation’s Council of Heads of State (SCO-CHS), for the first time.
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	Prelims: Current events of National and International Importance. Mains: General Studies-II: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.
Important concepts	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
<p align="center">Today's prelims practice question:</p> <p>Q. Consider the following statements about the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is an intergovernmental organization founded in Shanghai on 15 June 2003. 2. The SCO currently comprises eight Member States, four Observer States and six Dialogue Partners. <p>Which among the statements mentioned above is/are incorrect?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. 1 only B. 2 only C. Both 1 and 2 D. Neither 1 nor 2 <p>Correct answer: A</p> <p>Explanation: The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an intergovernmental organization founded in Shanghai on 15 June 2001. The SCO currently comprises eight Member States (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), four Observer States interested in acceding to full membership (Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia) and six “Dialogue Partners” (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Turkey).</p>	
Mains PYQ exercise:	Critically examine the aims and objectives of SCO. what importance does it hold for India. (2021)
Today's mains practice question:	Examine the prospects of SCO as a platform for regional cooperation and stability, with a focus on its economic, security, and cultural elements.

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an intergovernmental organization founded in Shanghai on 15 June 2001.
- The SCO currently comprises eight Member States (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), four Observer States interested in acceding to full membership (Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia) and six “Dialogue Partners” (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Turkey).
- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation focuses on cooperation with international and regional organisations.
- In 2021, the decision was made to start the accession process of Iran to the SCO as a full member, and Egypt, Qatar as well as Saudi Arabia became dialogue partners.
- Since its inception in 2001, the SCO has mainly focused on regional security issues, its fight against regional terrorism, ethnic separatism and religious extremism.
- To date, the SCO’s priorities also include regional development.
- The SCO has been an observer in the UN General Assembly since 2005.
- In April 2010, the UN and SCO Secretariats signed a Joint Declaration on Cooperation.
- SCO Secretariat has also established partnerships with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in addition to its ongoing cooperation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the UN Office on Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT).

2. SC to take up pleas against dilution of Article 370 on July 11: The Hindu – Page 1,8

<p>Why is it in news?</p>	<p>A Constitution Bench, led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, will take up on July 11 a series of petitions challenging the dilution of Article 370 of the Constitution, which deprived Jammu and Kashmir of its special privileges and led to the bifurcation of the then State in 2019.</p>
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UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	Prelims: Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution Mains: General Studies-II: Indian Constitution- historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
Important concepts	Article 370 Article 35A Abrogation of Article 370

Today's prelims practice question:

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Article 370:

1. Exemption of J&K from Indian Constitution by Article 370 of the Indian constitution was enacted on October 17, 1949 as a temporary clause.

2. A Presidential Order of February, 2020 took away special status under Article 370 of J&K.

Which among the statements mentioned above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: A

Explanation:

- The Instrument of Accession, which Maharaja Hari Singh, the former monarch of Jammu and Kashmir, signed in 1947, gave rise to Article 370.
- Jammu and Kashmir was exempted from the Indian constitution by Article 370 of the Indian constitution, which was enacted on October 17, 1949, as a “temporary clause,” allowing the state to create its own constitution and restricting the legislative authority of the Indian Parliament in the territory.
- A Presidential Order of August 5, 2019 took away special status under Article 370 of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mains PYQ exercise:	To what extent in Article 370 of the Indian Constitution bearing marginal note ‘temporary provision with respect to the state of Jammu and Kashmir’
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	temporary? Discuss the future prospects of this provision in the context of Indian polity. (2016)
Today's mains practice question:	Elaborate the impact of dilution of Article 370 on Jammu and Kashmir. Bring about the background of Article 370.

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Article 35 A:

- Permanent residents of Jammu and Kashmir were given exceptional privileges and rights under Article 35 A, including the ability to purchase property there, preference in hiring for positions in the public sector, and other benefits.
- According to this article, only citizens of Jammu and Kashmir who dwell there year-round are eligible to purchase real estate there and cast ballots in local elections.
- Article 35A was repealed by the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act of 2019.
- The Central Government will not require permission from the state's government to implement laws once Article 370 has been successfully abrogated. After Article 370 of the Indian Constitution was repealed, Article 35 A lost all of its effects.
- Simply put, there won't be any distinction between J&K's permanent residents and the rest of the state's citizens.

Article 370:

- A Presidential Order of August 5, 2019 took away special status under Article 370 of J&K.
- The Article had accorded special rights and privileges to the people of J&K since 1954 in accordance with the Instrument of Accession.
- The special status was bestowed on J&K by incorporating Article 35A in the Constitution.
- Article 35A was incorporated by an order of President Rajendra Prasad in 1954 on the advice of the Jawaharlal Nehru Cabinet.
- Parliament was not consulted when the President incorporated Article 35A into the Constitution through a Presidential Order issued under Article 370.

- Following the abrogation, the Jammu and Kashmir (Reorganisation) Act of 2019 came into force and bifurcated the State into the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.
- The Instrument of Accession, which Maharaja Hari Singh, the former monarch of J&K, signed in 1947, gave rise to Article 370.
- Jammu and Kashmir was exempted from the Indian constitution by Article 370 of the Indian constitution, which was enacted on October 17, 1949, as a “temporary clause,” allowing the state to create its own constitution and restricting the legislative authority of the Indian Parliament in the territory.
- In the draft constitution, it was proposed as Article 306A by Sir Narasimha Gopalaswami Ayyangar.
- This ‘temporary provision’ exempts Jammu and Kashmir from the Indian Constitution.
- The Jammu and Kashmir Constituent Assembly was dissolved after creating the state constitution, and on January 25, 1957, it did so without endorsing either the abrogation or revision of Article 370, leaving the clause’s status in doubt.

Abrogation of Article 370:

- President issued the president’s rule after the tenure of governor’s rule ended. Using the power under Article 356 (1) (b), the President declared that the powers of the Legislature of the State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament.
- With this, the Parliament of India was given the powers of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.
- President issued a presidential order under Article 370 (1) of the Constitution.
- This clause enables the President to specify the matters, which are applicable to Jammu and Kashmir in concurrence with the Jammu and Kashmir government. The order amended Article 367.
- Article 367 contains guidance on how to read or interpret some provisions.
- The amended Article declares “the expression ‘Constituent Assembly of the State’ in Article 370 (3) shall be read to mean ‘Legislative Assembly of the State’.
- Article 370(3) provided that Article 370 was to be amended by the concurrence of the Constituent Assembly.
- However, because of the amendment, it can now be done away by a recommendation of the state legislature.

- In other words, the government used the power under 370(1) to amend a provision of the Constitution (Article 367) which, then, amends Article 370(3).
- And this, in turn, becomes the trigger for the statutory resolution - Resolution for Repeal of Article 370 of the Constitution of India.
- As Jammu and Kashmir is under the president rule, the concurrence of the governor is considered as “Jammu and Kashmir government”.
- As far as the legislative powers of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are concerned, the legislature may make laws for the entire or any a part of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with reference to any of the matters enumerated within the state list except on subjects “public order” and “police” which can remain within the domain of the Centre vis-a-vis the LG.
- In case of inconsistencies between laws made by Parliament and laws made by the legislature, earlier law shall prevail and law made by the legislature shall be void.
- The role of the Chief Minister is going to be to speak to the L-G all decisions of the Council of Ministers concerning the administration of affairs of the Union Territory and proposals for legislation and to furnish such information concerning the administration of affairs because the L-G may involve.

3. Centre announces scheme to support minor rape victims: The Hindu – Page 10

Why is it in news?	Recognising the trauma faced by minor rape victims, the Union government has decided to provide medical, financial and infrastructure support to victims in cases where the sexual assault results in pregnancies.
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	<p>Prelims: Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution</p> <p>Mains: General Studies-II: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.</p>
Important concepts	Mission Vatsalya

Mains PYQ exercise:	We are witnessing increasing instances of sexual violence against women in the country. Despite existing legal provisions against it, the number of such incidences is on the rise. Suggest some innovative measures to tackle this menace. (150 Words) (10 M) (2014)
Today's mains practice question:	Comment on the increasing number of crimes involving sexual violence committed against women in Indian society. Bring about the different laws and safeguards available in India against such crimes.

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Mission Vatsalya:

- The National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) conducted a three-day Refresher Training Programme on Mission Vatsalya, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, at its Regional Centre in Mohali from 29th to 31st May 2023.
- The objective of the programme was to enhance the knowledge and skills of the functionaries involved in the implementation of Mission Vatsalya, which aims to provide care and protection to children in need.
- The programme was attended by 33 participants from various states and union territories.
- The programme also included interactive sessions, group work, case studies, field visits and feedback from the participants.
- They also suggested some areas for improvement such as more time for field visits, more practical exercises and more exposure to innovative models of child care and protection.
- The programme covered various topics related to the mission, such as: the roles and responsibilities of statutory bodies such as Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, Special Juvenile Police Units, etc.
- The quality standards and guidelines for service delivery services such as Child Care Institutions, Adoption Agencies, Foster Care, Sponsorship, etc.
- The strategies and best practices for upscaling institutional care and services for children who cannot be placed in family-based care.
- The challenges and opportunities for encouraging non-institutional community-based care such as family preservation, reunification, kinship care, etc.

- The training and capacity building needs and methods of duty holders such as social workers, counsellors, caregivers, etc.

MODEL MAINS ANSWER FOR TODAY'S EXPECTED MAINS QUESTION

Q. Elaborate the impact of dilution of Article 370 on Jammu and Kashmir. Bring about the background of Article 370.

<p>Why this question</p>	<p>The question theme is reflected several times in UPSC (including prelims) and APPSC mains.</p> <p>UPSC PYQs</p> <p>To what extent in Article 370 of the Indian Constitution bearing marginal note ‘temporary provision with respect to the state of Jammu and Kashmir’ temporary? Discuss the future prospects of this provision in the context of Indian polity. (2016)</p>
<p><u>First step is to understand the demand of the question</u></p>	<p>Question has two parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is Article 370? 2. Impact of dilution of Article 370 on J&K.
<p>Introduction</p>	<p>Article 370 was included in the Indian Constitution as a temporary provision for J&K. Articles 370(1)(c) and 370(1)(d) (which are relevant) deal with the applicability of the Indian Constitution to J&K. Article 370(1) (c) states that Article 1 and Article 370 of the Constitution shall apply to J&K. Article 370(1)(d) states that other provisions of the Constitution can be made applicable to J&K with such “modifications as the President may by order specify”.</p> <p>However Article 370(1)(d) requires that the President secure the concurrence of the J&K government before issuing such an order. Finally, Article 370(3) states that the President can issue a notification making the whole of Article</p>

	370 inoperative if such a recommendation is made to the President by the Constituent Assembly of J&K.	
Body	Impact of dilution of Article 370 on J&K	
	Dimension	Content
	Dilution of Article 370	A Presidential Order of August 5, 2019 took away special status under Article 370 of J&K.
		The Article had accorded special rights and privileges to the people of J&K since 1954 in accordance with the Instrument of Accession.
		The special status was bestowed on J&K by incorporating Article 35A in the Constitution.
		Article 35A was incorporated by an order of President Rajendra Prasad in 1954 on the advice of the Jawaharlal Nehru Cabinet.
		Parliament was not consulted when the President incorporated Article 35A into the Constitution through a Presidential Order issued under Article 370.
		Following the abrogation, the Jammu and Kashmir (Reorganisation) Act of 2019 came into force and bifurcated the State into the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.
	Impact of the dilution	
	Dimension	Content
	Impact	No more special status
		Right to education shall be applicable
		Economic development

		No separate flag	
		Right to Information shall be applicable	
		Corruption can be handled more effectively	
		Increased security	
		Open for private investment	
		Single citizenship	
Conclusion:	Jammu and Kashmir is a prime example of a plural society and politics. There are not only religious, cultural, linguistic, ethnic, and tribal differences, but also distinct political goals. The unexpected move by the Centre effectively disenfranchised them in a topic that directly affected their lives and sentiments. As a result, the shift is sure to have a profound impact on J&K's demography, culture, and politics. The government should reach out to the people of J&K and assure them of security and improved governance.		

