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Current Affairs *Analysis*

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3 September 2026

Bar Council & the SC

1.5°C Overshoot

Blue Carbon

NSA & Liberty

River Interlinking

U.S. Tariff Risk

India-China Boundary

Women & Public Life

Onion Economics

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STORIES

EDITOR'S FOCUS

Today's edition is dense with **polity & governance** (Bar Council oversight, preventive detention) and **environment** (the 1.5°C overshoot pathway, blue-carbon valuation). Pair the NSA story with Article 22 safeguards, and the mangrove story with ISFR 2023 data for a Prelims-plus-Mains double dip.

On the **strategy front**, read the U.S. tariff and India-China boundary pieces together as case studies in *strategic autonomy* and *economic diversification*.

HOW TO READ EACH STORY

Why in News

The trigger — the exact " development you can cite in an answer intro.

Analysis

Blue-dot bullets — the core facts, " arguments and data worth underlining.

Value Addition

Static/background linkages — " Acts, Articles, institutions and definitions.

Prelims Pointer

Crisp, factual nuggets built for " objective questions.

01 SC Orders Oversight of Bar Council's Policy Decisions

GS2

The Hindu · Page 1 · Polity & Governance

WHY IN NEWS

The Supreme Court held that senior advocate Manan Kumar Mishra is only the '**pro tem**' (**temporary**) **chairperson** of the Bar Council of India (BCI) until fresh elections, and directed the Council to consult the Attorney-General and Solicitor-General before taking any major policy decisions in the interim.

- A three-judge Bench headed by **CJI Surya Kant** heard petitioners, including young lawyers, who alleged irregularities in the BCI's functioning.
- Allegations include the 2020 formation of the **BCI Pearl First Trust** with Mr. Mishra (also a BJP Rajya Sabha MP) and other office-bearers as 'permanent managing trustees'; a tie-up with the Goa government for a university on 56 acres; and an **extension of the chairperson's tenure to 5 years**.
- The Court said the AG and SG, as **ex-officio members** of the BCI, must be given prior notice and invited to any decision-making with a policy impact.
- Mr. Mishra and current office-bearers may continue only **pro tem** to ensure day-to-day functioning.

VALUE ADDITION — THE BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

- A **statutory body** under the **Advocates Act, 1961**; regulates legal education, professional standards and the State Bar Councils.
- **Sec. 3** establishes State Bar Councils; **Sec. 4** establishes the BCI; **Sec. 6** empowers State Bar Councils to enrol advocates; **Sec. 49** gives BCI rule-making power.
- Composition: members **elected from each State Bar Council** + two **ex-officio** members — the **Attorney-General** and **Solicitor-General of India**.
- Chairman & Vice-Chairman are elected from among members for a **2-year term**.
- Statutory committees: **Legal Education Committee** and **Disciplinary Committee** (Sec. 9, three members).

SC orders oversight of Bar Council's policy decisions

Manan Kumar Mishra is only 'pro tem' chief of the lawyers' body, says the top court; it directs the council to consult Attorney-General, Solicitor-General for all major decisions until fresh elections

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday made it clear that senior advocate Manan Kumar Mishra is serving only as the "pro tem" chairperson of the Bar Council of India (BCI) until fresh elections are held and directed the apex lawyers' body to consult the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General before taking any major policy decisions in the interim.

The hearing before a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant saw petitioners, including young lawyers, raise allegations, including the formation of the BCI Pearl First Trust in 2020 in which Mr. Mishra, also a BJP Rajya Sabha member,

Under scrutiny

The BCI chief, Manan Kumar Mishra, recently earned public ire with an attempt to ban the enrolment of NALSAR graduates

Allegations raised by petitioners in SC:

- Extension of the tenure of the BCI chairperson and vice-chairperson to five years

- Formation of the BCI Pearl First Trust in which Mr. Mishra and other BCI office-bearers are 'permanent managing trustees'

- A tie-up between the Trust and the Goa government to set up a university on 56 acres of land in the State

- 'Jolting' expenditures on felicitations 'running into crores'



and other BCI office-bearers are "permanent managing trustees"; a 'tie-up' between the Trust and the Goa government to set up a university on 56 acres of land in the State; "jolting" expenditures on felicitations "running into crores"; and an extension

of the tenure of BCI chairperson/vice-chairperson to five years.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, part of the Bench, said the top court did not want to encourage "shadow-boxing" around these allegations, but would certainly intervene to "maintain the

institutional integrity and credibility" of the BCI till the next bar body elections.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mishra and the current office-bearers would continue pro tem to ensure the BCI's day-to-day functioning.

"You are a pro tem chairperson. Your term is co-terminus with the elections. The Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General, as permanent ex-officio members of the BCI, would be given prior notice by you and invited to participate in any decision-making process having a policy impact... After all, the Attorney-General is as much a member of the BCI as the chairperson is," Justice Bagchi observed.

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Under scrutiny: The SC restrained the BCI's policy powers pending fresh elections.

PRELIMS POINTER

- * 'Pro tem' = 'for the time being' / temporary, pending a regular appointment.
- * Attorney-General — **Art. 76**; Solicitor-General is a subordinate law officer (statutory, not constitutional).
- * Under **Sec. 26**, if a State Bar Council's Enrolment Committee proposes to reject an application, it must refer the matter to the BCI with grounds.
- * The BCI recently drew ire for an attempt to bar enrolment of **NALSAR** graduates.

SYLLABUS LINK GS-II — Statutory, regulatory and quasi-judicial bodies; role of civil society and professional self-regulation.



02 UN Charts a Course to Manage the 1.5°C Warming-Limit Breach

GS3

The Hindu · Page 1 · Environment

WHY IN NEWS

For the first time, the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** set out a detailed '**overshoot, peak and decline**' pathway, warning that breaching the 1.5°C limit is now unavoidable and will cause irreversible ecological losses no adaptation can undo.

- The report *Limiting Overshoot* projects that the world will overshoot the **2015 Paris Agreement** goal of holding warming to **1.5°C** above pre-industrial levels 'in the next few years'.
- Even if every country delivers its national climate plan and net-zero target, peak warming reaches **1.8°C**; **current policies point to ~2.6°C by 2100** (range 1.9–3.6°C).

- The pathway seeks to hold the peak as low as possible, then bring warming **back below 1.5°C by 2100**.
- Time spent above 1.5°C carries compounding costs: faster sea-level rise, coral-reef collapse, glacier loss exceeding a quarter of global mass by 2100, and up to **14% declines in food output by 2050** without adaptation.
- It raises the odds of **irreversible tipping points** — West Antarctic & Greenland ice sheets, the **AMOC**, and the Amazon.
- The report lands amid uncertainty: the **U.S.** exited the Paris Agreement and announced withdrawal from the **UNFCCC, IPCC and Green Climate Fund**.

VALUE ADDITION — UNEP & KEY BODIES

- UNEP is a UN agency founded after the **1972 Stockholm Conference** (UN Conference on the Human Environment).
- With the **WMO**, UNEP established the **IPCC in 1988**.
- UNEP is an implementing agency for the **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** and the Montreal Protocol's Multilateral Fund.
- Key UNEP reports: **Emissions Gap Report, Global Environment Outlook, Frontiers, Adaptation Gap Report**.
- 'Overshoot' = temporarily exceeding a temperature target, then using net-negative emissions (carbon removal) to return below it.

UN charts course to manage global warming-limit breach

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Warning that a possible breach of the 1.5 degrees Celsius global warming limit will bring irreversible ecological losses that no adaptation initiatives could undo, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on Wednesday, for the first time, set out a detailed "overshoot, peak, and decline" pathway.

The pathway projects a trajectory where the world overshoots the 2015 Paris Agreement's central goal of limiting the rise in average global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels — which a UNEP report said was now unavoidable. The pathway seeks to hold peak temperatures after the overshoot as low as possible and then bring it back down below the limit by 2100.

The report, *Limiting Overshoot*, said global warming would cross 1.5 degrees Celsius "in the

Climate concerns

The UN report proposes a pathway to hold peak global temperature as low as possible in the coming years and bring it back within the accepted limit by 2100

■ The report says global warming will cross **1.5°C** 'in the next few years' and that this is **no longer avoidable**

■ A scenario in which every country delivers on its national climate plan and its net-zero target still puts peak global warming at **1.8°C**

■ Current policies point to about **2.6°C** global warming by 2100, with a range of 1.9–3.6°C

■ 'Overshoot, peak, and decline' is simply **'the best remaining option'**, the report says



next few years". Even a scenario in which every country delivers on its national climate plan and net-zero target puts peak warming at 1.8 degrees Celsius, it said. According to the report, current policies point to a rise of about 2.6 degrees Celsius by 2100.

"Overshoot, peak, and decline", the report said, "is by no means an acceptable or preferred path-

way; it is simply the best remaining option". "This summer's scorching heat, raging wildfires, and deadly floods are a warning of what lies ahead. We must make the overshoot as small and short as possible," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement.

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Climate concerns: UNEP's first detailed overshoot-and-decline pathway to 2100.

PRELIMS POINTER

- * Paris Agreement (2015) — long-term goal: 'well below 2°C', pursuing efforts to limit to **1.5°C**.
- * **AMOC** = Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (a major ocean current system).

- * **Net-zero** = anthropogenic emissions balanced by removals; distinct from 'carbon neutral'.
- * Green Climate Fund (2010, under UNFCCC) is headquartered in **Songdo, South Korea**.

SYLLABUS LINK GS-III — Conservation, environmental pollution, climate change and related international agreements & institutions.



03 Pichavaram Mangroves Valued at ₹2,485 Crore

GS3

The Hindu · Page 5 · Ecology & Blue Carbon

WHY IN NEWS

A study estimated the **Total Economic Value (TEV)** of the Pichavaram mangrove ecosystem in Tamil Nadu at **₹2,485.38 crore** (₹1.83 crore per hectare), spotlighting mangroves as undervalued natural capital and powerful **blue-carbon** sinks.

- Pichavaram is among India's most significant coastal wetland ecosystems — vital for biodiversity, fisheries, coastal protection, climate regulation and livelihood security.
- Many ecosystem services stay undervalued in development planning because their benefits are **non-market** and not captured in transactions.
- The **blue-carbon** assessment highlights mangroves as a major natural carbon sink; sediments form an even larger reservoir than vegetation.
- Average **soil organic carbon** stock of **251.14 tonnes/ha** yields ~₹90.24 lakh/ha, a total soil carbon value of **₹1,224.63 crore**.
- Combining vegetation and soil pools, the **total blue-carbon asset value** is ~**₹1,612.40 crore**.
- The study urges integrating ecosystem-service valuation into coastal planning and expanding **carbon-credit & Payment-for-Ecosystem-Services (PES)** mechanisms.

VALUE ADDITION — MANGROVES IN INDIA

- Per **ISFR 2023**, India's mangrove cover is ~**4,992 sq. km** (~0.15% of geographical area).
- Major sites: Odisha (**Bhitarkanika**), Andhra Pradesh (Godavari-Krishna delta), Gujarat, West Bengal (Sundarbans), Kerala and the Andamans.
- **Sundarbans** — world's largest contiguous mangrove forest; **Bhitarkanika** — India's second largest.
- **Blue carbon** = carbon captured by coastal & marine ecosystems (mangroves, seagrass, salt marshes); stored for centuries in waterlogged soils.
- Mangroves capture carbon up to **10× faster** than tropical forests, mostly stored below ground.
- Protection: **Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017**; CRZ regime; MISHTI scheme (2023) for mangrove afforestation.

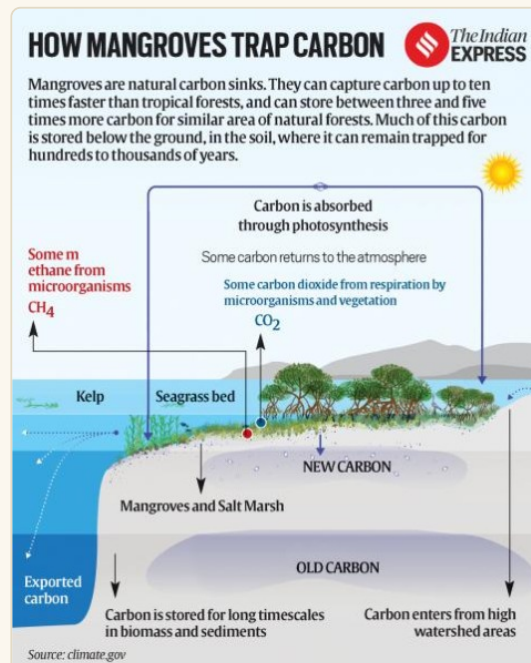
PRELIMS POINTER

- * **TEV** = use value + non-use value (existence, option, bequest values).
- * State of Forest Report is published biennially by the **Forest Survey of India (FSI)**, Dehradun.
- * '**PES**' rewards communities for maintaining ecosystem services (e.g., watershed protection).

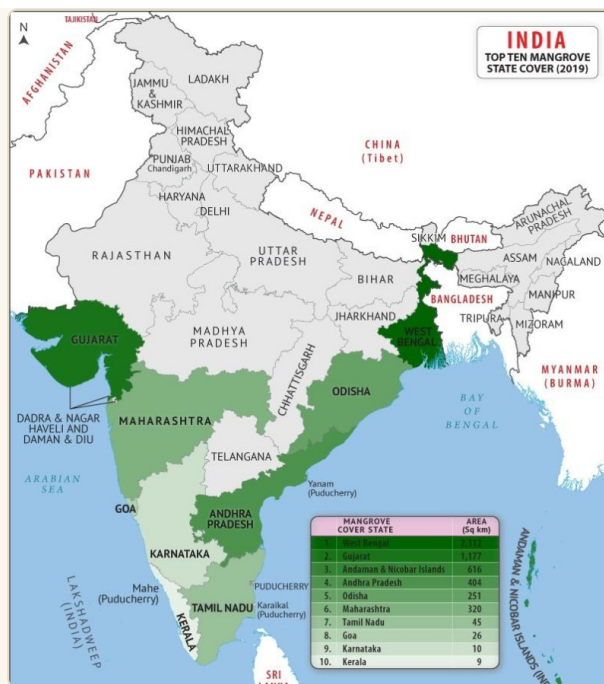
- * India is a party to the **Ramsar Convention** (1971) on wetlands of international importance.



Green gold: Pichavaram is a highly significant coastal wetland in India.



How mangroves trap carbon — new & old carbon storage in biomass and sediment.



India's top mangrove-cover States (2019): West Bengal, Gujarat and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands lead.

SYLLABUS LINK GS-III — Conservation of ecosystems & biodiversity; environmental valuation; carbon markets and blue economy.



04 Allahabad HC Quashes Student's NSA Detention, Calls Case a 'Concocted Story'

GS2 The Hindu · Page 10 · Polity & Rights

WHY IN NEWS

The Allahabad High Court quashed the **National Security Act (NSA)** detention of DU law student Akriti Chaudhary — in custody nearly five months over a Noida workers' protest — flagging discrepancies in the arrest notice and terming the State's version a 'concocted story'.

- A Bench of Justices **Atul Sreedharan** and **Achal Sachdev** allowed her **habeas corpus** plea and ordered immediate release, unless required in another case.
- The Court found **major inconsistencies** in the State's account and directed the **DM, Noida to pay ₹5 lakh compensation**.
- The UP Police invoked the NSA a month after the April protest, alleging she instigated stone-pelting and arson.
- She argued she was **already in custody before** the April 13 violence and that the detention was procedurally flawed with **no factual basis**.
- The Court questioned why **no show-cause notice** preceded the warning under **Sec. 130 BNSS**; the police general diary showed she was arrested **before** the notice was prepared, and the State failed to produce video evidence.

VALUE ADDITION — PREVENTIVE DETENTION & THE NSA

- **NSA, 1980** is a **preventive detention** law — detaining a person to *prevent* a future threat to national security or public order, not to punish a past crime.
- It empowers the Centre or a State to detain a person acting prejudicially to national security, public order, or supplies/services essential to the community.
- Maximum period of confinement under the NSA: **12 months**.
- **Art. 22(3)(b)** permits preventive detention; **Art. 22(4)** caps detention at **3 months** unless an **Advisory Board** reports sufficient cause.
- The NSA also provides for a **National Security Council (NSC)** to advise the PM.
- **Habeas corpus** (Art. 32 / Art. 226) — ‘produce the body’ — is the key remedy against illegal detention.

Allahabad HC quashes student's NSA detention, calls case 'concocted story'

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday quashed the detention of Delhi University law student Akriti Chaudhary under the National Security Act (NSA). The 25-year-old has spent nearly five months in custody over the workers' protest in Noida in April this year.

A Bench of Justice Atul Sreedharan and Justice Achal Sachdev allowed Ms. Chaudhary's *habeas corpus* plea and ordered her immediate release, unless she was required in another case. The court flagged discrepancies in the arrest notice and called the State's version a “concocted story”.

Speaking to *The Hindu*,



Akriti Chaudhary

advocate Charlie Prakash, who represented Ms. Chaudhary along with senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, confirmed that the court has quashed the detention. “The court found major inconsistencies in the State's account of her arrest and detention. The court has also asked the DM Noida to pay her compensation of ₹5 lakh,” he added.

Ms. Chaudhary was

among several activists arrested in cases related to the protest held between April 10 and 18, during which industrial and contractual workers demanded salary hikes and parity with wages paid in neighbouring Haryana. On April 13, the protest had turned violent and roads were blocked.

The Uttar Pradesh Police invoked the NSA against Ms. Chaudhary a month later and alleged that she had instigated protesters to engage in stone-pelting and arson. During a press conference, the police claimed to have “strong electronic and videographic evidence” against her.

Ms. Chaudhary argued that she was already in custody before the violence

began on April 13. She said that there was no factual basis for her detention, and the process leading to her preventive detention was procedurally flawed.

The State had submitted in the court that Ms. Chaudhary was arrested at 10.56 a.m. on April 12 and was issued a warning notice under Section 130 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita. Justice Sreedharan questioned why no showcause notice was issued before the warning.

The court then called for the police's general diary, which showed that Ms. Chaudhary was arrested before the notice was prepared. The State also failed to submit the video footage showing Ms. Chaudhary provoked protesters.

The Court ordered Akriti Chaudhary's immediate release and ₹5 lakh compensation.

PRELIMS POINTER

- * Safeguards under Art. 22(1)–(2) (arrest & legal representation) do **not** apply to preventive detention.
- * **NSC** (formed 1998) is chaired by the **PM**; the **National Security Adviser (NSA)** heads its Secretariat.
- * NSC tiers: Strategic Policy Group, National Security Advisory Board, and the Secretariat.
- * **BNSS, 2023** replaced the CrPC, 1973; Sec. 130 deals with security for keeping the peace/good behaviour.

SYLLABUS LINK GS-II — Fundamental Rights; protection under Art. 22; role of the judiciary in safeguarding personal liberty.



05 'River-Linking Is Not the Solution'

GS1

The Hindu · Page 7 · Editorial / Geography

WHY IN NEWS

Amid renewed political push for linking rivers — from the Brahmaputra to the Godavari and Cauvery — the editorial argues that **demand-side water management**, not large inter-basin transfers, is the sustainable answer to India's water stress.

- The Union Home Minister at the Southern Zonal Council (Mamallapuram) urged early resolution of southern water disputes and floated large-scale river-linking as a fix for '100 years'.
- The piece notes the difficulty via the **Pennaiyar dispute**: Tamil Nadu, aggrieved by the 1892 inter-State agreement, sought a tribunal in 2019; progress remains slow.
- Many experts warn that once transfers begin, surplus regions may **vociferously demand water even in lean years**, depriving original users of their quota.
- Kerala opposes the **Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar** link, fearing damage to the **Vembanad** wetland system.
- In '130-odd years' India has seen only a handful of inter-basin transfers, mostly in the south.
- The alternative urged: **conserve available water**, incentivise farmers to optimise use, and curb indiscriminate groundwater extraction driven by free power.

VALUE ADDITION — INTERLINKING OF RIVERS (ILR)

- **ILR** = planned transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins via canals, reservoirs and dams.
- The **National Perspective Plan (NPP, 1980)** envisages **30 links** — **14 Himalayan** + **16 Peninsular**.
- Implementing agency: **National Water Development Agency (NWDA)**, 1982.
- Progress: PFRs for all 30; FRs for 26; DPRs for 11.
- **Ken-Betwa Link (MP-UP)** is the **first project under implementation** (₹44,000 cr); foundation stone laid 2024; affects the Panna Tiger Reserve.
- Constitutional context: **Water is a State subject** (List II, Entry 17), subject to Union power over inter-State rivers (List I, Entry 56); **Art. 262** + Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.

Advantages of Interlinking of Rivers (ILR)

Water Transfer

Moves 200 BCM annually, aiding 600 million drought-affected people.

Agriculture Boost

Expands irrigation to 34 million ha; 2.5 lakh acres sown.

Hydropower Potential

Adds ~34,000 MW renewable electricity, meeting industrial

Economic Growth

Inland waterways reduce freight costs by 50%, enhancing regional trade.

Sustainable Management

Reduces groundwater stress, optimizes surface water for long-term use.

Social Benefits

Generates rural jobs, eases women's water burden,

Claimed advantages of ILR — water transfer, irrigation, hydropower, trade and social gains.

River-linking is not the solution

The Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah's speech at the Southern Zonal Council's meeting last month in Manipalpuram has provided a few takeaways on the contentious issue of water sharing. His emphasis on the need for an early resolution of water-related issues in the southern region appears well meaning but it is easier said than done. He had also talked about linking major rivers from the Brahmaputra to the Godavari and the Cauvery, an option that, according to Mr. Shah, can ensure that India faces no water shortage for 100 years.

However, water issues are not that easy to solve. This is evident from the Centre's response to Tamil Nadu's demand for the constitution of a tribunal to adjudicate the Pennaiyar river water dispute. Aggrieved over the "violation" of the 1892 inter-State agreement by Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, in November 2019, requested the Centre to establish a tribunal. It had also moved the Supreme Court with the same demand. Since then, two negotiation committees have been formed and 11 meetings held. Eventually, the top court, this February, directed the Centre to form the tribunal within a month and, later, extended the deadline by six months.

Still, the adjudicatory body is yet to be put in place. Meanwhile, the Centre asked the court whether the Pennaiyar dispute could be referred to the Mahadayi Water Dispute Tribunal instead of constituting a new tribunal. This suggestion defies logic as there is nothing in common between the two



T. Ramakrishnan

disputes. Moreover, the Interstate River Water Disputes Act, 1956 does not permit it. This suggestion in the Pennaiyar case gives the impression that the Centre is not keen on expeditiously implementing a judicial verdict in an inter-State river dispute. To cite one more example, the Central government has not yet replied to Tamil Nadu's demand, in March this year, to constitute a tribunal on the Meledatu dam project proposed by Karnataka.

A complex problem

Given this background, one need not delve much into the complications that would entail by the inter-linking of rivers. Proponents of river linking, including Tamil Nadu, have been saying that the idea is not to disturb the natural flow of any river but to divert a portion of the surplus water. Many experts are not convinced about this argument as they are worried that once the linking is allowed, regions that benefit may become vociferous in demanding water even in times of distress, eventually depriving original beneficiaries of their quota. This is apart from the concerns over the possible adverse consequences on ecology. In fact, Kerala has been stoutly opposing the Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link proposal, which, if implemented, the State says, will affect the Vembanad wetland system, where the Pamba and Achankovil rivers drain. However, the National Water Development Agency says that it has accounted for improving the flow of rivers in lean periods.

In the last 130-odd years, the country has seen only a handful of inter-basin transfer projects, most of which are in south India. The

Mullaperiyar dam, the Parambikulam-Aliyar project, the Krishna Water Supply Project, and the Indira Gandhi Canal Project are regarded as successful examples of inter-basin transfer of river waters.

After the Bharatiya Janata Party's return to power in 2014, the Union government formed a Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers, which has held over two dozen meetings since then.

Needless to say, there has not been much headway.

However, in 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the ₹44,000 crore Ken-Betwa Link Project. This has now led to agitations by the tribal populations in Chhatarpur.

What the governments, both at the Centre and in States, and civil society should focus on is demand side management, instead of perpetually looking for supply side interventions.

With land becoming scarcely available and resistance growing among people when it comes to land acquisition, the days of implementing mega irrigation projects are almost over. The priority has to be towards conserving what is available and using it judiciously. A massive programme of sensitising and incentivising farmers on the optimal use of water has to be launched. Indiscriminate extraction of groundwater, facilitated by schemes of free electricity for agriculture in many States, is paving the way for ecological disaster and has to be curbed immediately. Unless water conservation becomes the mantra of all the stakeholders and is practised genuinely, disputes will be the norm.

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In the last 130-odd years, the country has seen only a handful of inter-basin transfer projects, most of which are in south India.

The editorial cautions that inter-basin transfers can entrench, not resolve, water conflicts.

PRELIMS POINTER

- * Himalayan component depends on links with **Nepal & Bhutan** — requires diplomatic water-sharing accords.
- * River water disputes are adjudicated by **tribunals** under the ISRWD Act, 1956 (Art. 262 bars court jurisdiction).
- * **Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers** set up in 2014 to push implementation.
- * Peninsular component's key link: **Godavari (Polavaram)–Krishna** transfer.

SYLLABUS LINK GS-I — Distribution of water resources; GS-III — conservation, infrastructure, environment vs. development.



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

GS2

The Hindu · Page 6 · IR / Economy

WHY IN NEWS

The U.S. Senate passed the **Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, 2026**, authorising tariffs of **up to 100%** on major importers of Russian crude — a direct risk to India, which now sources roughly half its crude from Russia.

- Before the Russia-Ukraine war, Russian crude was just **2% of India's imports**; it is now **roughly half**, having cut India's import bill and given strategic room.

- The Bill (awaiting House approval) targets the five largest importers of Russian crude/gas that 'knowingly' make new purchases after enactment.
- On July 24, the U.S. imposed **forced-labour tariffs on 60 countries**, including a 10% duty on India under **Section 301** of the Trade Act, 1974; a cumulative tariff could reach **~110%**.
- GTAP-model simulations show a **sanction scenario** cutting India's welfare by ~\$46.6 bn, with GDP, exports (-5.1%) and imports (-5.2%) all contracting.
- A **diversification scenario** (proxied by an India-EU FTA) reverses this: welfare +\$26.3 bn, exports +3.1%, imports +2.6% — even while India keeps buying Russian crude.
- Takeaway: **export diversification + domestic reforms** (trade facilitation, logistics, quality upgrading) can cushion tariff shocks and build long-term resilience.

VALUE ADDITION — TRADE TERMS & INSTITUTIONS

- **Section 301**, US Trade Act 1974 — unilateral tool to retaliate against 'unfair' foreign trade practices.
- **GTAP** (Global Trade Analysis Project) — a computable general-equilibrium model for trade-policy simulation.
- **FTA** = Free Trade Agreement; the India-EU FTA is under negotiation.
- **Tariff vs non-tariff barriers** (quotas, standards, licensing); India seeks to move up the 'goods quality ladder'.
- India's energy diversification also involves **strategic petroleum reserves** and rupee-trade settlement.

Reducing India's exposure to U.S. tariff risks

The U.S. Senate recently passed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, imposing sanctions and authorising additional tariffs and other restrictions related to Russia. Most concerning is a provision authorising tariffs of up to 100% on countries among the five largest importers of Russian crude oil or natural gas if they knowingly make new purchases after enactment. Though it still awaits House approval, enactment could have serious implications for India's economic interests.

The Russian oil dilemma

India has diversified its energy supplies in recent years to reduce its crude import bill and gain strategic advantage amid global uncertainty, driving a sharp rise in Russian crude imports. Before the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Russian crude accounted for just 2% of India's imports; it is now roughly half.

In 2026 alone, imports nearly doubled from 4.54 MMT in January to 8.96 MMT in May. While



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The Lindsey O. Graham Act puts India under pressure, but export diversification and domestic reforms can cushion shocks

the strategy has helped secure supplies, it carries diplomatic costs, particularly in managing ties with the United States, which seeks to strongly discourage these imports. The U.S. Russia Sanctions Act reflects this pressure.

On July 24, before the bill's introduction, the U.S. imposed forced-labour tariffs on 60 countries, including India, under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, imposing an additional 10% tariff, a replacement of the expired 10% duty under Section 122, on India. If the Russia Sanctions Act becomes law, India's cumulative tariff could reach 110%, making it one of the most heavily tariffed countries. Such high tariffs could affect India's price competitiveness in the U.S., a major export market, leading to economic losses. China's cumulative tariff could reach 112.5%, as both countries are major importers of Russian crude.

Trade simulations and results

To analyse the trade dynamics and possible way forward for India, two global trade simulations were conducted using the GTAP dataset and model, a global general equilibrium model that captures global linkages and country-level shocks. The first (sanction scenario) models a 110% U.S. tariff on India, with other countries facing forced-labour tariffs and China facing 112.5%. The second (diversification scenario) applies the same tariffs while India pursues export diversification, proxied by a full India-European Union free trade agreement (FTA).

The simulation results suggest that the proposed U.S. sanctions could have adverse consequences for the Indian economy. Under the sanction scenario, India's welfare declines by nearly \$47 billion, while GDP, output, domestic demand, exports, and imports all contract. Aggregate exports fall by 5.1% and imports by 5.2%, reflecting disrupted trade flows and weaker

economic activity. The results indicate that a prolonged tariff-based confrontation with the U.S. could impose substantial costs on India's growth and trade performance.

The picture changes considerably when India responds through export diversification. With a functional India-EU FTA, the economy turns around despite the same tariff environment. Welfare improves by \$26.3 billion, GDP turns positive, and sectoral output and domestic demand recover by around 1%. Aggregate exports increase by 3.1%, while imports rise by a moderate 2.6%, indicating stronger production and trade integration with alternative markets.

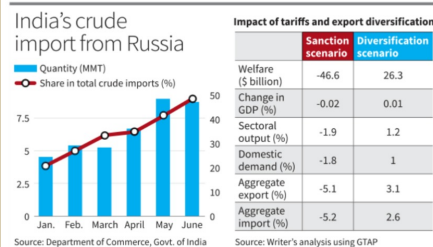
The findings suggest that even if India continues procuring crude from Russia to strengthen its energy security, the adverse economic effects of U.S. tariffs can be mitigated to a large extent through export diversification. The India-EU FTA, used here as a proxy for diversification, demonstrates that India must increasingly look beyond the U.S. and expand its presence in alternative markets, even as the U.S. remains one of its largest export destinations.

The strategy to pursue

However, diversification is not a panacea. It depends on the ability of other markets to absorb additional Indian exports. Without adequate external demand, diversification may remain limited.

Therefore, export diversification must be complemented by sustained domestic reforms, including trade facilitation, removal of non-tariff barriers, improved logistics and standards, and movement up the goods quality ladder. Such a strategy would not only enhance India's resilience to future geopolitical shocks but also strengthen its long-term export competitiveness.

The views expressed are personal



Simulations suggest export diversification can offset most of the tariff-shock cost.

PRELIMS POINTER

- * India's crude basket is priced off the **Indian Crude Basket** (Oman-Dubai sour + Brent sweet blend).
- * A **secondary sanction** targets third parties dealing with a sanctioned entity.
- * WTO's **Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN)** principle; unilateral tariffs strain the multilateral order.

* India's top export destinations: **USA**, UAE, Netherlands.

SYLLABUS LINK GS-II — Effect of policies of developed countries on India's interests; GS-III — external sector, energy security.



07 'Early Harvest' — Larger, but Not Necessarily Safer

GS2

The Hindu · Page 6 · India & the World

WHY IN NEWS

The 25th round of Special Representatives (SR) talks on the boundary question released '**Eight Points of Outcomes and Consensus**', reviving an '**Early Harvest**' on delimitation — but the piece cautions that expanding scope may raise strategic costs and concessions.

- The talks advanced the **Expert Group** and the **Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination (WMCC)** to work towards an early and substantial harvest on boundary delimitation.
- The **Sikkim Sector** is not open-and-shut: both sides accept the **Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1890** as the 'basis of alignment', but differ on the watershed principle and the Batang La/Gipmochi tri-junction.
- Since the **2017 Doklam standoff**, China has built roads, villages and military facilities across western Bhutan, gaining de facto control over **Doklam**.
- The Eight Points are **silent on the Medog County project** on the **Yarlung Tsangpo** — the world's largest hydropower plant — near the Eastern Sector in a highly earthquake-prone zone.
- India must raise concerns on the dam and on **trans-border river data-sharing MoUs**, underscored by the August 26 flash floods in Nepal.

VALUE ADDITION — INDIA-CHINA BOUNDARY

- Three sectors: **Western** (Ladakh — Aksai Chin), **Middle** (HP, Uttarakhand), **Eastern** (Sikkim, Arunachal — along the McMahon Line).
- The de facto boundary is the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**; the **SR mechanism** began in 2003.
- **2005 Agreement** on Political Parameters & Guiding Principles — a key framework for settlement.
- **Delimitation** (defining the line on paper/map) precedes **demarcation** (marking it on the ground).
- **Doklam** is a tri-junction of India-China-Bhutan; strategically overlooks the **Siliguri Corridor** ('Chicken's Neck').



The India-China border's Western, Middle and Eastern sectors, and the Doklam tri-junction.

st' — larger but not necessarily safer

On August 25, 2006, in Beijing, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi held the 25th round of talks between the Special Representatives (SRs) on the India-China boundary question. That evening's readouts from both sides were anonymous and notably avoided a phrase that has dominated this discussion for a year: early harvest. A day later, the two sides released an "Eight Points of Outcomes and Consensus". Point 3 restored and enhanced the phrase: the Expert Group on Boundary Delimitation and the Working Group on Border Management, set up under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) a year ago, would "respectively advance discussions on an Early and Substantial Harvest of boundary delimitation and Border Management". Their first task, it adds, is to agree on their own terms of reference, one year after they were constituted, suggesting that whatever is being contemplated remains at an early stage.

An uncertain Early Harvest
The phrase "Early and Substantial Harvest" is significant because it is India's own coinage. When Beijing first proposed settling the Sikkim Sector alone, India's considered response, around 2019, was a counter-proposal on an "Early and Substantial Harvest" covering the Sikkim Sector together with the entire Middle Sector, with the boundary delineated along the watershed. China rejected the proposal. In subsequent discussions on an "Early Harvest," China reportedly agreed only to include the Sikkim Sector and some undisputed areas of the Middle Sector — a proposal that was unacceptable to India.

The exact Indian formulation has now resurfaced in a joint document. This could mean that Beijing has accepted India's terms — which this writer doubts — as that would involve China giving up its claim to approximately 2,450 square kilometres of territory in the Middle Sector, all south of the watershed boundary (Baraboti, Gu Kaurik, Nilang-Jadhag, Sangha Malla, and Laphal). It could equally mean something the Indian side had rejected earlier: an "agreement with holes", a settlement nominally covering both sectors but confined to stretches where the claims already coincide, leaving the trijunctions and contested pockets of the Middle Sector undefined.

If that is the case, we will have the same asymmetric outcome as with a Sikkim-only settlement — India conceding ground where its position is strong, without any progress in the Eastern and Western Sectors, where China maintains its headline position, "dong tiao xi rang", meaning "meaningful adjustments by India in the East and corresponding concessions by China in the West". It would also jettison a key provision (Article III) of the 2005 Agreement on



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Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary, which calls for a "package settlement" covering all sectors of the India-China boundary, opting instead to bank the easy gains immediately while leaving the hard issues open on China's terms. The package clause exists precisely because the boundary's four sectors are strategically interlinked, requiring cross-sector give and take.

No open-and-shut case

The Sikkim Sector is also not the open-and-shut case that some suggest. The two sides agree that the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1890 is the "basis of the alignment" of the boundary in this sector. However, Article I of the Convention contains two stipulations that are mutually contradictory. Its first sentence makes the watershed crest the boundary, while its second names Mount Gipmochi as the starting point on the Bhutan frontier. Yet, British Indian maps of 1907 and 1913 placed the trijunction not at Gipmochi but roughly 6.5 kilometres to its north, on the true watershed crest. India and Bhutan read the watershed principle as controlling and place the trijunction at Batang La; China seizes on the literal reference to Gipmochi to push the trijunction southwards, onto the Jamphri Ridge. A Sikkim delimitation built on the 1890 text, unless it repudiates Gipmochi, would be read by Beijing as conceding the southern trijunction.

Even a trijunction-reserved settlement would strip India of the standing to counsel Bhutan against a bilateral deal, having itself settled out turn nearby. China's "package proposal" to Bhutan — relinquishing roughly 495 sq km of claims in the north in exchange for Bhutan ceding about 269 sq km in the northwest, including the Doklam Plateau — would gain fresh momentum, deepening China's presence in the Chumbi Valley and opening a path to the Jamphri Ridge, from which the entire Siliguri Corridor, India's sole overland link to its northeastern States, would come under direct observation. This is not hypothetical: since the 2007 Doklam standoff, China has spent years building roads, villages, and military facilities across western Bhutan, gaining de facto control over Doklam.

A genuine "Early and Substantial Harvest" requires three things. First, delimitation must proceed on the highest-watershed principle across the entire stretch in both sectors, rather than selectively along segments where the two positions already converge, which would serve no purpose for India. Second, trijunction points, at Batang La and any comparable third-country-adjacent points in the Middle Sector, must be explicitly excluded from the Expert Group's mandate and settled only in consultation with the country concerned, as stipulated in the 2012 Common Understanding between the two SRs. However, unless the highest-watershed principle is accepted, silence

on the trijunction will, on the ground, be filled in Beijing's favour in Bhutan. Third, the terms of reference for the Expert Group must extend India's 2019 proposal in good faith, rather than dilute it beyond recognition.

Several questions about these negotiations remain unanswered. The Chinese readout of August 25 reiterates a commitment to a "package" settlement, but how will that commitment be reconciled with a piecemeal approach to settlement? How is the setting up of an Expert Group on Delimitation consistent with the instructions given to the SRs in Article X of the 2005 Agreement, which require them to "continue consultations in an earnest manner with the objective of arriving at an agreed framework for a boundary settlement, which will provide the basis for the delineation and demarcation of the India-China boundary to be subsequently undertaken by civil and military officials and surveyors of the two sides"? There is no agreed framework yet, but it is proposed to commence the process of "delimitation", a term that the Chinese use interchangeably with "demarcation". Indeed, the 2005 Agreement does not use the term "delimitation" at all. Will the SRs earnestly pursue negotiations on the "agreed framework", or will they, in effect, leave it in abeyance while officials grapple with a partial delimitation exercise without such a framework? The other elements of the Eight Points — additional meeting points and hotlines for the General Level Mechanisms in the Eastern and Middle Sectors, continued pilgrimage and border trade, and a September meeting on trans-border rivers — are useful, incremental confidence-building measures. But they belong to a different track from boundary settlement and should not be conflated in public discussion.

The Eight Points are silent on the Medog County project on the Yarlung Tsangpo River, while referring to both sides agreeing to "maintain communication on (trans-border river) issues, including hydrological data sharing and renewal of the relevant MoUs", without reporting any progress. The September meeting should convey India's concerns about the project — the world's largest hydropower plant — being built close to the border in the Eastern Sector, in a highly earthquake-prone zone, a risk underscored by the flash floods in Nepal on August 26.

Avoid optics

Two points bear reiteration. First, the 2005 Agreement — the only substantive outcome of 23 years of SR talks — must not be diluted; China has sought to reinterpret and undermine it since its conclusion. Second, Indian negotiators must guard against the temptation to project contrived progress. Diplomacy that trades long-term strategic interests for short-term optics is self-defeating.

The article urges India to guard against trading long-term strategic interests for 'early' optics.

PRELIMS POINTER

- * The **Yarlung Tsangpo** becomes the **Siang/Brahmaputra** in India — India is a lower riparian State.
- * **WMCC** established in 2012 to coordinate on border management.
- * '**Early Harvest**' = concluding easier, low-hanging elements of an agreement first.

* The 1890 Convention concerned the **Sikkim-Tibet** boundary.

SYLLABUS LINK GS-II — India and its neighbourhood; bilateral agreements; boundary management and strategic autonomy.



08 ‘Orthodoxy Redux’ — Religion Used to Suppress Women in Public Life

GS1

The Hindu · Page 6 · Society

WHY IN NEWS

A cleric's directive restricting Muslim women's participation in public celebrations in Kerala has reignited debate on **women's right to public life** and the limits of religious authority under a constitutional order.

- The editorial argues that communities may preserve traditions, but must **conform to constitutional values** — religious norms cannot override women's equal rights.
- Telling women to stay home because their presence could cause 'chaos' shifts the issue from religious observance to a clash with **constitutional equality**.
- The Muslim community is **not a monolith**: more women are advancing in education, work and politics, even as a counter-current of renewed orthodoxy pushes back.
- It stresses that religious freedom **does not confer** on religious authorities the power to regulate women's freedom of movement, association and participation.

VALUE ADDITION — CONSTITUTIONAL & RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

- **Art. 14, 15, 21** guarantee equality, non-discrimination and dignity/personal liberty.
- **Art. 25–28** protect religious freedom — but subject to public order, morality, health and other FRs.
- The '**essential religious practices**' test lets courts examine whether a practice is integral to a religion.
- Key cases: **Sabarimala (2018)** — women's temple entry; **Shayara Bano (2017)** — triple talaq struck down.
- Constitutional morality is held to prevail over social/religious custom in matters of individual rights.

Orthodoxy redux

Religion is oft used as a tool to suppress women in the public sphere

Veteran Islamic cleric Kanthapuram A.P. Aboobacker Musliar's directive to restrict Muslim women's participation in public celebrations has unsettled Kerala because it strikes at a fundamental question: women's right to participate in public life. This is not merely a quarrel over how Muslims should mark Prophet Muhammad's 1,501st birth anniversary. It is a test of how far religious authority can intrude into the lives of women in a State that takes pride in its progressive social history. Kanthapuram says he is merely reminding followers of established religious norms. His supporters argue Milad celebrations have moved beyond mosques and madrasas into large public events, and that scholars have a duty to caution against such departures. That argument holds no weight. Communities have the right to preserve traditions and regulate religious practices, but they have to conform to the values enshrined in the Constitution. When women are told to remain at home because their presence could cause "chaos", the issue is no longer about religious observance; it is at variance with constitutional equality and Kerala's long struggle to expand the space in public life for women disadvantaged by social customs and religious traditions.

The Muslim community is not a monolith. It

The Muslim community is not a monolith. It contains both orthodox and progressive currents. More Muslim women are breaking barriers in education, employment, politics and public life, but that progress is encountering a counter-current of renewed orthodoxy and social control. The CPI(M), Kerala's main Opposition party and a decades-old ally of the Kanthapuram-led faction of Samastha Kerala Jamiyyathul Ulama, a body of Sunni scholars, has responded sharply. The Congress, which leads the ruling coalition, was largely guarded until Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan rubbished the decree as antediluvian. The Indian Union Muslim League's silence is harder to defend. A party with an active women's forum and a woman legislator for the first time in the State Assembly cannot equivocate when women's right to public participation is open to challenge. Its caution may reflect political pressure over Waqf, *Vande Mataram* and PM-SHRI, or an attempt to improve ties with the Kanthapuram faction amid strained relations with the rival Samastha faction. Whatever the political calculation, silence carries a cost. Religious freedom does not confer on religious authorities the right to regulate women's freedom of movement, association and degree of participation in society. During Onam, social media were awash with videos of young Muslim girls celebrating the harvest festival. Kanthapuram's remarks drew criticism from a section of Muslim women on social media. Kerala cannot claim to be progressive while making exceptions for orthodoxy.

'Orthodoxy redux': the editorial frames the row as a test of constitutional equality.

PRELIMS POINTER

- * **Art. 15(3)** allows the State to make **special provisions** for women and children.
- * The **DPSP (Art. 39)** direct equal right to livelihood for men and women.
- * 'Constitutional morality' — a Dr. Ambedkar phrase invoked in Sabarimala and Navtej Johar.
- * India is a party to **CEDAW** (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women).

SYLLABUS LINK GS-I — Role of women; social empowerment; GS-II — Fundamental Rights and the secular constitutional order.



09 'Many Layers' — Farmers Need Storage and Better Distribution

GS3

The Hindu · Page 6 · Agriculture / Economy

WHY IN NEWS

India's recurring **onion price volatility** exposes a decades-old balancing act between cheap food for consumers and remunerative prices for farmers — the editorial calls for proactive **storage and distribution** reform over reactive export bans.

- Since the 1960s the State has managed short-term volatility rather than fixing structural gaps in **storage, trade policy and inter-regional stock movement**.

- Onion export controls flip-flopped: a ban (Dec 2023–May 2024), then a **\$550/tonne MEP** and **40% export duty**, cut to 20% (Sep 2024), abolished (Apr 2025).
- Frequent policy reversals hurt farmers who make **production decisions on expected prices**; many had to sell at ₹1/kg despite a raised procurement price of up to ₹26.45/kg.
- **Tamil Nadu's subsidy** (1 kg/ration card at ₹35) discourages hoarding but pressures the Centre to maintain supply.
- Distributing onions through a **dry-grain PDS** is risky: post-harvest losses (10–15%, up to **30%** this year) can collapse the economic case and quickly exhaust the central buffer.

VALUE ADDITION — PRICE POLICY TOOLKIT

- **MEP** (Minimum Export Price) — floor price below which exports are barred; a supply-management tool.
- **Buffer stock** for onions/pulses is maintained under the **Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF)**.
- **MSP vs market price**: onion is not an MSP crop; prices are market-driven and highly volatile.
- **PDS** = Public Distribution System (dry rations); perishables strain its logistics.
- **NAFED** and **NCCF** are the key agencies for onion procurement and buffer operations.
- 'Kharif' (monsoon-sown) vs 'rabi' (winter-sown) — rabi onions store longer; kharif shortfalls spike prices.

Many layers

Farmers need more storage facilities and better distribution networks

Since the 1960s, India has developed a balancing-act habit: between keeping food prices affordably low for consumers and assuring farmers of remunerative prices, with the state's interventions focused on managing this volatility in the short term. This is also why the government banned onion exports from December 2023 to May 2024, then imposed a \$550/tonne minimum export price and a 40% export duty, reduced the duty to 20% in September 2024, and finally abolished it in April 2025. But erratic weather together with the lack of long-term relief has rendered the act increasingly awkward. From farmers' point of view, the government often changes its mind after they have made important production-related decisions based on the expected price. On the other hand, during the bounteous *rabi* harvest, onion farmers in Maharashtra, the country's principal supplier, had argued that the Centre's procurement price of ₹12.35/kg would not cover the costs of cultivation. The Centre subsequently raised the price to up to ₹26.45/kg, but many farmers — including some who had had to sell at ₹1/kg earlier because of low quality and lack of storage, among other factors — were unable to capture the higher value, exposing the limits of intervening after prices have already collapsed and not reaching all farmers or grades of produce.

all farmers or grades of produce.

While the government has alluded to some price manipulation, the dominant issue remains that it keeps reacting instead of taking proactive measures, including improving storage options, maintaining a less erratic trade policy, moving stock more efficiently between regions, and protecting farmers against price shocks. The abnormal rainfall at the time of harvest and a 5%-7% drop in the *kharif* crop in Maharashtra, together with the well-known challenges associated with storing onions and maintaining large buffers, are simply among the pressures that highlighted the flaw this year. Further, Tamil Nadu's targeted subsidy, to buy 1,000 tonnes of onions to distribute 1 kg per ration card at ₹35, will impose pressures on the Centre to maintain a steady supply. The move is commendably designed to discourage hoarding while allowing private retail prices to cool down. However, the State must also guard against the pitfalls of distributing onions through a dry-grain PDS network — its economic case could collapse if post-harvest losses, to which onion is more susceptible than, say, wheat or rice, exceed 10%-15% — and if the need arises to persist with the subsidy. Finally, if other States also adopt similar measures, the Central buffer could be quickly exhausted, more so given this year's high storage losses of around 30%.

The editorial argues for storage-led, proactive intervention rather than reactive export bans.

PRELIMS POINTER

- * Maharashtra is India's principal onion supplier; **Lasalgaon** hosts Asia's largest onion market.
- * **Operation Greens** (TOP — Tomato, Onion, Potato) targets price stability & value-chain infrastructure.
- * Price Stabilisation Fund is administered by the **Dept. of Consumer Affairs**.

- * Post-harvest losses reflect weak cold-chain and warehousing — addressed via **AIF** (Agri Infrastructure Fund).

SYLLABUS LINK GS-III — Issues of buffer stocks and food security; agricultural marketing; e-technology & storage for farmers.



PRACTICE ZONE

Mains answer-writing & Prelims MCQs from today's edition

MAINS QUESTION 1 · GS-I / GS-III

Inter-linking of rivers is often projected as a permanent cure for India's water insecurity. Critically examine the ecological, federal and economic challenges of river-linking, and suggest a demand-side water-management alternative. (250 words)

नदी जोड़ो परियोजना को अक्सर भारत की जल असुरक्षा का स्थायी समाधान बताया जाता है। नदी जोड़ो से जुड़ी पारिस्थितिकीय, संघीय और आर्थिक चुनौतियों की समीक्षा कीजिए तथा मांग-पक्ष जल प्रबंधन का एक विकल्प सुझाइए। (250 शब्द)

APPROACH · Intro: define ILR & NPP (30 links). Body: ecological costs (Ken-Betwa & Panna), federal friction (water a State subject, tribunals), economic/financial viability, downstream & riparian effects. Alternative: watershed & rainwater harvesting, micro-irrigation, groundwater regulation, crop diversification. Conclude with an integrated, demand-side water-security vision.

MAINS QUESTION 2 · GS-II

Preventive detention tests the balance between individual liberty and collective security. In light of recent judicial pronouncements, discuss the constitutional safeguards against the misuse of preventive-detention laws such as the NSA. (150 words)

निरोधक निरोध व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता और सामूहिक सुरक्षा के बीच संतुलन की परीक्षा लेता है। हालिया न्यायिक निर्णयों के आलोक में, NSA जैसे निरोधक निरोध कानूनों के दुरुपयोग के विरुद्ध सांविधानिक सुरक्षा उपायों की चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्द)

APPROACH · Intro: preventive vs punitive detention. Body: Art. 22(3)–(7), 3-month cap & Advisory Board, grounds of detention, habeas corpus (Art. 32/226); cite the Allahabad HC ruling & judicial trend. Note procedural safeguards & concerns of misuse. Conclude balancing liberty with security via strict judicial scrutiny.

PRELIMS MCQS · 10 QUESTIONS

Q1. With reference to the **Bar Council of India (BCI)**, consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961.
2. The Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General are its ex-officio members.
3. Its Chairman is nominated by the Chief Justice of India.

Which are correct?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 and 2 only | (b) 2 and 3 only |
| (c) 1 and 3 only | (d) 1, 2 and 3 |

Q2. The terms '**overshoot, peak and decline**' recently in news are associated with:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (a) monetary policy targeting | (b) a UNEP climate-warming pathway |
| (c) semiconductor supply chains | (d) demographic transition |

Q3. The **IPCC** was established jointly by:

- (a) UNEP and WMO
- (b) UNEP and UNFCCC
- (c) WMO and WHO
- (d) UNDP and GEF

Q4. 'Blue carbon' refers to carbon captured by:

- (a) deep-sea mining zones
- (b) tropical rainforests
- (c) coastal & marine ecosystems like mangroves
- (d) industrial carbon-capture plants

Q5. As per the **ISFR 2023**, which State/UT has the largest mangrove cover in India?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) West Bengal
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Odisha

Q6. Regarding **preventive detention** in India, consider:

1. Article 22(4) generally caps detention at three months without an Advisory Board's approval.
2. The maximum period of detention under the NSA is 12 months.

Which is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither

Q7. The **National Security Council (NSC)** of India is chaired by the:

- (a) National Security Adviser
- (b) Union Home Minister
- (c) Prime Minister
- (d) Defence Minister

Q8. The **Ken-Betwa Link Project**, first under the National Perspective Plan, connects rivers in:

- (a) Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Maharashtra and Gujarat
- (c) Karnataka and Tamil Nadu
- (d) Odisha and Andhra Pradesh

Q9. **Section 301**, frequently in trade news, belongs to which country's trade law?

- (a) European Union
- (b) United States
- (c) China
- (d) Japan

Q10. The **Doklam** plateau is a tri-junction of the boundaries of:

- (a) India, Nepal and China
- (b) India, Bhutan and China
- (c) India, Myanmar and China
- (d) India, Bangladesh and China

ANSWER KEY & RATIONALE

1. **(a)** BCI is statutory (Advocates Act, 1961); the AG & SG are ex-officio members. The Chairman is elected from among members, not nominated by the CJI — so 3 is wrong.
2. **(b)** It is UNEP's pathway (report *Limiting Overshoot*) to temporarily exceed 1.5°C and then return below it by 2100.
3. **(a)** The IPCC was set up in 1988 by UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
4. **(c)** Blue carbon is stored by mangroves, seagrasses and salt marshes — largely in waterlogged soils for long periods.
5. **(b)** West Bengal (Sundarbans) has the largest mangrove cover; the Sundarbans is the world's largest contiguous mangrove forest.
6. **(c)** Both are correct: Art. 22(4) sets the three-month norm; the NSA permits detention up to 12 months.
7. **(c)** The NSC (formed 1998) is chaired by the Prime Minister; the NSA heads its Secretariat.
8. **(a)** Ken (MP) is linked to Betwa (MP-UP); it affects the Panna Tiger Reserve and is the first ILR under implementation.

9. (b) Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act, 1974 allows unilateral retaliation against 'unfair' trade practices.

10. (b) Doklam is the India-Bhutan-China tri-junction; it overlooks India's strategic Siliguri Corridor.

QUICK REVISION RECAP

- **BCI**: statutory body (Advocates Act 1961); AG & SG ex-officio; SC put its policy powers under oversight.
- **UNEP overshoot**: 1.5°C breach now unavoidable; policies point to ~2.6°C by 2100; return below 1.5°C by 2100.
- **Pichavaram**: TEV ₹2,485 cr; blue-carbon asset ~₹1,612 cr; ISFR 2023 mangrove cover ~4,992 sq km.
- **NSA**: preventive detention (max 12 months); Art. 22(4) 3-month norm; Allahabad HC quashed a 'concocted' detention.
- **ILR**: NPP — 30 links (14 Himalayan + 16 Peninsular); Ken-Betwa first under implementation; water a State subject.
- **US tariffs**: Graham Act — up to 100% on Russian-crude importers; export diversification cushions the shock.
- **India-China**: SR talks 'Eight Points'; 1890 Convention (Sikkim); Doklam & Yarlung Tsangpo (Medog) dam concerns.
- **Women & public life**: religious authority cannot override constitutional equality (Art. 14/15/21/25).
- **Onion**: volatility from weak storage; MEP/export-duty flip-flops; up to 30% post-harvest losses this year.

PRELIMS TRAP-SETTERS

- △ **Delimitation vs Demarcation**: delimitation defines the line on map/paper; demarcation marks it on the ground.
- △ **Constitutional vs Statutory**: BCI is statutory (Advocates Act) — not a constitutional body.
- △ **AG vs SG**: Attorney-General is constitutional (Art. 76); Solicitor-General is statutory — both are ex-officio BCI members.
- △ **Preventive vs Punitive detention**: preventive detention aims to prevent; safeguards of Art. 22(1)–(2) do not apply to it.
- △ **1.5°C target**: Paris goal is 'well below 2°C', pursuing efforts towards 1.5°C — not a hard 1.5°C cap.
- △ **Sundarbans vs Bhitarkanika**: Sundarbans is the world's largest contiguous mangrove; Bhitarkanika is India's second largest.
- △ **NSA the Act vs NSA the Adviser**: National Security Act (1980) ≠ National Security Adviser (heads NSC Secretariat).
- △ **MEP vs MSP**: Minimum Export Price manages exports; onion has no MSP — its price is market-driven.

End of Today's Analysis — Keep Revising, Keep Winning.

