Prashant Mavani, is an expert in current affairs analysis and holds a MSc in Management from University of Surrey (U.K.). Above all he is a passionate teacher.
Navratri Offer
On all pendrive & Android Courses
SSC, BANK, UPSC/IAS, ALL GOVT

Valid Till 29TH SEP

+91 9580048004
+91 7291059476
011 41323204
www.studyiq.com
Pak. repeatedly rejected offer of talks: Sushma

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always sought dialogue and peace but Pakistan has turned its back on the offer, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj told the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Saturday.

‘Exporting terror’

Her 22-minute speech, delivered in Hindi, sought to contrast India’s progress — that is helping the world deal with a multitude of challenges — with Pakistan’s, which, she said, had become nothing more than a country that exports terrorism.
Mr. Modi, “from the moment he took his oath of office, offered the hand of peace and friendship,” to Pakistan, the Minister said, adding that Islamabad must answer why it spurned this offer.

“We are completely engaged in fighting poverty; alas, our neighbour Pakistan seems only engaged in fighting us,” Ms. Swaraj said, adding that Mr. Modi had radically changed the approach to poverty alleviation in India.

The Minister said demonetisation was “a courageous decision to challenge one of the by-products of corruption,” and, as a result, black money has “disappeared from circulation.”

“...Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chosen the more radical route, through economic empowerment. The poor are not helpless; we have merely denied them opportunity,” Ms. Swaraj said, emphasising that the complete eradication of poverty is the most important priority of the present government.

- Jan Dhan Yojana for financial inclusion
- Mudra Yojana
- Ujjwala scheme for providing cooking gas for the poor.
- GST

India and Pakistan have mutually agreed to resolve all issues bilaterally, in the Shimla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration.

"Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue," in 2015 Pakistan is responsible for the aborting that peace process.

UN has not been able to agree upon a definition of terrorism. If we cannot agree to define our enemy, how can we fight together?
Japan to fund mass rapid transit systems in Gujarat, Haryana

• Funds from a Japanese government loan will soon be utilised for the first time in the $100 billion, Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project. So far, the mega-project was being developed only with the Indian government’s financial assistance.
DMIC spans **six States** Uttar Pradesh, Delhi National Capital Region, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

It uses ‘the 1,500-km-long, high-capacity western Dedicated Railway Freight Corridor (DFC) as the backbone’ and aims to be ‘a global manufacturing and investment destination’.

A **soft loan** (with concessional conditions) to the tune of $4.5 billion to be extended by the **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**, will shortly be utilised to develop two Mass Rapid Transit Systems (MRTS) — one each in Gujarat and Haryana — that will be part of the DMIC.

The JICA is the Japanese governmental agency in charge of implementation of Japan’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) — **with the main objective of promoting economic development and welfare in developing countries**. The interest rate of the loan (in Japanese Yen) will be kept ‘very low’ (at 0.1%) and have a ‘long’ repayment period (at 40 years, including a 10-year grace period).

According to JICA, its “ODA to India started in 1958” and so far around “Rs. 2.75 lakh crore in ODA loans have been committed for development across various sectors.” As per JICA, it is “India’s biggest bilateral donor.”
• The MRTS in Gujarat will be ‘at grade’ (ground level) and link Ahmedabad to the Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR).
• The MRTS in Haryana will be an ‘elevated’ one and will connect Gurgaon and Bawal (part of the Manesar-Bawal Investment Region in the DMIC).

• According to the Commerce and Industry Ministry (the nodal body for industrial corridors), the financial assistance for the DMIC project is to be in the form of grant-in-aid worth Rs. 17,500 crore — as a ‘revolving fund’.

• This, it said, was for the development of ‘trunk infrastructure’ in the proposed seven industrial cities in the DMIC at Rs. 2,500 crore per city on an average, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 3000 crore per city.
Arvind Subramanian to stay on as CEA

- Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Arvind Subramanian, who had planned to return to the U.S. after his three-year tenure ended on October 16, has been persuaded by the government to stay back for another year.

- Official orders to this effect will be issued soon, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said on Saturday, putting an end to rumours about Dr. Subramanian’s resignation.

- “Dr. Arvind Subramanian will continue for one more year after the completion of his three-year tenure on 16th October, 2017,” the Finance Ministry said on its Twitter handle.

- Mr. Subramanian’s term as CEA has been marked by dynamic suggestions and analysis to do with the economy — including coining the term ‘JAM trinity’ (for Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile), mooting the idea of a ‘bad bank’ to deal with the persistent problem of non-performing assets (NPAs) afflicting the balance sheets of banks and corporates, and proposing the concept of a Universal Basic Income.

- The CEA is usually the main go-to person for advice for the finance minister on macro-economic matters.

- The CEA's primary responsibilities, among others, include authoring the mid-year analysis and the Economic Survey.
Kids not safe anywhere in country: Satyarthi

- Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi on Saturday said children are now “not safe anywhere” in the country, while batting for a rigorous law against human trafficking, including child trafficking.

‘Bharat Yatra’ campaign

- “One of the major demands of the ‘Bharat Yatra’ campaign is that Parliament must pass a stringent law against human trafficking, including child trafficking,” Mr Satyarthi said, flagging off the Meghalaya lap of the campaign.
- He asserted that he has declared a war against crimes like rape, sexual abuse and child trafficking, and hoped the ‘Bharat Yatra’ campaign will make India safe again for children.
Child mortality on the decline, says study

- India’s child mortality rate has always been a cause for concern, but a recent study published in the medical journal Lancet suggests that the situation may be changing for the better.
- The study shows a significant decline in cause-specific child mortality rates between 2000 and 2015 in the country.
- The faster declines in child mortality after 2005 (average annual decline of 3.4% for neonatal mortality and 5.9% for 1 to 59-month mortality) suggest that the country has avoided about one million more child deaths compared to the rates of progress in 2000–2005.
- However, on a sobering note, in the same period, deaths due to premature births or low birth weight rose from 12.3 per 1000 live births in 2000 to 14.3 per 1000 live births in 2015. The increase was driven mostly by more term births with low birth weight in poorer States and rural areas.
- Taking note of the progress in three States during this period, the study says that “if all States of India had achieved the declines seen in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra, nearly all States of India would have met the 2015 Millennium Development Goals.”
- Interpreting the outcome, the Lancet report said: “To meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals for child mortality, India will need to maintain the current trajectory of 1–59-month mortality and accelerate declines in neonatal mortality (to >5% annually) from 2015 onwards.
- Continued progress in reduction of child mortality due to pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria, and measles at 1–59 months is feasible. Additional attention to low birth weight is required.”
BJP’s priorities go beyond votes: PM

- Distinguishing his party from his political rivals, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the BJP’s work and priorities “are not decided by votes” but keeping in mind the interest and development of the nation.

-Addressing a public meeting after inaugurating a cattle health fair, Pashudhan Arogya Mela, in Shahanshahpur, Mr. Modi said, “The mela will serve those animals who will never go out to vote. They are not anybody's voter.”

- Mr Modi said the Pashudhan Arogya Mela would benefit the animal husbandry sector in Uttar Pradesh, provide relief to farmers who for various reasons have neglected the health of cattle, and also increase the productivity of the cattle.

- Mr. Modi lamented that though India was the largest producer of milk, it fared poorly in per capita animal production, making cattle-rearing costly, mostly due to poor animal health. If the per capita production was increased, it would attract farmers towards dairy farming and also pave the way for a new economic revolution.

- Mr. Modi, who also laid the foundation of a twin-pit toilet as part of the government’s cleanliness drive, praised the State for naming it Izzatghar or ‘room of honour’.
Mattis to meet Modi, Nirmala

• In the first-ever Cabinet level visit from the Trump administration, U.S. Secretary of Defence Jim Mattis will be in New Delhi on Tuesday for a series of meetings.

• It said the Secretary would emphasise that the United States viewed India as a “valued and influential partner, with broad mutual interests extending well beyond South Asia”.

• Mr. Mattis will also express American appreciation for India’s important contributions toward Afghanistan’s democracy, stability, prosperity and security, it said.

• Meanwhile, the two sides are holding a joint training exercise, Yudh Abhyas 2017, which began on September 14 in Washington State, U.S. The exercise is an “ideal platform for the two countries to share their expertise on military operations,” the Army said in a statement.
India third in nuclear power installations: study

- India is **third** in the world in the number of nuclear reactors being installed, at six, while China is leading at 20, the World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2017.

- The number of nuclear reactor units under construction is, however, declining globally for the fourth year in a row, from 68 reactors at the end of 2013 to 53 by mid-2017, the report says.
The Nuclear Fuel Cycle

International Mining

- Canada 12%
- United States 3%
- Brazil 4%
- Niger 6%
- Ukraine 1%
- Namibia 5%
- South Africa 8%
- Kazakhstan 18%
- Mongolia 2%
- Australian 23%
- Uzbekistan 3%
- Russian Federation 4%
How the Indian monsoon shapes butterfly physiology

- India's **Milkweed butterflies** undertake a fascinating yearly migration.
- In April-June, just before the onset of India's intensive **southwest monsoon**, millions of these butterflies migrate from the wet **Western Ghats** to the relatively drier **eastern plains and hills**, across distances of 350-500 km.
- After migration, they 'swarm' in large numbers: hanging around each other and roosting on plants.
- They then mate, lay eggs and die.
- The next generation of butterflies flee from the **northeast monsoon that now hits the eastern plains** and they migrate to the **Western Ghats** just as the southwest monsoon retreats from there.
Question

1. What is the rank of India in World Press Freedom Index?
2. It is common knowledge that the money generated from narcotic substances is used in nefarious activities. Which country is the largest producer of opium in the world?
3. A film named *Where Has The Time Gone*, is co-produced by the artists from the ________ member states.
4. The Union Budget of India is termed as a radical change from age old practice. Discuss few points in favour of early delivery of Union Budget.
Navratri Offer
On all pendrive & Android Courses

SSC, BANK, UPSC/IAS, ALL GOVT

Valid Till 29th SEP

+91 9580048004
+91 7291059476
011 41323204

www.studyiq.com
• Need lecture notes? Go to our Website or Telegram channel
  • Subscribe
    • Share
    • Like
  • Comment (do participate in Q&A)
    • Jai Hind

The End