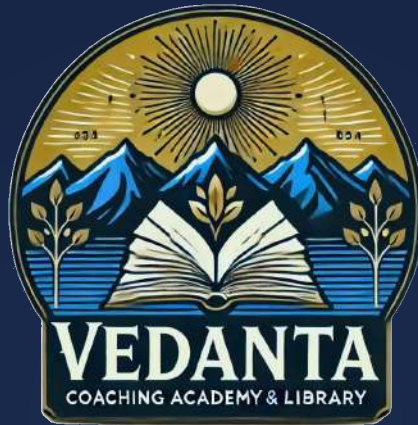




DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The Hindu Analysis

UPSC CSE & State PSC · Prelims + Mains

Sunday · 07 September 2026

POLITY

IR

SCI-TECH

GOVERNANCE

ENVIRONMENT

COMPILED BY

Sapna Chauhan

VEDANTA COACHING ACADEMY & LIBRARY



Contents

TODAY'S COVERAGE · 7 TOPICS

The Hindu
07 Sep 2026

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---------------|
| 01 | Building Collapse in Delhi & the Case for Rehabilitation
Disaster Management | GS III |
| <hr/> | | |
| 02 | Spurious Liquor Deaths in Madhya Pradesh
Governance & Health | GS II |
| <hr/> | | |
| 03 | Judicial Integrity – A Case the Court Cannot Ignore
Polity & Judiciary | GS II |
| <hr/> | | |
| 04 | 'Steady Gaze' – ISRO's EOS-05 Earth-Imaging Satellite
Science & Technology | GS III |
| <hr/> | | |
| 05 | Harnessing BRICS 'POWER' to Empower the World
International Relations | GS II |
| <hr/> | | |
| 06 | The Political Cost of Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) Schemes
Governance & Social Justice | GS II |
| <hr/> | | |
| 07 | 'No FRA Provision for Gram Sabha Consent': Tribal Affairs Ministry
Polity & Environment | GS II |

7
TOPICS

5
GS II

2
GS III

2
MAINS Q

10
PRELIMS MCQ

★ EDITOR'S FOCUS

A dense polity-heavy edition. Anchor topics: the **Delhi building collapse** (disaster & rehabilitation), the **MP hooch tragedy** (methanol chemistry & Art 47), **judicial integrity** at the Rajasthan HC, **ISRO's EOS-05** geosynchronous imaging satellite, the **18th BRICS Summit** in New Delhi, the **political economy of UCT schemes**, and the **FRA 'gram-sabha consent'** controversy. Master the Prelims Trap-Setters at the end – ethanol vs methanol and geosynchronous vs sun-synchronous are classic UPSC bait.



Analysis

TOPIC-WISE BREAKDOWN

The Hindu
07 Sep 2026

01 GS III Disaster Management Building Collapse in Delhi & the Case for Rehabilitation

► WHY IN NEWS

Five persons were killed when a five-storey building housing college students collapsed in Satya Niketan near Delhi University's South Campus — a densely populated hub for paying-guest accommodation.

- Of the **11 people** pulled out of the debris, four were declared brought dead at AIIMS and one died later of critical injuries.
- An FIR under **Sections 105, 290 and 125(a) of the BNS** was filed against the building owner, Hariram Bansal, and others.
- The structure — a basement plus five floors housing the PG 'Hostel Daze' — was **at least 50 years old**; residents said nearly 30 students were staying there and repair work was under way in the basement.
- India's rapid urban expansion after the 2000s was **not matched by infrastructure maintenance**, leaving cities with ageing buildings, weak structural monitoring, poor enforcement of safety norms and inadequate rehabilitation policies.
- **Building rehabilitation** refers to the repair, strengthening, retrofitting, renovation or redevelopment of ageing or structurally weak buildings to improve safety and extend usable life — unlike demolition, it preserves infrastructure wherever technically feasible while ensuring public safety.

Five killed as building housing students collapses in Delhi

Shrimansi Kaushik
NEW DELHI

Five persons were killed when a five-storey building housing college students collapsed on Sunday in Satya Niketan, a densely populated hub for paying guest accommodation near the South Campus of Delhi University.

Of the 11 people pulled out of the debris, four were declared brought dead at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. One was in critical condition and died later.

A first information report under Sections 105, 290 and 125 (a) of the BNS has been filed against the building owner, Hariram Bansal, and others.

The building housed a PG accommodation named Hostel Daze. Residents



Rescue workers at the site on Sunday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Residents said the structure, comprising a basement and five floors, was at least 50 years old. They added that nearly 30 students were staying in the building. Repair work was under way in the basement, the police said.

CONTINUED ON
» **PAGE 10**
RELATED REPORTS ON
» **PAGES**

'Five killed as building housing students collapses in Delhi' — The Hindu, Page 1.



NDRF and rescue teams clear debris at the collapse site in Satya Niketan.

★ WHY DO BUILDINGS COLLAPSE?

- **Ageing infrastructure** — many buildings exceed their designed life without any structural audit.
- **Weak municipal enforcement** — unsafe buildings are flagged but evacuation orders are poorly implemented.
- **Illegal construction** — unauthorised additions weaken structural stability.
- **Poor maintenance culture** — focus on building new assets over maintaining existing ones.
- **Climate change** — extreme rainfall, urban flooding and heat stress accelerate deterioration.

PRELIMS POINTERS

- **NDMA** issues disaster-risk-reduction guidelines including structural-safety measures.
- **National Building Code (NBC), 2016** provides standards for design, construction, fire safety and maintenance.
- Per NDMA assessments, poor maintenance sharply raises disaster risk during heavy rainfall, earthquakes and cyclones.

WAY FORWARD / ANALYSIS

A dedicated programme should identify, repair and retrofit unsafe public and private buildings; periodic structural audits must be made compulsory for ageing buildings; and AI, drones, IoT sensors and GIS mapping can enable real-time monitoring of structural health, with greater financial and technical support to Urban Local Bodies.

Syllabus Link — GS III — Disaster and disaster management; infrastructure. GS I — Urbanisation and associated problems.

02

GS II Governance & Health

Spurious Liquor Deaths in Madhya Pradesh

► WHY IN NEWS

At least 11 people died after consuming spurious liquor in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh; the Chief Minister ordered a probe and action was initiated against excise and police officials for negligence.

- Victims fell ill across four villages — Nauraj, Gogra Khurd, Bamura and Patan; post-mortems indicated that consumption of **methyl alcohol** may have caused the deaths.
- The State suspended three excise officials and two police officers, relieved one excise official and transferred her; **12 suspects** were detained.
- Under Directions of CM Mohan Yadav, the government launched a police investigation and the State Excise Commissioner said action was taken against four officials for failing to act on earlier complaints about spurious-liquor sale.

Spurious liquor kills 11 in M.P.; CM orders probe

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

At least 11 people died after consuming spurious liquor in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh on Sunday.

Narendra Solanki, Additional Superintendent of Police of Sagar, told *The Hindu* that those who fell ill were hospitalised. "But all are out of danger now," he said.

Officials said that early on Sunday, people fell ill in four villages — Nauraj, Gogra Khurd, Bamura, and Patan.

Sagar Collector Pratibha Pal said the post-mortem examinations were still under way and the administration was on the lookout for people who had fallen ill. Ms. Pal said a few post-mortem examinations indicated that consumption of methyl alcohol may have caused the deaths. "Interactions with local people indicated that the deaths occurred after they



Tragic incident: A person being airlifted to AIMS, Bhopal for advanced treatment on Sunday. He died in the hospital. A.H. FAUQUI

(victims) consumed illegal, spurious liquor," she said.

Following directions from Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, the State government launched a police investigation, suspended three excise officials and two police officers, and relieved one excise official from duty and transferred her.

Speaking in New Delhi, Mr. Yadav termed the deaths "extremely distressing and unfortunate" and said "no guilty party will be spared".

Deepak Saxena, the State Excise Commissioner, told *The Hindu* that action had been taken against four officials for serious negligence and for failing to act on recent complaints about the sale of spurious liquor in some villages of the district. Sagar Superintendent of Police Anurag Sujania said 12 suspects had been detained and were being questioned.

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 10

'Spurious liquor kills 11 in M.P.; CM orders probe' — The Hindu, Page 1.

★ THE CHEMISTRY: ETHANOL VS METHANOL

- **Spurious liquor** is illegally manufactured or adulterated alcohol; '**hooch**' is homemade/bootleg liquor, often cheap and harmful.
- **Ethanol (C₂H₅OH)** is the psychoactive alcohol in beverages; metabolised in the liver/stomach by **ADH** to acetaldehyde, then by **ALDH** to acetate.
- The danger arises when ethanol is substituted with, or contaminated by, **methanol** — added illicitly to increase potency or volume.
- Methanol is metabolised into **formic acid and formaldehyde**, both highly toxic.

PRELIMS POINTERS

- Methanol poisoning → **blindness** (optic-nerve damage), **organ failure** (liver, kidneys), **neurological damage** (seizures, coma) and death.
- Alcohol content: ~5% in beer to ~40% in distilled spirits (vodka, whiskey).
- **Article 47 (DPSP):** the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of intoxicating drinks and drugs injurious to health, except for medicinal purposes.

WAY FORWARD / ANALYSIS

Alcohol is a **State subject**, so taxation, pricing and prohibition vary widely; prohibition in States like Gujarat and Bihar and frequent policy shifts create a complex environment that can push demand toward the illicit market. Robust enforcement, rapid methanol-detection kits, awareness drives and swift medical response (fomepizole/ethanol antidote, dialysis) are key to preventing hooch tragedies.

Syllabus Link — GS II — Government policies & interventions; issues relating to health. GS III — Science & Technology (basic chemistry of alcohols).

03

GS II

Polity & Judiciary

Judicial Integrity — A Case the Court Cannot Ignore

► WHY IN NEWS

Serious allegations against the Acting Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court have surfaced through letters written by a sitting Supreme Court judge to the CJI seeking the ACJ's immediate transfer — reviving concerns over judicial accountability.

- SC judge **Justice Sandeep Mehta** wrote three letters (Aug 2, 10, 17) to the CJI seeking the immediate transfer of Rajasthan HC Acting CJ **Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma**; the contents are now partly in the public domain.
- The letters refer to alleged **victimisation of judges, maladministration, improper 'shifting of cases'** to his Bench and nepotism in appointments to the Permanent Lok Adalat, plus misuse of power as 'master of the roster'.
- A High Court functioning under an Acting CJ for a long period — here about **11 months** — is not a good institutional gesture; on Aug 31 the SC Collegium recommended **Justice Sanjay Agrawal** as the new CJ of the Rajasthan HC.
- The CJI reportedly said the allegations could not be treated as findings and 'must be dealt with strictly through the established institutional mechanism'.

Judicial integrity — a case the Court cannot ignore

Serious allegations against the Acting Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court, Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma, have come to light following reports of letters written by Supreme Court of India judge Justice Sandeep Mehta to the Chief Justice of India (CJI), in which he has sought Justice Sharma's immediate transfer. Justice Mehta, who previously served as a judge of the Rajasthan High Court and is regarded for his integrity, discipline, and integrity, wrote three such letters on August 2, 10, and 17. The contents of these letters are now partly in the public domain.

Letters that raise serious questions

The letters reportedly refer to complaints about the manner in which Justice Sharma has been functioning. They also highlight alleged instances of victimisation of judges, maladministration, improper "shifting of cases" to his Bench, and nepotism in appointments to the Permanent Lok Adalat. Justice Sharma has allegedly been intimidating some of his colleagues with the threat of punitive measures, including transfers, based on his claimed proximity to the CJI. It is reported that Justice Mehta's letters refer to specific instances of alleged favouritism towards a chosen few among the lawyers and the misuse of power in his capacity as the "master of the roster". Justice Mehta's last letter reportedly expresses concern over the CJI's alleged inaction, particularly as Justice Sharma is due to retire on September 26. So far, there has been no official denial of the reports concerning the contents of the letters. Justice Sharma, of course, has publicly denied the accusations as baseless.

A High Court functioning without a regular Chief Justice and functioning under an Acting Chief Justice for a considerably long period — in the instant case, for about 11 months — is not a good institutional gesture. The fact that Justice Sharma was not earlier transferred to the Patna High Court in 2022, and that his request for reappointment to the Rajasthan High Court was rejected by the Collegium in 2023, which would have placed him under the Permanent Lok Adalat, is also not a commendable antecedent. Justice Mehta, according to reports, is said to have mentioned how such a judge came to be reappointed to the Rajasthan High Court in 2022 and subsequently, allowed to function as the Acting Chief Justice, with wide-ranging administrative and judicial powers.

Of late, there have been two crucial developments. First, lawyers at the Rajasthan High Court staged a sit-in protest on the High Court premises, following which Justice Sharma had to step out from hearing cases. Second, on August 30, the Supreme Court Collegium recommended the appointment of Justice Sanjay Agrawal as the new Chief Justice of the Rajasthan



Justice Sandeep Mehta, a judge of the Supreme Court of India.

High Court. Accordingly, Justice Agrawal is now appointed.

Allegations of corruption against sitting judges in India are neither uncommon nor unprecedented. Yet, certain unique features of the present episode are worth noting. A sitting judge of the Supreme Court reportedly alerted the CJI to the conduct of an Acting Chief Justice of a High Court, supported by verifiable material. Yet, for several months, no steps were reportedly initiated by the CJI to fix the matter. The CJI reportedly said that the allegations could not be treated as findings and that they "must be dealt with strictly through the established institutional mechanism". In spite of Justice Sharma's impending retirement, early action by the CJI to initiate Mehta's letter could perhaps have averted some of the disturbing events that subsequently unfolded.

Transparency International, in its report, has underlined the growing trust deficit in the Indian judiciary. According to its 2020 report, based on a household survey, the judiciary was identified as the second-most corrupt institution in certain South Asian countries, including India. The report is indeed shocking. Yet, the present situation in India is far more complex and multi-dimensional. There are many fine judges in India's judiciary whose integrity and public image should not be tarnished because of allegations elsewhere, whether on or off the Bench.

Institutional responsibility, structural issues

The reported episode of judicial corruption in India reflects certain fundamental issues concerning the functioning of the higher judiciary. First, the total lack of criteria, coupled with the unresolvable collaboration between the Collegium and the Executive at the Centre under the present system, makes judicial appointments highly partisan, opaque, and often arbitrary. This one-handed and piecemeal approach is incapable of identifying the cleanest and most meritorious candidates. The issue of corruption in the judiciary, like many other institutional concerns, is inseparable from the existing method of selecting candidates for judicial office. A system of ending applications, as is prevalent in Canada, or an independent body for judicial selection, as in the United Kingdom, remains untenable in India.

Second, the lack of an effective mechanism to deal with corruption in the higher judiciary in India has had the effect of perpetuating the problem. The Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, is inadequate to tackle the issue and has, for all practical purposes, become defunct. The Supreme Court, in *K. Venkateswara Choudhary v. Union of India* (1968), held that, for registering a First Information Report against a judge of the higher judiciary, the permission of the CJI is a necessary

precondition. As lawyer Prakash Bhushan rightly observed, "the police does not dare approach the Chief Justice for permission to investigate, unless they already have charging evidence, which they cannot get, unless they investigate" ("Judicial Accountability or Illusion?", Economic and Political Weekly, November 25, 2006). Although the United Progressive Alliance government facilitated the passage of the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill in the Lok Sabha in 2002, the Bill lapsed with the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha in 2004. The subsequent legislative effort to revive the Bill, with some changes, also remained a non-starter. The impact of eroding judges' accountability by Articles 228A and 228(2)(b) of the Constitution, has proved to be a failure. Likewise, the in-house mechanism adopted by the Supreme Court in 1995 has not proved to be fault-free or most effective.

Earlier crisis, different responses

But these considerations could not have been reasons for the CJI not to act promptly upon the concerns allegedly expressed by Justice Mehta. On the contrary, the lack of a permanent systemic solution to the issue raised should have been an additional reason for the CJI to take remedial measures expeditiously and diligently, and to do whatever was possible within the available. The situation called for judicial intervention.

In 1990, when an inquiry was underway against Justice V. Ramaswami for alleged misconduct, he was advised by then CJI Bheemappa Munkur, to take leave and keep away from judicial work. Thereafter, when the impeachment motion against Justice Ramaswami failed in Parliament due to the Congress party's strategic abstentions, the judge attempted to resume judicial work, with about nine months of his tenure remaining. However, then CJI Venkataiah refused to allow any case to his for hearing, under Justice R. Chaudhry's leave. When the 1993 judge's order (2005), from last year, when party to him currency notes were reportedly found in the residence of Justice Venkateswara at his Delhi residence, then CJI Sri Krishna, quickly transferred him to the Allahabad High Court, where he was not allocated any judicial work, practically. In the reported decision in *SKV v. Union of India* (2025), the Supreme Court emphasised the responsibility of the CJI in matters relating to judicial integrity and allegations of corrupt practices.

Justice Sharma allegedly claimed that the CJI is pressuring him. This was a factor that led to understandable and avoidable speculation, given the nature of the allegations and their immediate verifiability. It was imperative that the CJI acted promptly and convincingly, so that further damage to the system and the institution could have been reduced, if not prevented altogether.

'Judicial integrity — a case the Court cannot ignore' — The Hindu, Editorial page.

★ INSTITUTIONAL & STRUCTURAL ISSUES

- **Transparency International** reports underline a growing trust deficit; its 2002 household survey identified the judiciary as the second-most corrupt institution in certain South Asian countries, including India.
- The **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968** is, for practical purposes, defunct in tackling misconduct.
- In **K. Veeraswami v. Union of India (1991)**, the SC held that registering an FIR against a higher-judiciary judge needs the CJI's prior permission.
- The **Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2012** was passed in the Lok Sabha but lapsed with the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha in 2014.

PRELIMS POINTERS

- 'Master of the roster': the CJ's prerogative to allocate cases and constitute Benches.
- Removal of judges: **Articles 124(4) & 217** — the impeachment route has never succeeded.
- In-house procedure (1999) is the internal mechanism for complaints against sitting judges.

WAY FORWARD / ANALYSIS

Repeated episodes reflect a lack of an effective mechanism to deal with corruption in the higher judiciary. A credible, permanent system — a National Judicial Oversight body, revival of an accountability law with due safeguards, and greater transparency in appointments — is needed to strengthen accountability while preserving judicial independence.

Syllabus Link — GS II — Structure, organisation and functioning of the Judiciary; appointment; accountability.

04

GS III

Science & Technology

'Steady Gaze' — ISRO's EOS-05 Earth-Imaging Satellite

► WHY IN NEWS

ISRO's EOS-05 is India's first earth-imaging satellite bound for a geosynchronous orbit, meaning it is locked to the earth's rotation and can be tuned to continuously observe the same location.

- The rocket placed EOS-05 in a transfer orbit; onboard thrusters will raise it to its final perch at about **36,000 km** above the earth over the coming weeks.
- From there it can track fast-changing events — **floods, cyclones and forest fires** — and monitor crops, forests, water bodies and land use.
- Unlike a conventional camera, its sensors examine how the surface reflects **different wavelengths of light**, helping distinguish vegetation, water and other land cover (multispectral imaging).
- Its strength is not ultra-fine detail but the ability to return to the same broad areas very frequently — unlike low-orbit polar/sun-synchronous satellites that capture finer detail but constantly move around the planet.

Steady gaze

ISRO's EOS-05 satellite has uses in varied areas from security to weather

The successful launch of the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) EOS-05 satellite is India's first earth-imaging satellite bound for a geosynchronous orbit, meaning that it is locked-in to the earth's rotation and can be tuned to continuously observe the same location. The rocket placed it in a transfer orbit early on Friday; onboard thrusters are expected to raise it to its final perch at some 36,000 kilometres above the earth's surface over the coming weeks. From there it can track fast-changing events such as floods, cyclones and forest fires, and monitor crops, forests, water bodies and land use. Unlike a conventional camera, its sensors examine how the earth's surface reflects different wavelengths of light, helping distinguish vegetation, water and other land cover. Because it is perched farther away than conventional low-orbit imaging satellites, its strength is not ultra-fine detail but the ability to return to the same broad areas very frequently. India has long had eyes in geostationary orbit, but they have been weather satellites, namely the INSAT-3D series. Its dedicated earth-imaging satellites have operated in low, polar or sun-synchronous orbits. Flying a few hundred kilometres up, they capture much finer detail, but move constantly around the planet, imaging a different strip of territory on successive passes and taking days to return.

EOS-05's timing could hardly be better. Given the devastation by the Bhote Koshi deluge in Nepal, which has claimed 1,344 lives, such satellites can play some role in understanding changes in landforms and how they may act as precursors to glacier-breaks and avalanches. Or, as winter approaches in north India, in establishing whether stubble fires over Punjab have genuinely declined or burning has simply shifted in time to slip past the polar satellites. ISRO has described the EOS-05 as a "strategic" satellite, a term that stretches from security to weather. All of this is premised on the data reaching a wide enough set of analysts who can turn the images into forecasts and actionable insight. There is cheer, too, that ISRO's first successful launch of 2026 — and another vote of confidence in the cryogenic stage that failed the agency in 2021 — comes after setbacks. But that does not soften the temperamental nature of launches. Two consecutive failures of the PSLV, the agency's workhorse since the 1990s, in May last year and again this January, both traced to the third stage, suggest that dependability is not infallibility. The usefulness of its payloads, and the cadence of its launches, should be ISRO's calling card, rather than any single launch as the hallmark of institutional credibility.

'Steady gaze — ISRO's EOS-05 satellite has uses from security to weather' — The Hindu.

★ STRATEGIC & CONTEXTUAL VALUE

- India has long had weather satellites (the **INSAT-3D** series in geostationary orbit); dedicated earth-imaging satellites have flown in **low, polar or sun-synchronous** orbits.
- Given the **Bhote Koshi deluge in Nepal** (1,344 lives lost), such satellites can help understand landform changes and act as precursors to glacier-breaks and avalanches.
- They can help establish whether **stubble fires over Punjab** have genuinely declined or merely shifted in time to slip past polar satellites.
- ISRO calls EOS-05 a '**strategic**' satellite — a term that stretches from security to weather.

PRELIMS POINTERS

- **Geostationary/geosynchronous orbit:** ~35,786 km; period equals earth's rotation → appears fixed over a point.
- **Sun-synchronous orbit:** low polar orbit crossing the equator at the same local solar time.
- This was ISRO's first successful launch of 2026 and a vote of confidence in the cryogenic stage that failed the agency in 2021.

WAY FORWARD / ANALYSIS

The usefulness of its payloads and the cadence of launches — rather than any single launch — should be ISRO's calling card. Dependability requires broadening the analyst base that turns raw images into forecasts and actionable insight.

Syllabus Link — GS III — Awareness in space; achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenisation of technology.

05

GS II

International Relations

Harnessing BRICS 'POWER' to Empower the World

► WHY IN NEWS

Ahead of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi (September 12–13, 2026), the Chinese Ambassador to India set out a vision of 'greater BRICS' built around the five letters of the word POWER.

- As a force for world peace, BRICS must uphold the **UN Charter** and the basic norms of international relations — sovereign equality, non-interference and peaceful settlement of disputes — and prevent the world sliding into 'the law of the jungle'.
- BRICS should uphold the **multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core**, safeguard the most-favoured-nation principle and resist all forms of protectionism.
- It should adhere to the **Spirit of Openness, Inclusiveness and Win-Win cooperation**, keeping development at the centre of the agenda.

Harnessing BRICS 'POWER' to empower the world

The 18th BRICS Summit is about to be held in New Delhi on September 12-13, 2026. China extends full support to India for its BRICS presidency, stands ready to work with all BRICS members and partners to jointly draw a blueprint for the high-quality development of a greater BRICS, and leverage BRICS POWER to empower the world. I would like to share my personal views on the greater BRICS cooperation, with the help of the five letters of the word POWER.

The first is P for Principle. The world is now undergoing accelerated transformation unseen in a century, and witnessing a trend toward deepening multipolarity, economic globalisation, and the collective rise of the Global South. In the meantime, hegemonism and power politics are becoming increasingly rampant. Lingering geopolitical conflicts trigger a succession of crises and challenges.

As an important force for world peace and development, BRICS must resolutely uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, and safeguard the basic norms of international relations, including sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs and peaceful settlement of disputes, and prevent the world from sliding back into the law of the jungle where the strong prey on the weak.

Upholding international principles
Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward the vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity and four global initiatives, including the Global Security Initiative and the Global Governance Initiative, which provided China's solutions on addressing common human challenges and building a better world together.

The second is O for Openness. The world economy is currently facing a sluggish recovery, coupled with the spread of protectionism. Certain countries have undermined the international economic and trade order by erecting tariff barriers, seeking decoupling and disrupting supply chains.

It should be recognised that economic globalisation is an inevitable trend of history. BRICS should uphold the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization (WTO)



Xu Feihong
The Chinese
Ambassador to India

at its core, safeguard the basic principles of the WTO such as the most favoured nation treatment, and resist all forms of protectionism. We should join hands to deepen cooperation in energy and mineral resources, infrastructure, and industrial and supply chains to maintain an open global economic landscape.

China stays committed to building an open global economy, so as to share opportunities in openness, and achieve common development. The third is W for Win-Win. BRICS should adhere to the Spirit of Openness, Inclusiveness and Win-Win cooperation. We should continue putting development at the centre of the BRICS agenda, accelerate the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, strengthen dialogue and build consensus on launching the formulation of the post-2030 global development agenda, and ensure that Global South countries participate in international cooperation as equals and share the fruits of development.

Economic and financial cooperation

We should pursue mutual benefit and win-win results to further consolidate economic cooperation. It is necessary to strengthen greater BRICS coordination on macroeconomic policies and adopt more trade and investment facilitation measures. We should push forward local currency and cross-border payment cooperation and improve the financial safety net, so as to enhance the ability to ward off external risks. In the face of global energy and food security challenges, we should build a more resilient and sustainable agriculture and food system.

The fourth is E for Engine. BRICS countries account for nearly half of the world's population, around 30% of global economic output, and one-fifth of global trade. We are also home to major natural resources, key manufacturers and vast markets. According to international agencies such as the International Monetary Fund, greater BRICS growth will be nearly three times faster than the G-7 by 2028, further highlighting its role as an engine of world economic growth.

We should leverage our respective advantages, deepen practical cooperation in fields such as business, finance, science and technology,

fostering more cooperation in the digital economy, smart manufacturing, and new industrialisation. We should actively promote the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) with sectors including science and technology, health, agriculture and education, thereby injecting fresh impetus into world economic growth. China has established the China BRICS AI Development and Cooperation Center and the China-BRICS New Quality Productive Forces Research Center, and welcomes active participation of all parties.

The fifth is R for Responsibility. BRICS countries are the main force in safeguarding fairness and justice and the backbone of promoting unity and cooperation. We must shoulder the responsibility of maintaining world peace and development. Over this year and the next, India and China will take on the BRICS rotating presidency in succession. Maintaining sound coordination between our two countries is conducive to the steady and sustained progress of greater BRICS cooperation, and will better safeguard the common interests of developing countries.

China-India ties

Since the beginning of this year, under the strategic guidance of the two leaders, President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, China-India relations have maintained a momentum of improvement and development. The two sides strengthened dialogues at all levels and promoted exchanges and cooperation in various fields to achieve positive results. Five direct flight routes between the Chinese mainland and India have been resumed. After a six-year suspension, border trade has been reopened.

China looks forward to working with India to translate the important consensus reached by the two leaders into concrete actions, being good-neighbourly friends and partners that help each other, and pushing China-India relations to move forward in a sustained, healthy, and stable manner. May the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi be a great success. We welcome you all to China next year to continue empowering the world with BRICS POWER.

'Harnessing BRICS 'POWER' to empower the world' — Xu Feihong, The Hindu op-ed.

★ BRICS BY THE NUMBERS & INDIA-CHINA TIES

- BRICS accounts for nearly **half the world's population**, around **30% of global economic output** and **one-fifth of global trade**.
- Per the IMF, greater-BRICS growth will be nearly **three times faster than the G-7 by 2028**.
- India and China will hold the BRICS rotating presidency in succession over this year and the next.
- Border trade has reopened after a six-year suspension and **five direct flight routes** between the two countries have resumed.

PRELIMS POINTERS

- The **18th BRICS Summit** is hosted by India in New Delhi (Sep 12-13, 2026).
- China's framing: **Principle, Openness, Win-Win, Engine, Responsibility**.
- Global initiatives cited: Global Security Initiative and Global Governance Initiative.

WAY FORWARD / ANALYSIS

For India, BRICS is a platform to press for a multipolar order, reformed multilateralism and Global-South priorities, while managing the boundary question and trade asymmetries with China on its own terms. Strategic autonomy — not bloc alignment — remains India's guiding principle.

Syllabus Link — GS II — Bilateral, regional and global groupings involving India or affecting India's interests.

06

GS II

Governance & Social Justice

The Political Cost of Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) Schemes

► WHY IN NEWS

Since 2020, Unconditional Cash Transfer schemes have become an important electoral strategy in India, particularly to attract women voters — yet several governments that ran them were defeated in 2026, raising questions about their political economy.

- UCTs provide financial support to women and partially advance **SDG 5.4** (recognition of women's unpaid domestic and care work); per the Economic Survey, States are expected to spend about **\$18 billion** on UCTs in 2025-26.
- Critics argue such schemes function as electoral '**freebies**': financing needs expenditure switching or larger deficits, and reduces resources for productive investment and employment programmes.
- Once households become dependent, withdrawing UCTs is difficult as parties encourage **competitive welfarism**.
- A core challenge is **beneficiary identification** — since incomes are unobservable in the informal sector, governments rely on proxies (land ownership, electricity use, household assets), producing both **inclusion and exclusion errors**.

The political cost of UCT schemes

Since 2020, Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) schemes have become an important electoral strategy in India, particularly to attract women voters. Some examples of such schemes include the Kalaikar Magalir Urimai Thittam in Tamil Nadu, the Lakshmi Bhandar in West Bengal, and Gruha Lakshmi Yojana in Karnataka. Yet, despite increasing the amount of cash before the 2026 elections, some governments which implemented these schemes were defeated. One possible explanation for the loss could be the political cost associated with UCTs. UCT schemes are well intentioned as they provide financial support to women. They partially advance SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) 5.4, which calls for a recognition of women's unpaid domestic and care work. According to the Ministry of Finance's latest Economic Survey, States are expected to spend about \$18 billion on UCTs in 2025-26, much of it targeted towards women. Critics, however, argue that these schemes function as electoral "freebies." Their financing often requires expenditure switching or larger fiscal deficits, and reduces resources available for productive investments, including employment generation and skill employment programmes. Moreover, once households become dependent on UCTs, withdrawing them is difficult as political parties encourage competitive welfarism.

Targeting challenges A fundamental challenge in targeted UCT programmes is beneficiary identification. Since governments cannot



K.R. Shanmugam
Former Director, Madras School of Economics and Economic Consultant to GoTN



Sankarganesh Karupiah
Indian Revenue Services Officer

directly observe incomes for most women in the informal sector, they rely on proxy indicators such as land ownership, electricity consumption, or household assets. This inevitably produces both inclusion errors (benefits reaching ineligible households) and exclusion errors (eligible households being left out). These targeting errors, whether real or perceived, can impose significant political costs.

The Kalaikar Magalir Urimai Thittam scheme illustrates this challenge. Although the ruling party at the time promised ₹1,000 per month to all women-headed households before the 2023 election, fiscal constraints led the government to restrict eligibility based on income, land ownership, and other criteria when the scheme was launched in September 2023. Initially, about 1.13 crore women were covered. Following widespread complaints from women who believed they met the eligibility criteria, another 16.94 lakh beneficiaries were added in December 2025. The scheme cost ₹11,807 crore in 2025-26.

Despite the expansion, dissatisfaction persisted. Many women who considered themselves unfairly excluded reportedly became even more aggrieved when eligible beneficiaries received an advance payment of three months' entitlement along with a special summer relief payment. Although the precise electoral impact cannot be measured, even modest shifts in voter preferences can influence outcomes in closely contested constituencies. These experiences highlight an important

feature of targeted welfare programmes. Political costs arise not only from actual errors but also from perceived ones. Individuals who fail to satisfy official eligibility criteria may nevertheless believe that they have been treated unfairly. Likewise, households that legally qualify may be perceived as undeserving because they appear relatively affluent. Such perceived targeting errors can be as politically consequential as actual administrative mistakes.

This reveals an inherent tension between economics and politics. Economics favours targeted programmes so that scarce public resources reach those most in need. Politics, however, rewards broader inclusion because voters evaluate governments not only by the benefits they receive but also by those they believe were unfairly denied. Consequently, targeted UCT programmes carry an unavoidable political cost.

Conditional cash transfers and other incentive-based welfare programmes offer a more sustainable alternative. Linking benefits to socially desirable outcomes produces broader developmental gains. Tamil Nadu's Midday Meal Scheme illustrates this principle. Since participation depends on school enrolment, self-selection reduces grantiness.

The broader lesson is that welfare programmes tied to education or other desirable behaviours can achieve developmental objectives with lower political costs. In contrast, UCTs remain inherently vulnerable to inclusion, exclusion, and perceived targeting errors.

'The political cost of UCT schemes' — K.R. Shanmugam & Sankarganesh Karupiah, The Hindu.

★ ECONOMICS VS POLITICS OF TARGETING

- Economics favours **targeting** so scarce resources reach those most in need.
- Politics rewards **broadier inclusion**, because voters judge governments not only by benefits received but by those they believe were unfairly denied — so targeted UCTs carry an unavoidable political cost.
- **Conditional cash transfers** tied to socially desirable outcomes are a more sustainable alternative — e.g., Tamil Nadu's **Midday Meal Scheme**, where benefits depend on school enrolment.

PRELIMS POINTERS

- Example UCTs: Kalaikar Magalir Urimai Thittam (TN), Lakshmi Bhandar (WB), Gruha Lakshmi (Karnataka).
- The TN scheme (launched Sep 2023) cost **₹13,807 crore** in 2025-26 after eligibility was expanded.
- **Inclusion error**: benefits reach the ineligible. **Exclusion error**: the eligible are left out.

WAY FORWARD / ANALYSIS

The broader lesson: welfare tied to education or other desirable behaviours can achieve developmental objectives with lower political cost, whereas UCTs remain inherently vulnerable to inclusion, exclusion and perceived targeting errors. A shift toward outcome-linked, transparently-targeted transfers is the sustainable path.

Syllabus Link — GS II — Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections; issues relating to development and management of the social sector.

07

GS II

Polity & Environment

‘No FRA Provision for Gram Sabha Consent’: Tribal Affairs Ministry

► WHY IN NEWS

Amid project delays blamed on the ‘critical bottleneck’ of 100% gram sabha consent, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has said the Forest Rights Act, 2006 has ‘no provision’ for obtaining gram sabha consent for forest clearance — and that such matters fall outside its purview.

- In an Aug 31 note to NHPC’s desk in the Power Ministry, the Tribal Affairs Ministry said there is no provision for obtaining gram sabha consent for **Stage-II forest clearance** under the FRA and Rules, so ‘such matters do not fall under its purview’.
- While the FRA itself lacks explicit ‘consent’ language for diverting forest land, the Centre’s **rules under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980** require that all FRA processes be completed before a certificate diverting forests can be issued.
- Those steps — identifying potential FRA claimants, recognising and vesting their rights, and then obtaining a **no-objection certificate (NOC)** from the concerned gram sabhas — are together known as the procedure for ‘gram sabha consent’ for forest clearance.
- The FRA explicitly makes the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs the nodal ministry** for the law’s implementation.

No provision in Forest Rights Act to obtain gram sabha consent for projects: Ministry

The law explicitly states that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is responsible for its implementation. Centre’s rules and regulations require that all processes under the forest Act be completed before the concerned government authority can issue a certificate diverting the forests formally

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

In deliberations with the Union Ministry of Power over government projects delayed due to the ‘critical bottleneck’ of 100% gram sabha consent under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) for forest clearance, the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs has said that the 2006 law has “no provision for obtaining consent of the gram sabha for forest clearance”, adding that “such matters” related to gram sabha consent “do not fall under the purview of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs”.

In an official communication to the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Desk of the Power Ministry on August 31, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs said, “There is no provision for obtaining consent of the Gram Sabha for forest clearance in Stage-II forest clearance in the Scheduled Tribes and

Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and Rules made thereunder. Therefore, such matters do not fall under the purview of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs”.

While the FRA itself does not have the language of gram sabha consent specifically with respect to diverting forest land for non-forestry purposes, the Union government’s rules and regulations governing the diversion of forests specifically require that all processes under the FRA be completed before the concerned government authority can issue a certificate diverting the forests formally.

These guidelines, under the Forest Conservation Act of 1980, require the identification of potential FRA claimants, the recognition of their rights where applicable, the vesting of these rights, and then obtaining a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the



Parliamentary panel report on NHPC Limited said the average time for forest clearance of projects is 106 months.

gram sabhas concerned regarding the proposal to divert the said forest land for the stated purpose — all of it as mandated under the FRA. This procedure of obtaining a NOC from gram sabhas is what has commonly come to be known as the procedure for gram sabha consent for forest clearance.

The FRA explicitly states that the Ministry of Tribal

Affairs is the nodal ministry responsible for the law’s implementation.

Supreme Court advocate Shomona Khanna, a former legal adviser to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs under both the United Progressive Alliance and National Democratic Alliance governments, reacted to the Ministry’s position on the FRA in its latest communication to the Power

Ministry by saying, “This is bizarre. If such matters are not under the purview of the Tribal Affairs Ministry, then whose purview is it under?”

Gram Panchayats remains pending”. In its report, the committee, headed by BJP MP Rajyavanta Panda, took to the NHPC’s recommendation that a “qualified super-majority consent” — consent of 70-75% of the affected gram sabhas — should be sufficient for “large hydropower infrastructure projects of national importance”.

The House panel had thus recommended that the Power Ministry discuss the “feasibility” of such a proposal with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Previously, in cases such as the Noida mega-infrastructure project or other independent cases related to the implementation of the FRA in States like Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and many others, the Tribal Affairs Ministry has claimed that it has no role to play and argued that this was because the FRA mandates implementation of the law to the State or Union Territory governments.

‘No provision in Forest Rights Act to obtain gram sabha consent for projects: Ministry’ — The Hindu, Page 6.

★ CONTEXT & THE HOUSE PANEL

- Supreme Court advocate Shomona Khanna noted the Ministry's stance was 'bizarre' — if consent is not under Tribal Affairs, then 'whose purview is it under?'
- A Parliamentary panel on NHPC found the average time for forest clearance of under-construction projects was **106 months**, with consent from a small minority of gram panchayats a key bottleneck.
- The panel (headed by BJP MP Baijayant Panda) recommended a '**qualified super-majority consent**' — consent of 70–75% of affected gram sabhas — for large hydropower projects of national importance.

PRELIMS POINTERS

- **FRA, 2006**: recognises rights of forest-dwelling STs & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers; gram sabha is the key authority for claims.
- **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980** now Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam governs diversion of forest land.
- Projects cited as stalled: Teesta-IV HEP; earlier disputes include the Great Nicobar project.

WAY FORWARD / ANALYSIS

The dispute exposes a governance gap: a law meant to empower gram sabhas is being read narrowly to expedite clearances. Reconciling tribal rights (FRA) with infrastructure needs requires a clear, statutorily-anchored consent standard, faster but genuine gram-sabha processes, and the Tribal Affairs Ministry owning its nodal role rather than deferring to States.

Syllabus Link — GS II — Statutory bodies; welfare schemes; rights of vulnerable sections. GS III — Conservation & environmental clearances.

PRACTICE ZONE

Test Yourself

I. MAINS MODEL QUESTIONS

Q1. "Judicial integrity is the foundation of public confidence in the justice delivery system." Examine the major challenges to judicial integrity in India and suggest institutional measures to strengthen accountability while preserving judicial independence.

250 words | 15 marks

"न्यायिक सत्यनिष्ठा न्याय व्यवस्था में जनविश्वास की आधारशिला है।" भारत में न्यायिक सत्यनिष्ठा के समक्ष प्रमुख चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिए तथा न्यायपालिका की स्वतंत्रता को अक्षुण्ण रखते हुए जवाबदेही सुदृढ़ करने के लिए संस्थागत उपाय सुझाइए।

APPROACH / SKELETON

- **Intro:** Define judicial integrity; link it to public trust and the rule of law (Art 50 — separation of powers).

- ▶ **Challenges:** opaque appointments (Collegium), defunct Judges (Inquiry) Act 1968, near-impossible impeachment (Arts 124(4)/217), CJI-permission bar in K. Veeraswami (1991), post-retirement postings, 'master of the roster' misuse, and the trust deficit flagged by Transparency International.
- ▶ **Measures:** a permanent National Judicial Oversight Committee, revival of the Judicial Standards & Accountability Bill with safeguards, transparent MoP for appointments, asset disclosure, and a credible in-house mechanism.
- ▶ **Balance:** ensure accountability does not become executive control; independence and accountability are complementary, not rival, values.
- ▶ **Conclusion:** integrity plus independence sustains public confidence in justice delivery.

Q2. The Forest Rights Act, 2006 was enacted to empower gram sabhas, yet its implementation has become entangled with the imperatives of infrastructure and forest clearance. Critically analyse the tension between tribal rights and developmental needs, and suggest a way forward. 250 words | 15 marks

वन अधिकार अधिनियम, 2006 ग्राम सभाओं को सशक्त बनाने के लिए अधिनियमित किया गया था, परंतु इसका क्रियान्वयन अवसंरचना तथा वन स्वीकृति की अनिवार्यताओं से उलझ गया है। जनजातीय अधिकारों और विकासात्मक आवश्यकताओं के बीच के तनाव का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए तथा आगे की राह सुझाइए।

APPROACH / SKELETON

- ▶ **Intro:** FRA 2006 recognises rights of forest-dwelling STs & OTFDs; gram sabha as the pivotal authority.
- ▶ **The tension:** Tribal Affairs Ministry claims no FRA 'consent' provision, yet FCA 1980 rules require completing FRA processes (including gram-sabha NOC) before diversion; average clearance time ~106 months.
- ▶ **Two sides:** genuine consent protects tribal livelihoods and forests vs delayed projects of national importance (hydropower like Teesta-IV).
- ▶ **Way forward:** statutorily anchor a clear consent standard, time-bound but authentic gram-sabha processes, capacity support, and the nodal Ministry owning implementation instead of deferring to States.
- ▶ **Conclusion:** development and rights are reconcilable through transparent, participatory clearance.

II. PRELIMS MCQS

Q1. The FIR in the Satya Niketan building-collapse case was registered under sections of which law?

- (A) Indian Penal Code, 1860
- (B) Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)
- (C) Disaster Management Act, 2005
- (D) National Building Code, 2016

✓ **ANSWER: (B)** — The FIR was filed under Sections 105, 290 and 125(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which has replaced the IPC.

Q2. With reference to the National Building Code (NBC), consider the following: 1) It is issued by the Bureau of Indian Standards. 2) The latest version is NBC 2016. 3) It provides standards for design, construction, fire safety and maintenance. Which are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 2 and 3 only
- (C) 1 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

✓ **ANSWER: (D)** — The NBC is published by the BIS; its latest edition is NBC 2016, covering building design, construction, fire and life safety, and maintenance. All three are correct.

Q3. Methanol poisoning in spurious-liquor tragedies is dangerous chiefly because methanol is metabolised in the body into:

- (A) Acetaldehyde and acetate
- (B) Formic acid and formaldehyde
- (C) Ethanol and water
- (D) Lactic acid and ketones

✓ **ANSWER: (B)** — Methanol is metabolised into formic acid and formaldehyde, both highly toxic — causing blindness, organ failure and neurological damage. Ethanol yields acetaldehyde then acetate.

Q4. Which Article of the Constitution directs the State to endeavour to bring about prohibition of intoxicating drinks and drugs injurious to health?

- (A) Article 39
- (B) Article 43
- (C) Article 47
- (D) Article 48

✓ **ANSWER: (C)** — Article 47 (a DPSP) directs the State to raise nutrition and living standards and to bring about prohibition of intoxicating drinks and drugs injurious to health, except for medicinal purposes.

Q5. The doctrine of the ‘master of the roster’ in the Indian judiciary refers to:

- (A) The senior-most judge deciding all constitutional matters
- (B) The Chief Justice’s prerogative to allocate cases and constitute Benches
- (C) The power of the CJI to appoint High Court judges
- (D) The Collegium’s authority over transfers

✓ **ANSWER: (B)** — ‘Master of the roster’ is the Chief Justice’s administrative prerogative to allocate cases and constitute Benches — a power whose alleged misuse features in the Rajasthan HC controversy.

Q6. In K. Veeraswami v. Union of India (1991), the Supreme Court held that registering an FIR against a judge of the higher judiciary requires:

- (A) Sanction of the President
- (B) Approval of Parliament
- (C) Prior permission of the Chief Justice of India
- (D) A resolution of the Collegium

✓ **ANSWER: (C)** — The Court held that prior permission of the CJI is a necessary precondition for registering an FIR against a higher-judiciary judge — often cited as a barrier to accountability.

Q7. ISRO's EOS-05 is notable as India's first earth-imaging satellite placed in which type of orbit?

- (A) Sun-synchronous orbit
- (B) Low earth polar orbit
- (C) Geosynchronous orbit
- (D) Highly elliptical orbit

✓ **ANSWER: (C)** — EOS-05 is India's first earth-imaging satellite bound for a geosynchronous orbit (~36,000 km), letting it be tuned to continuously observe the same location — unlike moving low/polar imaging satellites.

Q8. The INSAT-3D series of satellites, referred to in the context of EOS-05, primarily serves which purpose?

- (A) High-resolution military imaging
- (B) Weather and meteorological observation
- (C) Communication and broadcasting only
- (D) Navigation and positioning

✓ **ANSWER: (B)** — The INSAT-3D series are geostationary weather satellites providing meteorological observation; India's dedicated earth-imaging satellites had earlier flown in low/polar/sun-synchronous orbits.

Q9. In the Chinese envoy's 'POWER' framing for BRICS, the letters stand for Principle, Openness, Win-Win, Engine and:

- (A) Reform
- (B) Responsibility
- (C) Resilience
- (D) Representation

✓ **ANSWER: (B)** — POWER = Principle, Openness, Win-Win, Engine and Responsibility. The 18th BRICS Summit is hosted by India in New Delhi on September 12–13, 2026.

Q10. Regarding targeted Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) schemes, consider: 1) An 'inclusion error' means the ineligible receive benefits. 2) An 'exclusion error' means the eligible are left out. 3) UCT schemes partially advance SDG 5.4. Which are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 2 and 3 only
- (C) 1 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

✓ **ANSWER: (D)** — All three are correct: inclusion error = benefits reach the ineligible; exclusion error = the eligible are left out; UCTs advance SDG 5.4 on recognising women's unpaid domestic and care work.

ANSWER KEY

Q1

B

Q2

D

Q3

B

Q4

C

Q5

B

Q6

C

Q7

C

Q8

B

Q9

B

Q10

D

🔄 QUICK REVISION RECAP

- **BNS Sections 105/290/125(a)** invoked in the Delhi building-collapse FIR; building rehabilitation = repair/ retrofit/renovate to extend usable life.
- **Methanol → formic acid + formaldehyde** (toxic); Article 47 DPSP on prohibition; alcohol is a State subject.
- **K. Veeraswami (1991)** — CJI permission needed for FIR against higher-judiciary judges; Judges (Inquiry) Act 1968 largely defunct.
- **EOS-05** — India's first geosynchronous earth-imaging satellite; multispectral sensors; INSAT-3D = weather series.
- **18th BRICS Summit** — New Delhi, Sep 12–13 2026; BRICS = ~half of world population, ~30% of GDP, ~1/5 of trade.
- **FRA 2006** — gram-sabha NOC via FCA 1980 rules; MoTA is the nodal ministry; ~106-month average forest clearance.

⚠️ PRELIMS TRAP-SETTERS

- **Geostationary ≠ sun-synchronous:** EOS-05 is geosynchronous (~36,000 km, fixed gaze); polar imaging satellites move and give finer detail.
- **Ethanol vs methanol:** ethanol → acetaldehyde → acetate (via ADH/ALDH); methanol → formic acid + formaldehyde (toxic).
- **Inclusion vs exclusion error:** inclusion = ineligible included; exclusion = eligible excluded — frequently swapped in MCQs.
- **FRA nodal ministry** is Tribal Affairs — not Environment or Panchayati Raj, despite the recent 'not our purview' claim.

◦ CONNECT THE DOTS

- Link the **Delhi collapse** to disaster-resilient urban governance — NDMA guidelines, NBC 2016 and the case for a national building-audit & retrofit mission.
- Tie **judicial integrity** (Rajasthan HC) to the wider debate on the Collegium, the defunct Judges (Inquiry) Act 1968 and the lapsed 2012 Accountability Bill.
- Connect **EOS-05** and the **Bhote Koshi deluge** to GLOF early-warning, stubble-fire monitoring and India's space-for-governance push.
- Read the **FRA 'consent' row** alongside the FCA 1980 rules, the Great Nicobar project and the balance between tribal rights and infrastructure.

PRELIMS BYTES · RAPID FIRE

- **BNS** — replaced IPC; Delhi FIR under Sec 105/290/125(a).
- **NBC 2016** — issued by BIS; design, fire & safety norms.
- **ADH & ALDH** — enzymes that metabolise ethanol.
- **Article 47** — DPSP on prohibition of intoxicants.
- **K. Veeraswami (1991)** — CJI nod for FIR on judges.
- **EOS-05** — first geosynchronous earth-imaging satellite.
- **INSAT-3D** — India's geostationary weather series.
- **18th BRICS Summit** — New Delhi, 12-13 Sep 2026.
- **SDG 5.4** — recognising unpaid domestic & care work.
- **FRA nodal ministry** — Ministry of Tribal Affairs.



Justice must not only be done, but must be seen to be done — and public confidence is the surest foundation of the rule of law.

न्याय केवल होना ही नहीं चाहिए, बल्कि होता हुआ दिखना भी चाहिए — और जनविश्वास ही विधि के शासन की सबसे सुदृढ़ नींव है।

✦ END OF EDITION · 07 SEPTEMBER 2026 ✦