SIX SIGMA IAS

Dream | Dare | Deliver

DREAM FOR NATION | **DARE** TO SERVE | **DELIVER** WITH INTEGRITY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

ENGLISH FILE

BEST FOR UPSC | UP PCS EXAM

DATE : SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

Comprehensive Coverage | Exam-Focused Analysis | Concept Clarity & Insights | Practice MCQs with Explanation | Daily Updates, Better Results

CONTACT INFO:
+91 92896 33341 | +91 96679 33341

EMAIL ID:
info@sixsigmaias.com

WEB PAGE:
www.sixsigmaias.com

ADDRESS:
C-6, GROUND FLOOR, SECTOR 2,
NEAR SECTOR 15 METRO STATION, NOIDA – 201301, UTTAR PRADESH

Table of Contents

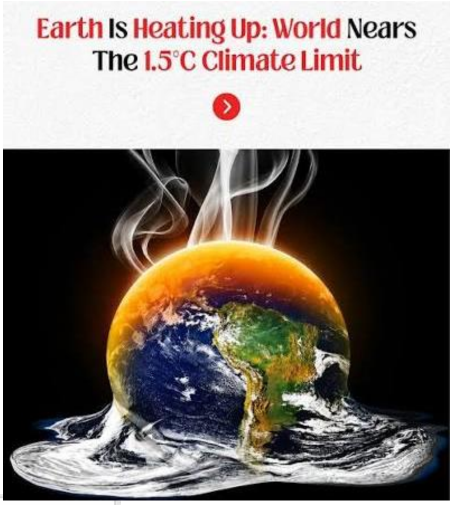
1. UN Charts Course to Manage Global Warming-Limit Breach

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Inevitable Breach of 1.5°C Limit:** A landmark report titled *Limiting Overshoot* by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) warns that breaching the 1.5°C global warming target set under the 2015 Paris Agreement is now unavoidable and will occur within the next few years.
- **New "Overshoot, Peak, and Decline" Framework:** UNEP has introduced a detailed pathway aimed at keeping peak temperatures as low as possible during the overshoot phase and driving them back below 1.5°C by 2100.
- **Inadequacy of Current Commitments:** Even if all nations fully execute their national climate plans and net-zero pledges, peak global warming will reach 1.8°C; current baseline policies point toward a disastrous 2.6°C rise (ranging between 1.9°C and 3.6°C) by 2100.
- **Compounding Ecological and Economic Costs:** Prolonged periods above 1.5°C threaten irreversible losses, including accelerated sea-level rise, rapid coral reef collapse, loss of over a quarter of global glacier mass by 2100, and up to a 14% drop in global food production by 2050 without adaptation.
- **Compounding Burden of Delayed Action:** Every five years of continued high emissions adds roughly 0.1°C to peak warming, which requires removing an additional 220 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to reverse.

- **Short-Term Focus on Methane Reduction:** The UN highlighted methane mitigation as the single most effective lever for slowing near-term warming, while emphasizing that Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) must complement—not substitute—deep emission cuts.

Essential Definitions



- **Temperature Overshoot:** A climate scenario in which global average temperatures temporarily exceed a specified target threshold (such as 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels) before carbon removal efforts bring temperatures back down.
- **Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR):** Anthropogenic activities that intentionally remove CO2 from the atmosphere and durably store it in geological, terrestrial, or ocean reservoirs or in products.
- **Net-Zero Emissions:** The balance achieved when human-caused greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere are fully counteracted by human-initiated greenhouse gas removals over a specified period.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Paris Agreement (2015):** A legally binding international treaty under the UNFCCC framework aiming to keep global temperature rise well below 2°C, while pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- **Article 48A of the Indian Constitution:** Directs the State to protect and improve the natural environment and safeguard forests and wildlife against climate-induced degradation.
- **Article 51A(g) of the Indian Constitution:** Establishes a fundamental duty for every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife.
- **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC):** India's statutory policy umbrella comprising national missions designed to build climate resilience, enhance adaptive capacity, and promote sustainable development.

Conclusion The UNEP report highlights that while an overshoot beyond 1.5°C is no longer avoidable, managing its magnitude and duration is within human control. Implementing rapid methane abatement alongside nature-based and technological carbon removal is imperative to prevent permanent planetary tipping points and minimize severe socio-economic impacts globally.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper III (Environment & Climate Change):** Direct relevance for topics on climate change mitigation strategies, UNEP reports, global warming targets, carbon budgets, adaptation gaps, and international climate treaties.
- **Mains Application:** Provides analytical context for answering questions on climate overshoot scenarios, the feasibility of net-zero targets, loss and damage frameworks, and equity in global carbon removal efforts.

2. SC Orders Oversight of Bar Council's Policy Decisions

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Pro Tem Status of BCI Leadership:** The Supreme Court clarified that Senior Advocate Manan Kumar Mishra functions solely as the "pro tem" chairperson of the Bar Council of India (BCI) co-terminus with upcoming elections, allowing current office-bearers to handle only routine day-to-day operations.
- **Mandatory Executive Consultation:** The apex court directed the BCI to give prior notice and consult the Attorney-General for India and Solicitor-General (ex-officio members) on all major policy decisions to preserve institutional credibility.
- **SC Scrutiny Over Financial Allegations:** A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant intervened to examine serious allegations involving the BCI Pearl First Trust, 56-acre land tie-ups in Goa, and expenditures on felicitations running into crores.
- **Quashing of NALSAR Directives:** The Supreme Court set aside BCI orders attempting to block the enrolment of NALSAR graduates, ruling that the Council lacks statutory authority over law students prior to their registration as advocates.
- **Limits on Regulatory Jurisdiction:** The court established that student conduct and academic discipline remain within the exclusive domain of respective universities rather than professional regulatory bodies.
- **Protection of Institutional Integrity:** Judicial intervention was deemed necessary to prevent "shadow-boxing" and ensure regulatory transparency within India's statutory legal bodies.

Essential Definitions

- **Bar Council of India (BCI):** A statutory body created under the Advocates Act, 1961, responsible for regulating legal practice, enforcing professional ethics, and setting legal education standards across India.
- **Pro Tem Chairperson:** A temporary presiding officer designated to manage administrative routines until regular elections reconstitute a formal governing body.
- **Ex-Officio Member:** An individual holding a position on a board or committee by virtue of holding another official title, such as the Attorney-General on the BCI.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Advocates Act, 1961:** Provides the statutory framework establishing the BCI and State Bar Councils, granting powers over enrolled advocates while excluding pre-enrolment student disciplinary control.
- **Article 14 of the Indian Constitution:** Guarantees equality before the law and protection against arbitrary or unreasoned administrative decisions by statutory regulatory authorities.
- **Article 19(1)(g) of the Indian Constitution:** Protects the fundamental right to practice any profession, which cannot be restricted through ultra vires regulatory directions.
- **Article 142 of the Indian Constitution:** Empowers the Supreme Court to issue necessary orders to enforce complete justice and maintain institutional credibility across statutory bodies.

Conclusion The Supreme Court's mandate imposing high-law-officer oversight on the BCI reaffirms the boundaries of regulatory jurisdiction. Restraining executive excess and safeguarding academic autonomy reinforces constitutional accountability within legal regulatory institutions.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Polity & Governance):** Directly relevant for questions regarding statutory regulatory bodies, judicial review of administrative actions, professional regulatory standards, and legal ethics.
- **Mains Application:** Provides analytical precedent for discussions on institutional accountability, separation of powers, professional autonomy vs. regulatory overreach, and constitutional rights of students.

3. Godavari Reaches North A.P. Through Polavaram Canal

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Milestone Water Release to North A.P.:** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu released Godavari water to the Uttarandhra region via the Polavaram Left Main Canal at PL Puram village in Anakapalli district.
- **Infrastructure Investment and Scope:** Executed at a total cost of ₹4,192 crore, the canal network is designed to augment regional water security across multiple sectors.
- **Agricultural and Domestic Benefits:** The project will supply irrigation water to 4 lakh acres of farmland and provide safe drinking water to approximately 9.23 lakh people across the region.
- **Industrial Water Augmentation:** The canal system fulfills crucial industrial water requirements for East Godavari, Kakinada, Konaseema, Anakapalli, and Visakhapatnam districts.

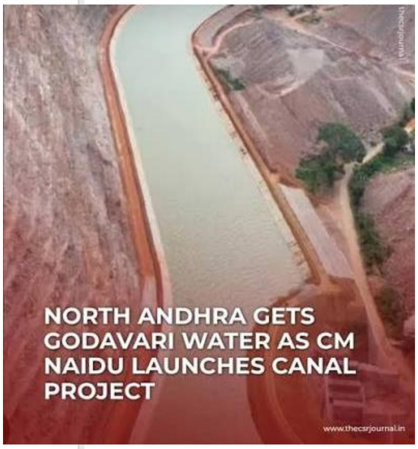
- **Strategic River Interlinking Goals:** The initiative forms part of a broader roadmap for interlinking the Godavari with the Vamsadhara and Krishna rivers to optimize basin-wide water utilization.
- **Administrative Reorganization Impact:** The completion of the project relies on the statutory merger of seven mandals from Telangana into Andhra Pradesh, enabling contiguous execution of Polavaram infrastructure.

Essential Definitions

- **Polavaram Irrigation Project:** A major multi-purpose national irrigation project under construction on the Godavari River in Andhra Pradesh, designed to facilitate inter-basin water transfers.
- **Uttarandhra (North Andhra):** A coastal geographic region of Andhra Pradesh comprising districts such as Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, and Srikakulam.
- **Inter-Basin Water Transfer:** The artificial conveyance of surface water from a surplus river basin to a water-deficit basin to balance regional hydrological imbalances.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014:** Section 55 declares the Polavaram Irrigation Project as a National Project, placing its execution and funding under central government oversight.



- **Article 262 of the Indian Constitution:** Empowers Parliament to enact legislation for the adjudication of disputes relating to the waters of inter-State rivers or river valleys.
- **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956:** Governs the statutory allocation and dispute resolution framework among riparian states sharing river basins like the Godavari.
- **Seventh Schedule (List II, Entry 17):** Assigns water supply, irrigation, canals, drainage, embankments, and water storage to the State List, subject to List I Entry 56 (Interstate Rivers).

Conclusion The operationalization of the Polavaram Left Main Canal represents a major step in addressing regional water disparities in Uttarandhra. Successfully linking major coastal rivers optimizes water management, strengthens climate resilience in agriculture, and accelerates regional industrial development.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper I (Geography):** Highly relevant for questions on Indian drainage systems, inter-basin river transfers, regional geography of Peninsular India, and Godavari basin hydrology.
- **GS Paper III (Agriculture & Infrastructure):** Directly applicable to topics covering irrigation systems, water resource management, multi-purpose river valley projects, and rural economic development.

4. Pichavaram Mangroves Valued at ₹2,485 Crore: Study

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Comprehensive Total Economic Valuation:** A study titled *Economic Valuation and Blue Carbon Assessment of Ecosystem Services in the Pichavaram Mangrove Forest* estimated its Total Economic Value (TEV) at ₹2,485.38 crore, translating to ₹1.83 crore per hectare.
- **Crucial Blue Carbon Sink Asset:** The total blue carbon asset value of the Pichavaram ecosystem stands at ₹1,612.40 crore, highlighting its vital role as a natural carbon sink for climate regulation.
- **Soil Organic Carbon Density:** Mangrove sediments constitute a far larger carbon reservoir than vegetation, holding an average soil organic carbon stock of 251.14 tonnes per hectare (valued at ₹90.24 lakh/ha).
- **Socio-Economic Livelihood Anchor:** Based on field surveys across 302 households in five local villages (MGR Thittu, Kalaignar Nagar, Chinnavaikal, Patriadi, and Mudasalodai), the forest directly supports local fisheries, biodiversity, and coastal protection.
- **Integration into Coastal Policy:** The study advocates for integrating Ecosystem Service Valuation (ESV) into mainstream coastal development planning and environmental decision-making processes.
- **Innovative Climate Finance Mechanisms:** Recommends developing blue carbon financing models, carbon credit trading programs, and Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes to recognize mangroves as nature-based solutions.

Essential Definitions

- **Total Economic Value (TEV):** A holistic valuation framework combining use values (direct provisionings like fisheries, tourism) and non-use/ecological values (carbon sequestration, coastal buffering).
- **Blue Carbon:** Atmospheric carbon captured, sequestered, and stored long-term by coastal and marine ecosystems such as mangroves, salt marshes, and seagrass beds.
- **Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES):** A market-based conservation instrument where beneficiaries of environmental services pay resource managers or local communities to conserve critical natural ecosystems.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:** Provides the primary statutory umbrella for regulating activities within fragile coastal wetland ecosystems.
- **Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2019:** Classifies mangroves as CRZ-I A (Ecologically Sensitive Areas), conferring the highest level of legal protection against destructive commercial activities.
- **Biological Diversity Act, 2002:** Mandates sustainable utilization, equitable benefit-sharing, and community-led protection of coastal biological resources through Biodiversity Management Committees.

- **Article 48A & 51A(g) of the Constitution:** Directs the State and imposes a fundamental duty on citizens to safeguard natural environments, including coastal forests and marine habitats.

Conclusion Quantifying non-market ecosystem services bridges the gap between conventional economics and coastal conservation. Integrating blue carbon assets into national climate action frameworks transforms vulnerable mangrove belts like Pichavaram into self-sustaining ecological capital and resilient natural infrastructure.

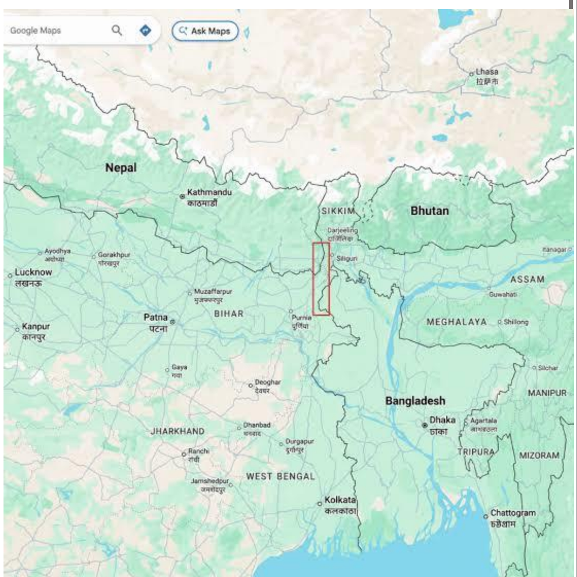
UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper III (Environment, Ecology & Climate Change):** Directly relevant for topics covering mangrove ecosystem valuation, blue carbon mechanisms, climate change adaptation, and nature-based solutions for disaster management.
- **Mains Application:** Serves as concrete quantitative evidence for questions on natural capital accounting, environmental cost-benefit analysis, MISHTI initiative implementation, and sustainable coastal zone management.

5. Navigating the "Early and Substantial Harvest" in India-China Boundary Talks

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Resurgence of "Early Harvest" Framework:** The 25th Special Representatives (SR) meeting in Beijing (August 2026) issued an "Eight Points of Outcomes and Consensus," reviving discussions via an Expert Group on Boundary Delimitation for an "Early and Substantial Harvest."
- **Origins of the Indian Counter-Proposal:** "Early and Substantial Harvest" was originally proposed by India around 2019, advocating for simultaneous settlement of the Sikkim and Middle Sectors based on the highest-watershed principle.
- **Risks of a Piecemeal Settlement:** Settling only undisputed pockets of the Middle and Sikkim sectors risks undermining the "package settlement" principle outlined in Article III of the 2005 Agreement, while leaving hard issues in Eastern and Western sectors open on Chinese terms ("dong tiao xi rang").
- **Ambiguities in the Sikkim Sector:** Despite mutual recognition of the 1890 Anglo-Chinese Convention, contradictions between its watershed clause and the reference to Mount Gipmochi create a strategic vulnerability around the Batang La/Gipmochi trijunction near Doklam and the Jampheri Ridge.
- **Strategic Implications for Bhutan and Siliguri:** A premature or flawed bilateral settlement on the Sikkim trijunction could compromise India's standing to advise Bhutan against a Chinese "package proposal" (swapping northern territory for the Doklam Plateau), exposing the critical Siliguri Corridor.



- **Procedural Contradictions and Trans-Border Hydrology:** Commencing "delimitation" via an Expert Group before finalizing an "agreed framework" under Article X of the 2005 Agreement risks procedural inversion; furthermore, the dialogue leaves major concerns over China's Medog mega-dam project on the Yarlung Tsangpo unaddressed.

Essential Definitions

- **Early and Substantial Harvest:** A diplomatic mechanism where negotiating parties agree to finalize and implement consensus-backed, low-friction sectors of a boundary dispute ahead of a comprehensive final agreement.
- **Highest-Watershed Principle:** A customary international law principle for inland boundary demarcation where the border follows the natural line of the highest water-divide separating adjacent river basins.
- **Package Settlement:** A holistic negotiation framework where disputes across all sectors (Western, Middle, Sikkim, and Eastern) are resolved simultaneously via reciprocal cross-sector concessions rather than piecemeal deals.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **2005 Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles:** Guiding bilateral legal instrument whose Article III mandates a "package settlement covering all sectors," and Article X instructs SRs to establish an "agreed framework" prior to formal delimitation/demarcation.
- **2012 Common Understanding Between Special Representatives:** Establishes that trijunction points involving third countries (e.g., Bhutan) shall be finalized only after mutual consultation with the concerned nation.
- **1890 Anglo-Chinese Convention:** Historical treaty establishing the boundary baseline for the Sikkim sector, containing internal contradictions between watershed principles and specific topographical markers.
- **Article 51 of the Indian Constitution:** Directs the State to foster respect for international law, treaty obligations, and the peaceful settlement of international disputes.

Conclusion India must ensure that any "Early Harvest" rigidly adheres to the highest-watershed principle across both the Sikkim and Middle Sectors without diluting the 2005 Political Parameters. Short-term diplomatic optics must not compromise long-term strategic posture, particularly regarding sensitive trijunctions that safeguard the Siliguri Corridor and broader Eurasian security.

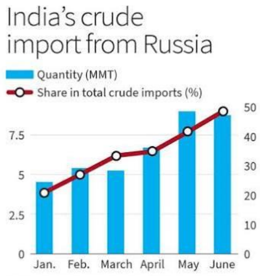
UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (International Relations & Security):** Highly relevant for topics on India and its neighborhood, bilateral relations with China, border management frameworks, strategic autonomy, and trans-border river hydrology.
- **Mains Application:** Provides critical analytical material for evaluating India-China confidence-building measures (CBMs), the viability of SR-level talks, regional security in the Chumbi Valley/Doklam region, and the legalities of international boundary agreements.

6. Reducing India's Exposure to U.S. Tariff Risks

Key Highlights & Summary

- **The Lindsey O. Graham Act of 2026:** The U.S. Senate passed a legislative act authorizing tariffs up to 100% on the top five importers of Russian crude oil or natural gas if new purchases continue.
- **Dramatic Rise in Russian Imports:** India's reliance on Russian crude expanded from 2% before the Russia-Ukraine conflict to nearly 50% of its total imports, growing from 4.54 MMT in January 2026 to 8.96 MMT by May 2026.
- **Risk of Cumulative Tariff Escalation:** Combined with the Section 301 forced-labor tariff (10%), the proposed sanction could subject Indian exports to the U.S. to a cumulative 110% tariff, severely dampening price competitiveness.
- **Severe Economic Impact under Sanctions:** GTAP model simulations show that a 110% tariff scenario leads to a $47 billion welfare loss for India, alongside a 5.1% contraction in total exports and a 5.2% reduction in imports.
- **Mitigation Through Export Diversification:** Implementing alternative trade channels—such as a functional India-EU Free Trade Agreement—reverses economic losses, delivering a $26.3 billion welfare gain and a 3.1% boost in aggregate exports.



Source: Department of Commerce, Govt. of India

Impact of tariffs and export diversification

	Sanction scenario	Diversification scenario
Welfare ($ billion)	-46.6	26.3
Change in GDP (%)	-0.02	0.01
Sectoral output (%)	-1.9	1.2
Domestic demand (%)	-1.8	1
Aggregate export (%)	-5.1	3.1
Aggregate import (%)	-5.2	2.6

Source: Writer's analysis using GTAP

- **Complementary Structural Reforms:** Diversification strategies require supporting domestic structural reforms, including trade facilitation, logistics upgrades, non-tariff barrier removal, and quality ladder elevation.

Essential Definitions

- **Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974:** A U.S. statutory provision authorizing the executive branch to investigate and enforce unilateral tariffs against foreign countries violating trade agreements or engaging in unfair trade practices.
- **Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP):** A multiregional, multisector general equilibrium model used by economists to quantify the structural impacts of global trade policies, tariff shifts, and economic shocks.
- **Export Diversification:** A strategic trade policy aimed at broadening the geographical markets and range of product categories for domestic exports to minimize single-market exposure.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 51(c) of the Indian Constitution:** Directs the State to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in organizing foreign policy and strategic engagements.
- **Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992:** Grants the central government legal authority to formulate, implement, and adjust India's Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) to mitigate external shocks.
- **WTO General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT 1994):** Establishes Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) principles and limits unilateral tariff hikes, providing an international legal recourse mechanism under WTO dispute settlement frameworks.

Conclusion While strategic energy procurement from Russia safeguards India's immediate energy security, potential U.S. secondary sanctions pose trade risks. Cushioning against external vulnerability requires pairing market diversification efforts—such as finalizing the India-EU FTA—with domestic trade facilitation and logistics reforms.

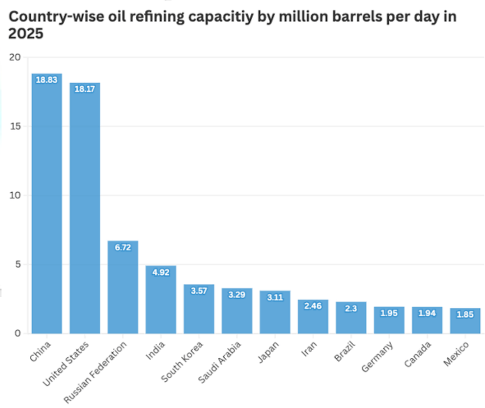
UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper III (Economy & Trade):** Directly relevant for topics on Foreign Trade Policy, international trade shocks, tariff barriers, GTAP modeling, and energy security.
- **GS Paper II (International Relations):** Essential for analyzing India-U.S. strategic ties, secondary sanctions, trade diplomacy, and economic multilateralism.

7. Decoding Russia's Reliance on Indian Petroleum Products

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Shift in Bilateral Energy Dynamics:** Continuous Ukrainian drone attacks on Russian refining infrastructure have compelled Moscow to import refined petroleum products from India in significant volumes (approximately 1 million barrels over two months) for the first time since February 2022.
- **Severe Decline in Russian Refinery Throughput:** According to OPEC data, Russian refinery crude processing capacity dropped sharply from 5.18 million barrels per day in Q1 2026 to 3.88 million barrels per day by Q3 2026 due to repeated attacks on oil depots and pumping stations.
- **India's Domestic Refining Strategic Edge:** Ranking fourth globally in refining capacity, India's advanced private-led refineries have efficiently utilized this unprecedented demand spike to supply processed fuels like petrol and diesel to Russia.



- **Resilience in Indian Crude Imports:** Despite geopolitical friction and U.S. tariffs, Russia accounted for nearly one-third (31.6%) of India's crude imports as of June 2026, totaling $531 million.
- **Tacit Global Regulatory Shifts:** Following West Asian escalations and potential blockades along the Strait of Hormuz, global markets saw a tacit acceptance of Russian crude flows to prevent global supply shocks.
- **Macroeconomic Benefits for India:** Increased exports of high-value refined petroleum products to Russia assist India in narrowing its trade deficit and easing pressure on foreign exchange reserves.

Essential Definitions

- **Refinery Throughput:** The total volume of crude oil processed and converted into refined petroleum products by a refinery facility over a specified operational timeframe.
- **Value-Added Petroleum Exports:** The economic process of importing raw, unprocessed crude oil, refining it into high-grade finished fuels (diesel, jet fuel, gasoline), and re-exporting it for higher profit margins.

- **Strait of Hormuz:** A vital maritime chokepoint between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, handling over one-fifth of global petroleum liquid consumption.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992:** Grants the central government legal authority to regulate, facilitate, and restrict import and export operations of essential strategic commodities, including crude oil and refined petroleum products.
- **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act, 2006:** Provides the statutory oversight mechanism for regulating downstream refining, processing, transportation, and distribution infrastructure across India.
- **Article 51(c) of the Indian Constitution:** Directs the State to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations while managing strategic foreign policy and energy security interests.

Conclusion The structural shift converting India from a primary importer of Russian crude into a key supplier of refined petroleum products underscores India's robust refining architecture. Balancing strategic autonomy with global energy security enables India to convert external geopolitical disruptions into national economic resilience.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper III (Economy & Energy Infrastructure):** Crucial for evaluating India's global refining capacity, energy trade balance, foreign exchange stability, and downstream oil sector infrastructure.
- **GS Paper II (International Relations):** Highly relevant for questions analyzing India-Russia strategic relations, energy diplomacy, secondary sanctions risk, and strategic autonomy amidst global supply chain realignments.

8. Constitutional Faultlines in FCRA Bill

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Statutory Expansion of Control:** The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 establishes a "Designated Authority" framework empowering the Central Government to provisionally vest, manage, and dispose of foreign contributions and assets of organizations whose FCRA certificates are cancelled, surrendered, or non-renewed.
- **Management Intervention Beyond Ownership:** The Bill permits executive authorities to take possession of and manage institutional activities (e.g., hospitals, schools, research labs) in the public interest, shifting state action from external financial oversight to direct operational interference.
- **Doctrine of Proportionality Concerns:** While national security and fund tracking represent legitimate state goals, the proposed broad executive discretion raises questions under constitutional proportionality regarding whether less restrictive measures could prevent fund misuse.
- **Risks of Permanent Asset Vesting:** In cases where FCRA registration is not restored within the prescribed statutory timeframe, provisional control transforms into permanent vesting and disposal of non-governmental assets by the government.

- **Cumulative Impact on Civil Society:** Expanding the consequences of losing FCRA status beyond losing foreign funding eligibility to include asset seizure and administrative takeover creates significant operational vulnerabilities for NGOs.
- **Judicial Safeguards Scrutiny:** Although provision exists for judicial appeal, revision, and asset restoration upon registration recovery, the effectiveness of these safeguards requires clear standards to prevent potential administrative overreach.

Essential Definitions

- **Designated Authority:** A statutory officer or entity appointed by the Central Government under the FCRA framework to take possession, manage, and oversee the assets and activities of entities whose FCRA registrations cease.
- **Doctrine of Proportionality:** A judicial test holding that executive or legislative measures restricting constitutional rights must pursue a legitimate aim, be rationally connected to that aim, and employ the least restrictive means necessary.
- **Provisional Vesting:** The temporary legal transfer of custody, management, and control of institutional assets and operational properties to a government-appointed authority pending statutory resolution.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010:** The foundational statutory enactment regulating the acceptance and utilization of foreign hospitality or funds to safeguard national interest.
- **Article 19(1)(c) of the Indian Constitution:** Guarantees the fundamental right to form associations or unions, which includes the freedom of civil society institutions to manage their lawful internal affairs.
- **Article 300A of the Indian Constitution:** Dictates that no person shall be deprived of property save by authority of law, requiring legal actions seizing or vesting private assets to adhere to procedural fairness.
- **Article 14 of the Indian Constitution:** Assures equality before the law and protection against non-arbitrary, disproportionate state action.

Conclusion Regulating foreign financial inflows is a valid state exercise for national security; however, extending legislative control to executive management and asset seizure tests constitutional boundaries. Establishing clear safeguards, limited discretion, and prompt judicial review will help balance state security priorities with civil society autonomy.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Polity, Governance & Civil Society):** Crucial for evaluating civil society organizations, regulatory frameworks governing NGOs, fundamental rights under Articles 19 and 300A, and administrative law principles.
- **Mains Application:** Provides analytical perspective for questions on state security versus individual liberty, the doctrine of constitutional proportionality, statutory delegated legislation, and NGO accountability.

9. Can Jurists Be Appointed as Supreme Court Judges?

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Uninvoked Constitutional Provision:** Supreme Court Justice Ujjal Bhuyan highlighted that Article 124(3)(c) of the Constitution, which permits the elevation of a "distinguished jurist" to the top court, has remained unused for over 76 years.
- **Constituent Assembly Intent:** Framers like H.V. Kamath and M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar introduced this category on May 24, 1949, seeking to diversify the Bench by including legal scholars, drawing inspiration from the U.S. Supreme Court's appointment of Harvard Professor Felix Frankfurter.
- **Failure of High Court Inclusion:** The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act (1976) briefly added the "distinguished jurist" category to Article 217 for High Courts, but it was repealed shortly after by the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act (1978) without ever being utilized.
- **Barriers to Academic Elevation:** The primary systemic obstacles include the Collegium's reliance on traditional judicial and Bar promotion channels, lack of courtroom procedure experience among academics, and Bar Council restrictions.
- **Bar Council Rule 49 Restraints:** Rule 49 of the Bar Council of India Rules prevents full-time salaried law professors from practicing as advocates in courts, widening the gap between academic theory and active practice.
- **Call for Reform:** Legal scholars and the Consortium of National Law Universities advocate for relaxing practice restrictions on law faculty to bridge "law in books" and "law in action," encouraging academic representation on the Bench.

Essential Definitions

- **Distinguished Jurist:** An eminent legal scholar, philosopher, or academic recognized for exceptional mastery of jurisprudence, statutory interpretation, and legal principles, regardless of courtroom litigation experience.
- **Judicial Restraint:** A judicial philosophy encouraging judges to limit the exercise of their own power and defer to elected legislative and executive bodies unless actions violate the Constitution.
- **Rule 49 of BCI Rules:** A regulatory rule mandating that any advocate entering full-time salaried employment must surrender their right to practice before courts during such employment.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 124(3) of the Indian Constitution:** Specifies three alternative qualifications for SC judges: 5 years as a High Court judge, 10 years as a High Court advocate, or being a "distinguished jurist" in the President's opinion.
- **Article 217 of the Indian Constitution:** Outlines qualifications for High Court judges, from which the "distinguished jurist" clause was briefly added in 1976 and removed in 1978.
- **Bar Council of India Rules (Rule 49):** Statutory regulation restricting full-time salaried employees, including academic faculty, from actively practicing law.

Conclusion Invoking the "distinguished jurist" route under Article 124(3)(c) can enrich Supreme Court jurisprudence with deep academic and comparative perspectives. Relaxing practice restrictions for law professors and broadening Collegium consideration will help fulfill the Constituent Assembly's vision of an inclusive, multi-faceted judiciary.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Polity & Governance):** Directly relevant for topics concerning judicial appointments, the Collegium system, constitutional qualifications under Article 124, judicial reforms, and the intent of Constituent Assembly debates.
- **Mains Application:** Provides analytical context for questions evaluating diversity on the Supreme Court Bench, academic integration in judicial policy-making, and structural reforms in legal education and practice.

10. Bihar's Concerns on Ganga Treaty Will Be Considered

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Ganga Water Treaty Expiration:** The 1996 bilateral Ganga Water Sharing Treaty between India and Bangladesh is set to expire on December 31, 2026, making its potential renewal a major diplomatic priority.
- **Objections from Bihar:** Senior JD(U) leader Sanjay Jha urged the Central Government not to renew the treaty in its current form, arguing that it has negatively impacted Bihar for 30 years by inducing upstream silt accumulation and seasonal water shortages.
- **Assurance by External Affairs Ministry:** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar assured that Bihar's socio-economic and ecological concerns will be factored into decisions regarding the treaty's future.

Will consider Bihar's concerns before Ganga treaty renewal, says Jaishankar

- **Inter-Ministerial Stakeholder Consultations:** The Ministry of Jal Shakti has held multiple inter-ministerial meetings—including representation from the Bihar state government—to establish a broad consensus before finalizing terms.
- **Critique of Past Gujral Doctrine:** The 1996 agreement has been critiqued by state leadership as a product of asymmetric concessions under the 'Gujral Doctrine' that failed to protect upstream riparian rights within India.
- **Diplomatic Delays:** Ongoing political shifts in Bangladesh and strained bilateral exchanges have added complexities to initiating top-level negotiations ahead of the treaty's expiration date.

Essential Definitions

- **Ganga Water Treaty (1996):** An historic agreement signed between India and Bangladesh establishing a 30-year formula for sharing lean-season waters of the Ganga River at the Farakka Barrage.
- **Gujral Doctrine:** A foreign policy initiative formulated in the late 1990s asserting that India, as the larger neighbor in South Asia, should extend non-reciprocal concessions to its smaller neighbors in good faith.

- **Upstream Siltation:** The excessive accumulation of river-borne sediment in upstream stretches of a river system, often exacerbated by downstream barrage operations, reducing water holding capacity and elevating flood risk.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 253 of the Indian Constitution:** Empowers Parliament to make any law for the whole or any part of the territory of India for implementing any treaty, agreement, or convention with foreign countries.
- **Seventh Schedule (List I, Entry 10 & 14):** Grants exclusive legislative powers to the Union Government regarding foreign affairs, treaty-making, and entering into agreements with foreign countries.
- **Seventh Schedule (List II, Entry 17):** Assigns water, irrigation, canals, drainage, and water storage to the State List, subject to List I Entry 56 (Interstate Rivers).
- **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956:** Provides the statutory foundation for managing shared river basins internally, requiring coordination between central treaty mandates and state water rights.

Conclusion Balancing international treaty obligations with internal federal interests is essential for sustainable river basin management. Incorporating scientific assessments and regional state concerns into transboundary water negotiations helps safeguard domestic water security while maintaining regional diplomatic stability.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Polity & International Relations):** Highly relevant for questions on India-Bangladesh bilateral relations, transboundary water treaties, federalism in foreign policy, and federal-state coordination on international agreements.
- **GS Paper III (Environment & Disaster Management):** Directly applicable to discussions on river siltation, flood management in the Ganga basin, water resource management, and ecological impacts of large dams and barrages.

11. Forex Swap Rakes in Over $136 Billion

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Record Forex Inflows:** Foreign exchange inflows mobilized through the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) special USD-INR forex swap facility reached $136,377 million, surpassing initial market projections.
- **Breakdown of Mobilized Capital:** Data released by the RBI shows $127,226 million was raised via Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) [FCNR(B)] deposits, $5,260 million through Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs), and $3,891 million through External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs).
- **Mitigating External Volatility:** The RBI introduced this facility on June 8 to counter severe forex outflows driven by high global oil prices and equity sell-offs by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).

- **Closing Short Forward Dollar Positions:** The central bank may prioritize utilizing the received dollars to settle its $137 billion outstanding short forward position instead of rolling it over, absorbing excess Rupee liquidity from the banking system.
- **Liquidity & Inflation Management:** The RBI has actively absorbed surplus Rupee liquidity (standing around ₹6.5 lakh crore) to keep call rates aligned with the policy rate and prevent inflationary pressures.
- **Strengthening Commercial Bank Balance Sheets:** Banks are expected to utilize the enhanced liquidity to bolster their asset-side balance sheets, lower reliance on expensive wholesale deposits, and fund long-term credit growth.

Essential Definitions

- **Forex Swap:** A financial agreement where two parties exchange principal and interest in different currencies, used by central banks to manage liquidity and currency volatility.
- **FCNR(B) Deposit:** Term deposits in foreign currencies offered to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), allowing them to maintain funds in foreign denominations without foreign exchange risk.
- **Short Forward Dollar Position:** Currency derivative contracts in which the central bank commits to sell US Dollars at a predetermined future date to defend the local currency.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934:** Grants the RBI statutory powers to manage foreign exchange reserves (Section 17) and regulate national monetary stability and liquidity operations.
- **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999:** Provides the legal architecture governing external trade, foreign currency transactions, cross-border capital flows, and foreign currency accounts.
- **Banking Regulation Act, 1949:** Regulates the liquidity ratios, asset quality, and operational frameworks of commercial banks operating within India.

Conclusion The mobilization of over $136 billion via the special forex swap demonstrates effective proactive liquidity management by the RBI. Absorbing excess Rupee liquidity and closing forward dollar positions provides crucial economic insulation against global spillovers while backing credit expansion.

UPSC Relevance

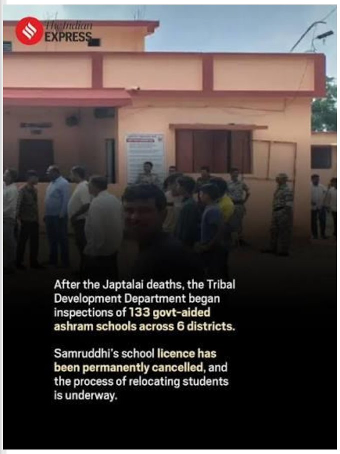
- **GS Paper III (Indian Economy & Monetary Policy):** Highly relevant for questions on RBI monetary policy tools, foreign exchange reserve management, liquidity management, exchange rate stabilization, and balance of payments dynamics.
- **Mains Application:** Offers quantitative data and structural insights for analyzing central bank interventions during capital outflows, managing systemic liquidity, and assessing external sector resilience.

12. Govt Turns to 2016 Report on Tribal School Deaths

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Revisiting Salunkhe Committee Findings:** Following widespread student protests over poor conditions in tribal residential institutions, the Maharashtra government has revisited a 2016 committee report to address preventable deaths in ashram schools.
- **Preventable Student Mortality:** The committee led by former Director General of Health Services Dr. Subhash Salunkhe revealed that 793 out of 1,077 student deaths recorded in tribal ashram schools between 2001 and 2016 were preventable.
- **Healthcare & Infrastructure Gaps:** Major recommendations emphasize deploying full-time nurses, upgrading emergency ambulance networks, conducting campus risk assessments, and hiring private medical practitioners where public health centers are unavailable.
- **Staffing and Social Welfare Mandates:** The panel urges immediate filling of staff vacancies—including teachers, cooks, sanitation workers, and lady superintendents—alongside deploying trained social workers for student psychological counseling.
- **Kitchen Overhaul & Academic Institutional Support:** It recommends reforming kitchen and food services to ensure proper nutrition, alongside partnering with institutions like IITs and IIMs to modernize ashram school management.
- **Time-Bound Implementation Action Plan:** The Tribal Development Department has been given a three-month deadline to examine the report, identify actionable recommendations, and prepare a structured, time-bound implementation plan.

Essential Definitions



- **Ashram Schools:** Government or government-aided residential educational institutions established in tribal-majority belts to provide free housing, education, and nutrition to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students.
- **Social Audit:** An evaluation framework through which official records, public infrastructure, and institutional performance are systematically examined with stakeholder involvement to ensure accountability.
- **Risk Assessment:** A systematic evaluation of campus safety hazards, sanitation, health vulnerabilities, and environmental factors to mitigate risks to student health and safety.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 21 of the Indian Constitution:** Guarantees the fundamental right to life and personal liberty, which includes the right to health, sanitation, safe living conditions, and human dignity for institutionalized children.
- **Article 21A & Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009:** Mandates free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14, establishing statutory norms for infrastructure, health, safety, and teacher-pupil ratios in schools.
- **Article 46 of the Indian Constitution:** Directs the State to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of Scheduled Tribes and protect them from social injustice and exploitation.
- **Fifth Schedule to the Constitution:** Provides special administrative frameworks for Scheduled Areas to ensure tribal welfare, social advancement, and protection of basic rights.

Conclusion Addressing preventable student deaths in tribal ashram schools demands moving beyond reactive policy measures toward sustained, consistent implementation of expert recommendations. Strengthening healthcare access, campus infrastructure, and administrative accountability will ensure a safe and supportive learning environment for marginalized tribal youth.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Governance, Social Justice & Polity):** Directly relevant for topics concerning tribal welfare initiatives, institutional administration of ashram schools, implementation of the RTE Act, and human rights of vulnerable groups.
- **Mains Application:** Offers actionable policy data and recommendations for questions on tribal development gaps, public health delivery in remote areas, social audit mechanisms, and governance accountability in affirmative action programs.