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THE HINDU ANALYSIS

12 JUNE 2026

Curated from The Hindu — UPSC Prelims & Mains Focus

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1 Trump Backs Off from Iran Strikes, Signals Deal Is Likely

GS 2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

THE HINDU, PG 1

WHY IN NEWS

After two days of tit-for-tat strikes with Iran, U.S. President **Donald Trump** said he would **pause further attacks**, just hours after threatening to hit the country “very hard” and seize **Kharg Island** and its energy infrastructure. He claimed Tehran had “approved” talks.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- ◆ Trump said discussions with the **Islamic Republic of Iran** had been brought to the highest level of Iranian leadership and approved, leading him to cancel the scheduled strikes and bombings.
- ◆ He claimed final points were approved “by all parties involved”, including the United States, Israel, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Turkiye, Pakistan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan and Egypt.
- ◆ The U.S. **naval blockade of Iranian ports** would remain in full force until the transaction is finalised — time and place of signing to be announced shortly.
- ◆ Earlier in the day, Iran had announced that it **closed the Strait of Hormuz** to all traffic after Thursday’s attack.
- ◆ Iran’s Parliament Speaker **Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf** had warned that further escalation would lead to an explosion of energy infrastructure and markets.



Kharg Island — Iran’s main oil-export hub in the Persian Gulf. Source: The Hindu.

★ KHARG ISLAND — PRELIMS POINTERS

- ◆ **Location:** A small Iranian island in the **Persian Gulf**, about 25 km off Iran's southwestern coast.
- ◆ Once called the “orphan pearl of the Persian Gulf”; today often the “forbidden island”, as access is tightly controlled by the **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)**.
- ◆ **Iran's main oil-export hub:** Connected by pipelines to major oil fields such as **Ahvaz, Marun and Gachsaran**, with deep waters suited to supertankers.
- ◆ About **90% of Iran's crude oil exports** pass through Kharg; the terminal handles roughly **1.3–1.6 million barrels/day** and can store around **30 million barrels**.
- ◆ A historical trade centre since the **10th century**, serving pearl divers and traders between India and Basra (Iraq).
- ◆ Later fortified by the **Dutch (18th c.)** and briefly occupied by the **British (19th c.)**.

✓ PRELIMS POINTER

*Remember: The **Strait of Hormuz** connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman — a critical global oil chokepoint. **Kharg Island** sits in the Persian Gulf, the single largest terminal for Iranian crude.*

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Chokepoints in West Asia have an outsized influence on global energy security. In this context, examine the strategic significance of the Strait of Hormuz and Kharg Island for India's energy interests. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

GS Paper II · International Relations

2

SC: Homemakers Build the Nation, Work Worth at Least ₹30,000 a Month

GS 2 · POLITY / SOCIETY

THE HINDU, PG 1

WHY IN NEWS

Observing that homemakers deserve to be recognised as “**nation builders**”, the Supreme Court ruled that the **unpaid domestic work** performed by them must be monetised at a minimum of **₹30,000 per month** while calculating compensation for deaths in road accidents.

THE CASE & THE RULING

- ◆ The ruling came in an appeal arising from a motor-accident claim in **Punjab**, where a woman named **Reshma** died in a road accident in **November 2001**.
- ◆ Her husband and three children approached the **Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT)**; the tribunal awarded compensation in 2003, later enhanced by the High Court to **₹8.43 lakh** with 7.5% interest.
- ◆ A Division Bench of **Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice N.K. Singh** said the homemaker’s contribution extended beyond the household and played a vital role in nation-building.
- ◆ Justice Karol held that “**loss of domestic care**” would be an additional ground to the heads of damages previously recognised by the court.

★ KEY DIRECTIONS OF THE COURT

- ◆ The court urged a shift in everyday terminology from “**housewife**” to “**homemaker**”.
- ◆ Directed the MACT to award a **separate ₹30,000/month** under the head of “**domestic care**” in cases involving the death of a homemaker.
- ◆ This is the **minimum value** of a homemaker’s unpaid work and would **increase by 10% every three years**.
- ◆ If the homemaker also had a paid job, this amount is awarded **in addition to** her income.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. The judicial recognition of unpaid domestic work as having quantifiable economic value marks a significant shift in how the State views care work. Discuss its implications for gender justice and social policy. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

GS Paper II / I · Society & Polity

3

Shah Vows to Remove AFSPA from Almost All N-E States Next Year

GS 2 · POLITY / INTERNAL SECURITY

THE HINDU, PG 3

WHY IN NEWS

Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** said the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)** will be withdrawn from the entire Northeast (N-E) next year, barring one or two States — calling the shrinking of areas under AFSPA an indicator of peace.

CONTEXT

- ◆ The remark came at the signing of a **tripartite MoU** between the Centre, Assam and Nagaland to facilitate **mineral-oil operations** in the Assam-Nagaland boundary areas.
- ◆ Oil exploration had remained stalled for more than three decades in the disputed belt due to **jurisdictional differences**.
- ◆ Shah said the MoU would open new avenues for mineral exploration, as the area holds oil, gas and huge mineral deposits.

Armed Forces Special Powers Act

AFSPA gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in **"disturbed areas"**.

AFSPA authorises the **use of force** or **open fire** to maintain **public order** in "disturbed areas." Armed forces have the following powers:

- ◆ **Prohibit gatherings of five or more people** with weapons or ammunition.
- ◆ Can **use force** or even **open fire** after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.
- ◆ If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can **arrest, search without a warrant**, and prohibit firearm possession.
- ◆ Recovery of confined individuals or unlawfully stored arms and ammunition.
- ◆ **No person can be prosecuted** for actions under the Act without prior **approval from the Central Government**.

The Act applies to the **three-armed forces** and **paramilitary forces** such as :

CRPF

BSF

Origin

- ◆ AFSPA was enacted in **1958** to address rising **violence** in the **Northeastern States**, which state governments struggled to manage.
- ◆ **Jammu and Kashmir** has a **separate J&K Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1990**

Disturbed Area

A **disturbed area** is declared by **notification** under Section 3 of the AFSPA.

The Central Government, State Governor, or Union Territory administrator can declare areas as disturbed.

Disturbances may arise from differences or disputes among various :

Religious

Racial

Language

Regional Groups

Communities

AFSPA — powers, origin and the concept of a "disturbed area". Source: The Hindu.

★ AFSPA — BACKGROUND & PROVISIONS

- ◆ Traces its history to the colonial era (1942), when the British enforced the Armed Forces Special Powers ordinance to crush the **Quit India Movement**.
- ◆ Revived after Independence in 1958 to deal with the **Naga insurgency** in Assam and Manipur (the Naga Hills were then part of Assam).
- ◆ **1972 amendment:** empowered the central government to declare any region a “**disturbed area**” and impose AFSPA without state consent; later extended to Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh. J&K has a separate **J&K AFSPA, 1990**.
- ◆ **Powers:** arrest without warrant on reasonable suspicion; search and seizure without warrant; prohibition of assembly of **five or more** persons; use of force / open fire after due warning.
- ◆ **Section 6 immunity:** personnel cannot be prosecuted for actions under AFSPA without prior sanction of the **Central Government**.
- ◆ A “disturbed area” is declared by notification under **Section 3**, by the Central Government, State Governor or UT administrator; subject to **periodic review**.

MAINS QUESTION (UPSC-STYLE)

Q. AFSPA is often viewed as a balance between national-security imperatives and the protection of civil liberties. Critically examine the need, challenges, and reforms required to ensure accountability without compromising internal security. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

GS Paper II & III · Polity / Internal Security

4 Bacillary Dysentery (Shigellosis) Cases Rise in Kerala

GS 2 · HEALTH

THE HINDU, PG 5

WHY IN NEWS

More cases of **shigellosis (bacillary dysentery)** — a highly contagious bacterial diarrhoeal disease caused by **Shigella** — are being reported across Kerala, with a total of **34 cases in June** alone.

KEY FACTS

- ◆ Shigellosis is sporadically reported from all districts every year, with occasional outbreaks; last year **133 cases** were reported, with **zero deaths**.
- ◆ At Wayanad's Mar Baselios HSS, around **514 children** showed symptoms; water from the borewell and well at the school was found **highly contaminated**.

★ SHIGELLOSIS — PRELIMS POINTERS

- ◆ A **severe diarrhoeal outbreak** involving intestinal tissue invasion by the bacteria, causing highly infectious, **bloody and mucoid stools** with high fever and severe abdominal cramps.
- ◆ Spreads through **contaminated water, food and contact** from infected surfaces; extremely infectious.
- ◆ Ingesting as few as **10 to 100 bacteria** can cause infection.
- ◆ Spreads rapidly via the **fecal-oral route**.

✓ PRELIMS POINTER

*Shigellosis is caused by the bacterium **Shigella** and is notable for its **very low infective dose** (10–100 organisms). Key public-health link: **water and sanitation (WASH)** — relevant for SDG 6 and 3.*

5

FCRA Bill, 2026 — Expanding State Control over Civil Society

GS 2 · POLITY / GOVERNANCE

THE HINDU, PG 8

WHY IN NEWS

The **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment (FCRA) Bill, 2026**, introduced in the Lok Sabha on **March 25, 2026**, is far more than a routine regulatory measure. While presented as a step towards transparency and national security, critics argue it significantly increases **executive power** over NGOs, charitable trusts and educational/religious institutions.

FROM OVERSIGHT TO OVERREACH

- ◆ The **2020 amendments** already imposed strict curbs: all foreign contributions routed through a single SBI branch in New Delhi, administrative-expenditure limit cut from 50% to 20%, a ban on sub-granting, and expanded suspension powers.
- ◆ The 2026 Bill adds a new **Chapter IIIA** (removing the earlier Section 15), creating a framework to vest organisational assets without compensation.
- ◆ **Section 14B** introduces automatic “**cessation**” of FCRA registration — an organisation could lose registration not only on denial of renewal but also for late application or a pending renewal, paralysing institutions through procedural delays.

★ THE GRAVEST CONCERN — SECTION 16A

- ◆ On cancellation, surrender, or deemed cessation, all foreign contributions and derived assets automatically “**provisionally vest**” in a government-designated authority, **without prior judicial review**.
- ◆ As cancellation under **Section 14** can rest on broad grounds like “public interest”, organisations risk losing assets even for minor or disputed breaches.
- ◆ The Designated Authority may manage, transfer or dispose of assets, with sale proceeds credited to the **Consolidated Fund of India** — effectively enabling executive confiscation.
- ◆ If restoration/re-registration is not secured in time, the vesting becomes **permanent**.

★ FCRA, 2010 — PRELIMS POINTERS

- ◆ Central legislation to regulate the **acceptance, utilisation and accounting** of foreign contributions and foreign hospitality by individuals, associations and NGOs.
- ◆ Originally enacted in **2010**, came into force in **2011**; amended in **2016, 2018 and 2020**. Administered by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- ◆ About **16,000 associations** are registered, receiving around **₹22,000 crore** annually.
- ◆ FCRA registration is valid for **five years**; renewal must be sought within six months of expiry.
- ◆ Registration may be cancelled for violations or for **no reasonable activity for two consecutive years**; once cancelled, an NGO is ineligible for re-registration for **three years**.
- ◆ Foreign funds must be received at a specified **SBI branch in New Delhi**.

MAINS QUESTION (UPSC-STYLE)

Q. The FCRA seeks to ensure transparency in foreign funding and safeguard national interests. However, concerns have been raised regarding its impact on the functioning of civil society and democratic participation. Discuss. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

GS Paper II · Governance / Polity

6

Fair and Square — The Tenth Schedule & the Speaker's Discretion

GS 2 · POLITY (ANTI-DEFECTION)

THE HINDU, PG 8

WHY IN NEWS

Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker **J.C.D. Prabhakar** decided not to pursue disqualification proceedings against **21 AIADMK MLAs** after the party's general secretary, **Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, condoned the rebels' actions — a decision seen as upholding constitutional morality.

THE EPISODE

- ◆ Contrary to the party whip, the MLAs supported the **Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)**-led government during the **trust vote on May 13**.
- ◆ Of **25 MLAs** who violated the directive, four (including two women legislators) subsequently **resigned**, leaving the Speaker's action to apply to **21 MLAs**.
- ◆ The AIADMK chief condoned the dissidents' actions within 15 days of voting, as prescribed under the Tenth Schedule and the TN Assembly's disqualification rules.

★ ANTI-DEFECTION LAW — PRELIMS POINTERS

- ◆ Introduced by the **52nd Amendment, 1985**, adding the **Tenth Schedule** to the Constitution.
- ◆ Strengthened by the **91st Amendment, 2003**, which omitted the **"split"** provision (1/3rd defection) and retained only the **"merger"** exception.
- ◆ **Grounds for disqualification:** voluntarily giving up party membership (inferable from conduct); voting/abstaining against the party whip; an independent member joining a party; a nominated member joining a party after six months.
- ◆ **Merger exception:** no disqualification if **two-thirds** of a party's legislators agree to merge.
- ◆ Decided by the **Speaker/Chairman**, subject to **judicial review** (courts intervene only after the decision). No time limit is fixed — leading to the "pocket veto" criticism.

✓ PRELIMS MCQ 1

Which of the following statements are correct in respect of the Anti-Defection Law?

1. The Anti-Defection Law found place in the Constitution by the 52nd Constitutional Amendment.
2. The Tenth Schedule was inserted in the Constitution in 1989.
3. The Anti-Defection Law was reinforced in 2002.
4. An independently elected member who joins a political party is not disqualified.

- a 2 and 4
- b 1 and 3
- c 1 and 2
- d 3 and 4

Answer: (B) 1 and 3 — Statement 1 is correct (52nd Amendment); the Tenth Schedule was inserted in 1985, not 1989; reinforcement effectively came via the 91st Amendment (notified around 2003, often cited as the 2002 Bill); an independent member joining a party is disqualified.

✓ PRELIMS MCQ 2

With reference to the anti-defection law in India, consider the following statements:

1. The law specifies that a nominated legislator cannot join any political party within six months of being appointed to the House.
2. The law does not provide any time-frame within which the presiding officer has to decide a defection case.

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

Answer: (C) Both 1 and 2 — A nominated member is disqualified if they join a party after six months; and the law fixes no time-limit for the presiding officer to decide.

7

Labour Code Rules Notified — Implementation Complete, but Workers Still Vulnerable

GS 3 · ECONOMY / LABOUR

THE HINDU, PG 8

WHY IN NEWS

With the notification of the rules for the **four labour codes** in May, the implementation framework is now complete — nearly **six years** after the codes were enacted (2019–20). Trade unions and academics argue several provisions remain regressive and detrimental to workers.

THE FOUR LABOUR CODES

- ◆ **Code on Wages, 2019; Industrial Relations Code, 2020; Code on Social Security, 2020; and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.**

CRITICAL GAPS

- ◆ **Fixed-Term Employment (FTE):** formally introduced by the IR Code, but the rules specify **no minimum tenure** and **no cap on renewals** — risking even regular posts becoming FTEs with unlimited renewals.
- ◆ **Wages:** the Code on Wages Rules give only a vague definition of the “**floor wage**”, do not clearly distinguish it from the minimum wage, and fail to lay down clear principles for fixing minimum wages. Computing the hourly wage by simply dividing the daily wage by eight is criticised as a flawed, pro-rata approach.
- ◆ **Gig workers:** the Social Security Code Rules make no attempt to clarify the employment relationship in the gig economy; gig and platform workers remain treated as **self-employed**, and the rules are silent on the envisaged **mandatory gratuity insurance**.
- ◆ **OSH Code:** certain occupation-specific welfare measures (e.g., housing and medical facilities for plantation workers) are absent; the rules do not clearly distinguish **core vs non-core** activities for contract labour.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. “The completion of the labour-code framework marks procedural progress but leaves substantive worker protections unresolved.” Critically examine in the context of fixed-term employment and the gig economy. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

GS Paper III · Economy / Labour Reforms

8

Should India Incentivise Bigger Families?

GS 1 · SOCIETY / DEMOGRAPHY

THE HINDU, PG 9 (PARLEY)

WHY IN NEWS

For decades, India promoted population control (“**Hum Do, Humare Do**”). But the **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** has now dropped to **1.9** — below the replacement rate of **2.1**, with some southern States at **1.3**. Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu has announced cash incentives of **₹30,000 and ₹40,000** for women having their third and fourth child.

KEY THREADS OF THE DEBATE

- ◆ **Why now:** fertility decline plus the prospect of **parliamentary delimitation** — southern States fear losing seats relative to higher-growth northern States.
- ◆ **Incentives & equity:** a cash incentive may not move wealthy families but could influence poorer ones, thereby **changing the social composition** of the working-age population.
- ◆ **International experience:** Poland, Sweden, France saw only short-term birth-rate bumps; reversals proved hard to sustain (as in Japan, South Korea, Singapore).
- ◆ **Federal dimension:** uneven fertility raises questions about converting populations into political representation; States with shrinking working-age populations may rely on **internal migration**.
- ◆ **Ageing India:** by **2050**, 20%+ of Indians may be aged 60 and above — demanding investment in geriatric care, pensions and a skilled, well-paid workforce.

✓ PRELIMS MCQ

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in an economy is defined as:

- a The number of children born per 1000 people in the population in a year.
- b The number of children born to a couple in their lifetime in a given population.
- c The birth rate minus the death rate.
- d The average number of live births a woman would have by the end of her child-bearing age.

Answer: (D) — TFR is the average number of live births a woman would have by the end of her reproductive (child-bearing) age.