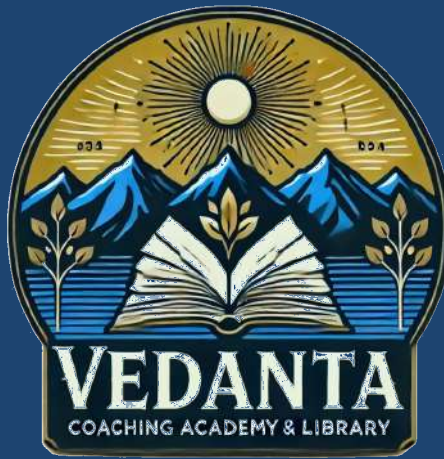




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The Hindu Analysis

Daily Current Affairs · UPSC / HPAS Prelims + Mains

Tuesday · 09 September 2026

Orangutans Rescued (GS-III)

NIA & UAPA (GS-II)

OPEC+ (GS-II/III)

Student Housing (GS-II)

Forest Rights Act (GS-II)

University Governance (GS-II)

India-Japan Defence (GS-II)

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GS II

5

GS-II Topics

1

GS-III Topic

1

GS-II/III Overlap

Editor's Focus — An unusual wildlife-trafficking case (non-native orangutans on Indian soil) headlines the environment section, while the editorial page is dense with governance themes: the misuse of anti-terror law (UAPA), the dilution of tribal consent under the Forest Rights Act, the human cost of unregulated student housing, and a fresh argument for trust-based university governance. Foreign policy is anchored by a maturing India-Japan defence partnership and OPEC+'s decision to keep oil taps steady amid West Asian volatility. Every fact-box and Prelims pointer below is exam-ready — read them all.

How to use this booklet: Read the "Why in News" first for the crux, mine the blue-dot notes for Mains fodder, memorise the ★ Value-Addition and ● Prelims Pointers for objective recall, and attempt the Practice Zone (2 Mains + 10 MCQs) at the end before checking the answer key.

Why in News: The Odisha Forest Department rescued five young orangutans found abandoned in a casuarina plantation in the Udayapur-Talsari forest area of Balasore district — a species not native to India, pointing to a botched wildlife-trafficking transit operation.

- ◆ The rescue was made during **routine patrolling**; of the five, **three are male and two female**, aged between six months and one year, said Regional Chief Conservator of Forests Prakash Chand Gogineni.
- ◆ The animals have been shifted to **Nandankanan Zoological Park** (Bhubaneswar) for medical examination and care.
- ◆ Orangutans are **not native to India** — they occur naturally only in the rainforests of **Indonesia and Malaysia** (islands of Borneo and Sumatra); their presence indicates **illegal cross-border wildlife trafficking**.
- ◆ Officials called it a **"botched-up transit operation"**, suggesting India was used as a transit point in the illegal exotic-pet trade.



5 young orangutans rescued from Odisha's Balasore district

The Odisha Forest Department on Tuesday rescued five young orangutans after they were found abandoned in a casuarina plantation in the Udayapur-Talsari forest area of Balasore district. The orangutans, which are not native to India, were found during routine patrolling, said Regional Chief Conservator of Forests Prakash Chand Gogineni. "We have rescued all of them. Of the five, three are male, and two are female," Mr. Gogineni said. The orangutans, aged between six months and one year, have been shifted to Nandankanan Zoological Park for medical examination. Orangutans are naturally found in the forests of Indonesia and Malaysia. "It appears to be a botched-up transit operation," he said.

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Orangutan — the "person of the forest"

★ Value Addition — Know the Orangutan

- ▶ **Name:** 'Orang'+ 'utan' are Malay for 'person of the forest'. Largest arboreal mammal; highly intelligent, tool-using great ape.
- ▶ **Three species:** Bornean (*Pongo pygmaeus*), Sumatran (*Pongo abelii*) and Tapanuli (*Pongo tapanuliensis* — most endangered great ape, N. Sumatra).
- ▶ **Habitat:** Rainforests of Borneo & Sumatra; live from forest floor to canopy, mostly in lowland river valleys.
- ▶ **Reproduction:** Lowest reproductive rate of any great ape — birth once every 5–10 years, usually a single young; populations recover slowly.
- ▶ **Threats:** Deforestation, illegal logging, palm-oil plantations, forest & peat fires, hunting and illegal wildlife trade.
- ▶ **Conservation status:** All three species **Critically Endangered (IUCN)**; listed in **CITES Appendix I** (trade banned).

● Prelims Pointers

- Nandankanan Zoological Park — Odisha; famous for white tigers and as a conservation-breeding centre.

- CITES Appendix I = species threatened with extinction; commercial international trade prohibited.
- Tapanuli orangutan (described 2017) is the most recently identified and rarest great ape.

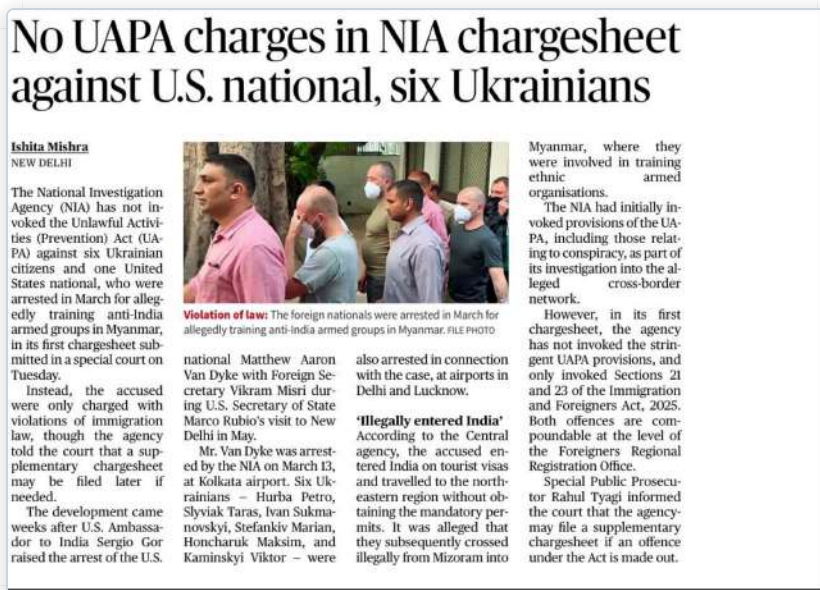
Syllabus Linkage: GS-III — Conservation, biodiversity, environmental degradation; species in news and illegal wildlife trade.

02 No UAPA Charges in NIA Chargesheet Against U.S. National, Six Ukrainians

GS II · Polity

Security Laws

Why in News: The NIA, in its first chargesheet against a U.S. national and six Ukrainians arrested for allegedly training anti-India armed groups in Myanmar, has **not invoked the UAPA** — charging them only with immigration-law violations.



The Hindu · Page 12 — foreign nationals arrested for allegedly training anti-India armed groups in Myanmar

- ◆ The accused — U.S. national **Matthew Aaron Van Dyke** and six Ukrainians (Hurba Petro, Slyviak Taras, Ivan Sukmanovskiy, Stefankiv Marian, Honcharuk Maksim, Kaminskyi Viktor) — were arrested in March at Kolkata, Delhi and Lucknow airports.
- ◆ The NIA had **initially invoked UAPA provisions** (including conspiracy) as part of its cross-border probe, but the **first chargesheet dropped them**, invoking only **Sections 21 & 23 of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025** — both compoundable offences.
- ◆ The agency told the special court a **supplementary chargesheet** may be filed later if a UAPA offence is made out.
- ◆ The accused allegedly **entered India on tourist visas**, travelled to the north-east without permits, and crossed illegally from Mizoram into Myanmar to train ethnic armed organisations.
- ◆ The development followed U.S. Ambassador Sergio Gor raising Van Dyke's arrest with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri during Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit — hinting at a **diplomatic dimension**.

★ Value Addition — UAPA at a Glance

- **What:** Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, an anti-terror law enacted in **1967**; original Act targeted secession-related 'unlawful' acts.
- **Evolution:** 2004 amendment added anti-terror provisions; further strengthened in 2008, 2012 and 2019.

- ▶ **Terrorist act (Sec. 15):** 'terror/terrorist' undefined, but a terrorist act = intent to threaten India's unity, integrity, security, economic security or sovereignty, or to strike terror among people.
- ▶ **Powers:** Longer time to file chargesheets than the IPC/BNS; **stringent bail** – court must find no prima facie case to grant bail, leaving little judicial discretion.
- ▶ **2019 Amendment:** Centre can designate an **individual** (not just organisations) as a 'terrorist'; NIA officers need only sanction of the **DG, NIA** (not the state DGP) for raids/seizures.

● Prelims Pointers

- Immigration & Foreigners Act, 2025 replaced older foreigner/passport laws; Sec. 21 & 23 cover illegal entry & document offences.
- Compoundable offences can be settled; UAPA offences are non-compoundable and non-bailable.
- NIA – National Investigation Agency, set up under the NIA Act, 2008 (post-26/11).

Syllabus Linkage: GS-II – Statutory bodies (NIA); security laws; issues relating to the scope and misuse of anti-terror legislation.

03

OPEC+ Holds Crude Output Steady for October

GS II · IR

GS III · Economy

Why in News: Seven core OPEC+ nations decided in a virtual meeting to keep crude oil output targets **unchanged for October**, amid global economic uncertainty and continuing supply disruptions across West Asia and the Strait of Hormuz.



Global oil markets hinge on OPEC+ output decisions

- ◆ **OPEC+** is an expanded coalition of OPEC members plus key non-OPEC oil-exporting nations that collectively regulate crude supply and manage global energy markets.
- ◆ **Origins of OPEC (1960):** Founded at the **Baghdad Conference** by five members – Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela – to counter the 'Seven Sisters' and secure fair prices.
- ◆ **Birth of OPEC+ (2016):** After the 2014–16 U.S. shale surge crashed prices, OPEC partnered with 10 non-OPEC producers led by **Russia** via the **Declaration of Cooperation** (Vienna) to coordinate output cuts.
- ◆ **Members:** OPEC core – Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Algeria, Nigeria, Venezuela and others; non-OPEC partners – Russia, Kazakhstan, Oman, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Malaysia, Mexico, South Sudan, Sudan.
- ◆ OPEC+ accounts for roughly **half of world crude production**; its decisions heavily influence benchmark prices – **Brent** and **West Texas Intermediate (WTI)**.

★ Value Addition — Why It Matters for India

- ▶ India imports over **85% of its crude**; OPEC+ output swings directly affect the import bill, the rupee and retail fuel prices.
- ▶ Higher prices feed **imported inflation**, widen the Current Account Deficit and constrain RBI monetary policy.
- ▶ **Strait of Hormuz** — chokepoint carrying ~20% of global oil; any disruption spikes prices, freight and insurance costs.
- ▶ India's response: diversifying sources (Russia, U.S., West Africa), Strategic Petroleum Reserves, and a push for renewables, ethanol blending & green hydrogen.

● Prelims Pointers

- OPEC HQ — Vienna, Austria; founded 1960 at Baghdad. OPEC+ formed 2016.
- Brent (North Sea) and WTI (U.S.) are the two key global crude benchmarks.
- India is NOT a member of OPEC or OPEC+ — it is a major consumer/importer.

Syllabus Linkage: GS-II — Effect of policies of developed & developing countries on India's interests. GS-III — Energy security; growth & inflation.

04

Falling Edifice — Delhi's Education Ambition vs Its Civic Infrastructure

GS II · Governance

Urban Issues

Why in News: The collapse of a five-storey building run as a private hostel near Delhi University's South Campus — killing seven and injuring five — has exposed the twin failures of haphazard urban development and the shortage of safe, affordable student housing.

Falling edifice

Delhi's ambition as an education hub is at odds with its civic infrastructure

The collapse of a five-storey building in Delhi, being run as a private hostel that killed seven and injured five in a densely populated colony abutting Delhi University's South Campus, has brought to light the twin issues of haphazard development in the capital city's residential areas and the shortage of affordable housing for students. With over 70,000 students entering Delhi University every year and almost half of them needing accommodation on a student budget, the city has failed to keep up with the growing demand. The University has, for all practical purposes, absolved itself of the responsibility, citing lack of land, leaving private players to cash in and run paying guest accommodations or private hostels that are not regulated. In a setup where every extra bed means more revenue, matchbox-sized rooms, often located in buildings that flout building bylaws and fire safety regulations and have no ventilation, are what several students call home. As soon as they arrive in the capital, students from many parts of the country realise that they are paying to live in the city not just in monetary terms but with their safety, security and sanity.

erty, security and sanity.

The Delhi government says that it wants the city to be a national education hub and harness the soft power of its youth, but that will be not possible without addressing the need for affordable, safe student housing. The Delhi government has suspended five senior officers of the civic body, ordered a probe and announced that it was working on introducing a stringent policy under which every building used for public activity would be required to undergo periodic structural audits and obtain safety certifications. It must go beyond these reactive measures to seek more durable solutions. In 2024, the basement of a coaching centre flooded due to heavy rains claiming the lives of three civil service aspirants. After that incident as well, probes were ordered, basements were sealed and legal action was taken against owners but a larger systemic change remains elusive. The Centre and the Government of NCT must work together with educational institutions to develop more residential, travel and learning facilities for students. The introduction of four-year undergraduate programmes also means that students will stay on for an additional year, increasing the pressure on accommodation. Private hostels can be part of the solution, but crumbling civic infrastructure, illegal construction and lack of safety audits must be tackled through policy and strict enforcement.

The Hindu (Editorial) · Page 8

- ◆ Over **70,000 students** enter Delhi University every year, almost half needing budget accommodation; the city has failed to keep pace with demand.
- ◆ The University has, for practical purposes, **absolved itself** citing lack of land, leaving unregulated private PGs and hostels to cash in — **matchbox rooms** flouting building bylaws and fire-safety norms.

- ◆ The Delhi government suspended **five senior civic officers**, ordered a probe, and announced a policy to make every building used for public activity undergo **periodic structural audits and safety certification**.
- ◆ The editorial warns these are **reactive measures** — in 2024, a coaching-centre basement flooded, drowning three civil-service aspirants; probes followed but systemic change remained elusive.
- ◆ The **four-year undergraduate programme** will keep students an extra year, raising accommodation pressure. Private hostels can help only if illegal construction and audit gaps are fixed through policy and strict enforcement.

★ Value Addition — Governance & Policy Angles

- ▶ **Regulatory vacuum:** PG/hostel accommodation falls between municipal bylaws, fire safety and education regulation — no single accountable authority.
- ▶ **Reactive vs durable:** Post-tragedy suspensions and sealing drives don't substitute for mandatory audits, occupancy certificates and enforcement.
- ▶ **Right to safe housing** links to Article 21 (life & dignity); students pay costs to their 'safety, security and sanity'.
- ▶ **Way forward:** Centre-NCT-universities to jointly build residential facilities; licensing & rating of private hostels; single-window structural-safety compliance.

🕒 Prelims Pointers

- Model Tenancy Act, 2021 & municipal building bylaws govern rental/occupancy safety.
- National Building Code (NBC) sets fire-safety and structural standards.

Syllabus Linkage: GS-II — Government policies & interventions for the social sector (education, urban housing); transparency & accountability.

05 Perilous Retreat — Gram Sabhas Must Have a Veto on Tribal Land

GS II · Polity

Tribal Rights

Why in News: A move to require the consent of only 'most' — rather than all — affected gram sabhas for projects on forest land threatens to dilute the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, and weaken tribal communities' most potent legal instrument.

- ◆ The **Committee on Public Undertakings** suggested a project need the consent of only **70–75% of affected gram sabhas**, not all — reducing gram sabhas from democratic bodies to corporate stakeholders.
- ◆ If enforced, a developer could **bypass the consent of a village directly within a proposed reservoir** while relying on less-affected villages' no-objection certificates.
- ◆ The **Tribal Affairs Ministry's refusal to claim jurisdiction** creates a dangerous regulatory vacuum, letting the Centre and States rewrite rules for diverting forest land unchecked.
- ◆ The editorial argues the notion that 'consent was never part of the FRA' is **plainly ignoble**; any change must be made **openly and democratically** through law, not bureaucratic technicalities between the FRA and Environment Ministry rules.
- ◆ Context: the government is scaling up energy infrastructure (e.g., the stalled **Teesta-IV project**) to meet macroeconomic goals — pitting development against the land, livelihood, culture and autonomy of forest-dependent communities.

Perilous retreat

Gram sabhas must have a veto on issues relating to tribal land

Tribal organisations should recognise the Indian state's attempt to lower the legal barriers erected by the Forest Rights Act (FRA) as a threat to their survival. The Committee on Public Undertakings' suggestion that a project require the consent of only most, rather than all, gram sabhas affected by that project, as the FRA intends in spirit, portends a significant jurisprudential change. A regime that deems the acquiescence of 70%-75% of affected gram sabhas to suffice will reduce gram sabhas from democratic bodies protecting the constitutional rights of its specific inhabitants to corporate stakeholders. If the rule enters force, a project developer may bypass the consent of a village located directly within a proposed reservoir, say, while ensuring that less affected villages have provided their no-objection certificates. The matter is of a piece with the political fight over classifying tribal communities: by altering the demographic composition of who qualifies as a community member, the state will have an easier time splitting a village assembly and engineering consent. The refusal of the Tribal Affairs Ministry to claim jurisdiction over this issue creates a dangerous regulatory vacuum that leaves the Centre and State governments unchecked to rewrite the rules by which forested land is diverted for non-forest use. While the FRA does not include a clause requiring a no-objection certificate from every affected gram sabha, it is untrue that there is at present no legal requirement that gram sabha decisions can be bypassed.

The government has been rapidly scaling up energy infrastructure, including the long-stalled Teesta-IV project, to meet macroeconomic goals while, in a previous avatar, having passed the FRA to undo "historical injustices" meted out to forest-dependent communities. But the path the state seems willing to pursue, hewing to the notion that the consent requirement was never part of the FRA, is plainly ignoble. If the Environment Ministry entertains the idea, it must change the relevant rules or legislation openly and democratically. The Tribal Affairs Ministry resorting to a technicality, between the FRA and the Environment Ministry's rules, to recuse itself is hardly better as the bureaucratic manoeuvre could strip forest-dependent communities of their most potent legal instrument. The foundation of these communities' livelihoods, culture, identity, and political autonomy is land, so they have fought to resist displacement and dispossession and to secure customary collective ownership. In recognition of the social and environment services ST communities continue to render in India and their contribution to national development, including helping meet India's climate commitments, the Centre and States must also strengthen the powers conferred by the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement and Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Acts to gram sabhas in Scheduled Areas.

The Hindu (Editorial) · Page 8

★ Value Addition — Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006

- ▶ **Purpose:** Recognise & vest forest rights of **Scheduled Tribes** and **Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs)**, correcting historical injustice of colonial forest governance.
- ▶ **Eligibility:** STs in forest areas; OTFDs residing in forests for at least **three generations (75 years)** prior to 13 December 2005.
- ▶ **Individual Forest Rights:** Right to hold/live/self-cultivate forest land — capped at **4 hectares**; no new encroachments.
- ▶ **Community Rights:** Minor forest produce, grazing, water bodies, seasonal resource access.
- ▶ **Community Forest Resource (CFR) Rights:** Right to protect, regenerate, conserve and manage — **Gram Sabha** is the authority for sustainable use.
- ▶ **Linked laws:** LARR Act 2013 & PESA 1996 also strengthen gram sabha powers in Scheduled Areas.

● Prelims Pointers

- FRA cut-off date for OTFDs: 13 December 2005; three generations = 75 years.
- Gram Sabha (not the Forest Department) is the pivot of FRA implementation.
- PESA, 1996 extends Part IX (Panchayats) to Fifth Schedule Areas.

Syllabus Linkage: GS-II — Rights issues; welfare of vulnerable sections (STs); statutory mechanisms for the protection of tribal rights.

06

Reclaiming Universities Through Trust and Student Voice

GS II · Governance

Education

Why in News: An op-ed argues that growing campus protests stem not from unruly students but from a top-down 'control model' of university governance — calling for a 'liberty model' built on trust, academic freedom and student participation.

Reclaiming universities through trust, student voice

Indian students, particularly Gen Z, are increasingly asserting freedom and autonomy and demanding accountability. Some of the brightest law students are in the news for the NALSAR protests, but Chief Justice of India (CJI) has been keen to ensure credit for faculty involvement in staying the NALSAR protesting body, quashing all FIRs against the protesting students, and letting the BCI have no judicial control over the students, and making the three-year law students to just one year to the judicial services examination.

The question is whether the students were right in wanting to seek a seat in the only conversation. The real question is who students are in power with the governance model of universities, that is, when they are not only law but also the beneficiaries of liberty and safety. To suggest that this happened deeply because of the higher education, that is, quickly started, is to overlook the deeper governance issues. What is the role of the state and academic autonomy? And why are Vice-Chancellors increasingly unable to maintain student respect or make such issues internal?

At the core must be academic freedom

Universities cannot flourish without academic freedom. The Indian Constitution does not explicitly guarantee academic freedom, but it contains a number of provisions which do have such a provision. Article 32 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the right to move the Supreme Court for enforcement of the constitutional rights to everyone engaged in the freedom of movement and speech. The Constitution of India, South Africa, Portugal and Japan guarantee such a freedom. Article 19 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the right to move the Supreme Court for enforcement of the constitutional rights to everyone engaged in the freedom of movement and speech. The Constitution of India, South Africa, Portugal and Japan guarantee such a freedom. Article 19 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the right to move the Supreme Court for enforcement of the constitutional rights to everyone engaged in the freedom of movement and speech.

Academic freedom and free speech in universities are closely intertwined. If universities are supposed to provide a space for reflection, inquiry and discussion, it is not only fair but also necessary that they have the right to defend people or bodies in their internal activities. If an academic activity involves 'conduct' rather than free speech, the state would certainly be entitled to regulate such 'conduct'. Today, even in the universities, the freedom to speak is under attack. Federal funding in the U.S. has been suspended to regulate campus culture. Diversity programmes have been dismantled, and research funding in some such as climate change has been cut. Universities have also faced pressure for allowing student protests, including those over climate change, and left-wing violence have, at times, sought to control protests.



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NALSAR Hyderabad;
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(NLU), Odisha

The writer contrasts a 'control model' (VC-centric, surveillance, suppression) that breeds alienation, with a 'liberty model' where universities are spaces for debating ideas, with students sharing academic, administrative and financial decisions.

The shadow of 'control'

We are witnessing mass protests because universities are not governed well. Government intervention has consequently adopted a control model of governance. Most universities remain VC-centric, while students – who are the very main stakeholders – have little say in their governance. When government action is addressed through students' protest and sufficient, some idea emerges. The government is often blamed, but much of the school could be avoided if university administration engaged students in meaningful dialogue and provided timely relief. Vice-Chancellors have been open to some and are often inaccessible to ordinary students. There is no communication of highly educated faculty and intelligent young people; they require dialogue, that is, open – not exclusive – control and surveillance.

The right of universities to be free and open knowledge, but knowledge creation cannot happen in a controlled environment. It requires the freedom to question everything and challenge existing ideas. Despite the repeated reference to student India, higher education systems remain over-regulated and overly controlled. In ancient times, students were not content, autonomy, yet today, who remains free? The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020's promise of public investment of 6% of GDP in education. Public investment in education has steadily declined, hovering around the 4%, with higher education investment getting the smallest pie. Moreover, public university infrastructure has been neglected and there is no scope for growth leading to regular salt in the sea in New Delhi. In the western world, research and grant faculty are poorly paid. Faculty recruitment processes are badly with an over emphasis on ideological loyalty rather than merit. Poor teaching frameworks, while repeated

examinations, paper leaks add to their stress. Moreover, the government engages – not against university administration, but against the government itself.

On the 'liberty model'

Over 30 years as a Vice-Chancellor, this writer implemented what can be described as the 'liberty model of governance' across three universities. Such a model works when students are empowered and take responsibility. Students have often felt constrained in meeting the Vice-Chancellor without appointments, sometimes during personal concerns and difficulties. The trust has also made it easier to have frank conversations with them, including over their or targeted decisions that had to be taken.

Under the 'control' or top-down model, the 'liberty model' moves universities in spaces where students have a meaningful role in academic, administrative and financial decisions, including faculty appointments, procurement, academic design and funding of university programmes. Under the 'liberty model', students have a meaningful role in selecting the Vice-Chancellor. Moreover, to enhance our campuses if we want to address the growing problem of student protest.

Academic governance runs in a few open public universities who have particular ideological leanings, but most should not be completely understood. There have also been opportunities of individuals with questionable records and adverse 'C' reports, who were later university law departments withdrew. Higher education systems can be broken if paper leakers, students or faculty officials are appointed for reasons other than academic merit and integrity.

The writer expressed his proposal

The Hindu (Op-Ed) · Page 8 — Faizan Mustafa

- ◆ Indian students, especially **Gen Z**, are asserting autonomy and demanding accountability; recent NALSAR protests drew a timely intervention from **CJI Surya Kant**, who stayed the BCI's order, quashed FIRs, and cut the practice condition for judicial services from three years to one.
- ◆ The writer contrasts a '**control model**' (VC-centric, surveillance, suppression) that breeds alienation, with a '**liberty model**' where universities are spaces for debating ideas, with students sharing academic, administrative and financial decisions.
- ◆ **Academic freedom** is not explicit in the Indian Constitution, but Art. 5(3) of the German Basic Law guarantees *Wissenschaftsfreiheit*; Japan, South Africa, Portugal, Spain and Hong Kong (Art. 137) protect institutional autonomy.
- ◆ Public investment in education has slipped to about **4-4.1% of GDP**, short of NEP 2020's promised **6%**; underfunding, faculty shortages and paper leaks deepen student frustration.
- ◆ The remedy: make universities **student-centric rather than VC-centric**, democratise campuses, and reject dated, regressive control — 'India's students deserve nothing less than the best.'

★ Value Addition — Education Governance

- ▶ **NEP 2020** targets 6% of GDP public spending on education and greater institutional autonomy (graded autonomy, HEI).
- ▶ **Academic freedom** is read into Article 19(1)(a) (free speech) and Article 21; it is not a separate fundamental right.
- ▶ **Bodies:** UGC, and the proposed Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) to replace multiple regulators.
- ▶ **FYUP** (Four-Year Undergraduate Programme) under NEP adds a year — with implications for cost, hostels and curriculum.

● Prelims Pointers

- *Wissenschaftsfreiheit* — German constitutional guarantee of scientific/academic freedom.
- NALSAR (Hyderabad) — a National Law University; BCI regulates legal education & the bar.
- NEP 2020 public-spending target on education: 6% of GDP.

Syllabus Linkage: GS-II — Government policies for the education sector; development & management of the social sector; regulatory institutions.

Why in News: The August 2026 visit of Japan's Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi to India marks a shift from institution-building to **operational capability** — converting a decade of dialogues into usable defence cooperation.



The Hindu (Op-Ed) · Page 8 — Harsh V. Pant & Pratinashree Basu

- ◆ The two sides are connecting disparate strands — annual dialogues, the **2+2 mechanism**, exercises, logistics and technology talks — into a more coherent security relationship.
- ◆ Both share concerns over **coercive attempts to alter the status quo**, security of the maritime commons, and militarisation of the Indo-Pacific; emphasis on **information-sharing and Maritime Domain Awareness** is key, as they sit at opposite ends of the theatre (Japan: East China Sea/Taiwan; India: Indian Ocean).
- ◆ **Defence-industrial cooperation:** proposed transfer of Japan's **UNICORN** integrated communications antenna (a memorandum with Bharat Electronics Ltd. was signed Nov 2024); talks on joint naval shipbuilding, 'Make in India' production and reciprocal ship-repair facilities.
- ◆ **Exercises:** Japan's fighter aircraft are joining the **Veer Guardian exercise in India (Sept 9–22, 2026) for the first time**; both agreed to raise the complexity of bilateral exercises and integrate unmanned systems.
- ◆ The joint statement reiterated opposition to unilateral changes to the status quo by force or coercion — a clear **strategic message on China** without naming it. It follows the July 2026 Annual Summit that expanded economic & supply-chain cooperation.

★ Value Addition — India–Japan Ties

- ▶ **Special Strategic & Global Partnership** (elevated 2014); '2+2' Foreign+Defence Ministerial dialogue since 2019.
- ▶ **Agreements:** ACSA (logistics/Acquisition & Cross-Servicing) and defence tech & equipment-transfer arrangements.
- ▶ **Quad:** India, Japan, U.S., Australia — Indo-Pacific coordination on maritime security & resilient supply chains.
- ▶ **Exercises:** Malabar (naval, with U.S. & Australia), Dharma Guardian (army), JIMEX (bilateral naval), and now Veer Guardian (air).

- **UNICORN:** stealthy integrated mast/antenna — first major Japan→India defence equipment-transfer project.

● Prelims Pointers

- Veer Guardian — India–Japan air exercise; 2026 edition (Sept 9–22) sees Japanese fighters in India for the first time.
- JIMEX = Japan–India Maritime Exercise; Malabar is now a Quad naval exercise.
- Strait of Malacca & Bay of Bengal — critical to India's eastern maritime interests.

Syllabus Linkage: GS-II — India & its neighbourhood; bilateral, regional & global groupings (Quad, Indo-Pacific); effect of foreign policies on India's interests.

Practice Zone

MAINS · PRELIMS · ANSWER KEY

Mains Question 1

GS-II · Polity & Governance

Q1. Anti-terror laws like the UAPA give the State extraordinary powers at the cost of individual liberty. In light of recent cases, critically examine the safeguards needed to prevent the misuse of such legislation. (250 words · 15 marks)

प्र.1. यूएपीए जैसे आतंकवाद-विरोधी कानून व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता की कीमत पर राज्य को असाधारण शक्तियाँ देते हैं। हाल के मामलों के आलोक में, ऐसे कानूनों के दुरुपयोग को रोकने के लिए आवश्यक सुरक्षा उपायों की समालोचनात्मक विवेचना कीजिए। (250 शब्द · 15 अंक)

Approach: Intro — define UAPA (1967) & its purpose. Body — powers (long custody, stringent bail, Sec. 15 terrorist act, 2019 individual-designation); concerns (low conviction rate, prolonged undertrial detention, chilling effect on dissent, diluted judicial discretion); illustration (NIA dropping UAPA in the Van Dyke/Ukrainians chargesheet). Safeguards — time-bound trials, robust judicial review, sunset & periodic review clauses, data transparency, Law Commission recommendations. Conclude — balance national security with Article 21 & the rule of law.

Mains Question 2

GS-II · Tribal Rights / Environment

Q2. "Effective conservation of forests cannot be achieved without securing the rights and participation of local and forest-dwelling communities." Discuss in the context of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and community-based forest governance in India. (250 words · 15 marks)

प्र.2. "स्थानीय एवं वनवासी समुदायों के अधिकारों और सहभागिता को सुनिश्चित किए बिना प्रभावी वन संरक्षण संभव नहीं है।" वन अधिकार अधिनियम, 2006 तथा भारत में समुदाय-आधारित वन शासन के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्द · 15 अंक)

Approach: Intro — FRA 2006's aim to correct historical injustice. Body — how community participation aids conservation (CFR rights, gram-sabha stewardship, traditional knowledge, reduced conflict); evidence (Mendha-Lekha, Odisha CFR successes); current threat (diluting gram-sabha consent to 70–75%, regulatory vacuum, Teesta-IV). Way forward — full consent, PESA/LARR synergy, capacity-building of gram sabhas. Conclude — rights-based conservation is both just and effective.

Prelims MCQs (1–10)

1. Orangutans, in news for a rescue in Odisha, are naturally found in the rainforests of which region?

- (a) Congo Basin, Africa
- (b) Borneo & Sumatra (Indonesia/Malaysia)
- (c) Western Ghats, India
- (d) Amazon Basin, Brazil

2. Consider the orangutan: 1) It is the largest arboreal mammal. 2) All three species are Critically Endangered (IUCN). 3) It is native to India's north-east. Which are correct?

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

3. With reference to the UAPA: 1) It was enacted in 1967. 2) The 2019 amendment lets the Centre designate an individual as a terrorist. 3) It defines the term 'terrorist'. Which are correct?

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

4. The NIA's chargesheet invoked offences under which law instead of the UAPA?

- (a) The Passports Act, 1967
- (b) The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025
- (c) The BNS, 2023
- (d) The Arms Act, 1959

5. OPEC was founded in 1960 at the Baghdad Conference. Which was NOT among its five founding members?

- (a) Iran
- (b) Saudi Arabia
- (c) Qatar
- (d) Venezuela

6. OPEC+ (formed 2016) differs from OPEC in that it includes major non-OPEC producers led by which country?

- (a) China
- (b) Russia
- (c) United States
- (d) Norway

7. Under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, the maximum forest land recognised for individual habitation/self-cultivation is:

- (a) 2 hectares
- (b) 4 hectares
- (c) 1 hectare
- (d) No upper limit

8. The FRA, 2006 recognises OTFD rights for those residing in forests for at least how long before 13 Dec 2005?

- (a) One generation (25 years)
- (b) Two generations (50 years)
- (c) Three generations (75 years)
- (d) Four generations (100 years)

9. The 'Veer Guardian' exercise, in news, is conducted between India and which country?

- (a) United States
- (b) Japan
- (c) France
- (d) Australia

10. Which grouping brings together India, Japan, the U.S. and Australia for Indo-Pacific cooperation?

- (a) BRICS
- (b) SCO
- (c) Quad
- (d) ASEAN

★ ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS ★

Q1 · B

Q2 · A

Q3 · A

Q4 · B

Q5 · C

Q6 · B

Q7 · B

Q8 · C

Q9 · B

Q10 · C

1. (B) Orangutans occur only on Borneo & Sumatra; the three species are Bornean, Sumatran and Tapanuli. They are not native to India.

2. (A) 1 & 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong — orangutans are not native to India; their presence here indicated trafficking.

3. (A) 1 & 2 correct. The Act does NOT define 'terror/terrorist'; Section 15 defines a terrorist ACT. 2019 enabled individual designation.

4. (B) The NIA invoked Sections 21 & 23 of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 — both compoundable — dropping UAPA in the first chargesheet.

5. (C) The five founders were Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. Qatar joined later and is not a founding member.

6. (B) OPEC+ was created in 2016 (Declaration of Cooperation, Vienna) adding 10 non-OPEC producers led by Russia to coordinate output.

7. (B) Individual Forest Rights under the FRA are capped at a maximum of 4 hectares, with no new encroachments permitted.

8. (C) OTFDs must have resided in forests for at least three generations (75 years) prior to 13 December 2005 to qualify.

9. (B) Veer Guardian is an India-Japan air exercise; the 2026 edition (Sept 9-22) saw Japanese fighter aircraft in India for the first time.

10. (C) The Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) comprises India, Japan, the U.S. and Australia, focused on a free & open Indo-Pacific.

★ 60-Second Revision — Today's 7 Takeaways

- ▶ **Orangutans:** 'person of the forest'; only in Borneo & Sumatra; 3 species (Bornean, Sumatran, Tapanuli); all CR (IUCN), CITES App-I; 5 rescued in Balasore, Odisha → Nandankanan.
- ▶ **UAPA:** 1967 anti-terror law; Sec.15 defines a terrorist ACT; 2019 lets Centre name individuals as terrorists & NIA needs only DG-NIA sanction; NIA dropped it against Van Dyke & 6 Ukrainians.
- ▶ **OPEC+:** OPEC (1960, Baghdad) + 10 non-OPEC led by Russia (2016, Vienna); ~half of world crude; sets Brent & WTI; held output steady for October; India imports 85%+ crude.
- ▶ **Student housing:** DU hostel collapse (7 dead) exposed unregulated PGs; Delhi ordered structural audits & safety certification; links to Article 21 & the 4-year UG programme.
- ▶ **FRA 2006:** Recognises ST/OTFD forest rights (IFR ≤4 ha; CFR via Gram Sabha); cut-off 13 Dec 2005 (75 yrs for OTFDs); move to dilute gram-sabha consent to 70-75% opposed.
- ▶ **Universities:** shift from 'control model' to trust-based 'liberty model'; academic freedom read into Art.19(1) (a) & 21; NEP 2020 targets 6% GDP (actual ~4%).
- ▶ **India-Japan:** 2+2, ACSA, UNICORN antenna (with BEL); Veer Guardian air exercise (first Japanese fighters in India, Sept 9-22, 2026); Quad & Indo-Pacific focus; message to China.