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THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Editorial & News Decoded for the Civil Services Aspirant

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UPSC · HPAS / HAS · STATE PCS

Compiled by **SAPNA CHAUHAN**
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U.S. clears Russia Sanctions Bill; India faces 100% tariff threat

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U.S. clears Russia sanctions Bill; India faces tariff threat

U.S. House clears legislation that will authorise the President to impose 100% tariffs on countries for buying oil and gas from Russia, committed to ensuring energy security for Indians, says New Delhi

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON, DC

The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday passed legislation targeting Russia's energy sector, individuals and the "shadow fleet" of tankers, including authorising the U.S. President to impose tariffs of up to 100% on India and other countries for buying oil and gas from Russia. The House voted 262-159 in favour of the Bill.

The Bill, an amendment to the Senate's "Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2020", will now head to President Donald Trump's desk for his signature. Mr. Trump plans to sign the Bill, a White House official told *The Hindu* on Thursday. The President will have the

Who are the targets?

The Bill aims to dissuade countries from 'aiding Russian aggression' against Ukraine by purchasing Russian oil and gas

The Bill targets top five "largest importers, by total volume" in the 12 months preceding the date of enactment of the law, which have knowingly made new purchases on or after 30 days from the date the Bill becomes law

This issue has been discussed at high levels in recent months with various U.S. interlocutors. Its potential implications for not just the bilateral relationship but also the international energy market have been very clearly articulated by the Indian side

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY

Delhi and Washington have been negotiating a preliminary trade deal.

NEW DELHI
Russia accounted for more than 51% of India's oil imports in July, an all-time high, up from just a little less than 50% in the previous month, the latest official data show. An analysis of Commerce and Industry Ministry data shows India imported 110.4 lakh tonnes of Russian oil in July, the latest month for which data are available. » PAGE 17

OVER HALF OF OIL IMPORTS IN JULY WERE FROM RUSSIA

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Who are the targets?

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY

— WHY IN NEWS

- ◆ The **U.S. House of Representatives** passed legislation (vote **262–159**) targeting Russia's energy sector, individuals and the "**shadow fleet**" of tankers, authorising the U.S. President to impose **tariffs of up to 100%** on India and other countries buying Russian oil and gas.
- ◆ It is an amendment to the Senate's "**Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, 2026**"; it now goes to **President Trump** for signature. The President may **waive** sanctions in the national interest.

— WHO ARE THE TARGETS?

- ◆ Top five "**largest importers, by total volume**" of Russian-origin crude or gas in the 12 months preceding enactment, that knowingly make new purchases **30 days after** the Bill becomes law.
- ◆ Also countries among the **top five facilitating Russian oil-sanctions evasion**.
- ◆ **Exempt:** countries taking significant steps to cut Russian gas imports, **or** whose gas imports were **less than 15%** of Russia's total gas exports.
- ◆ A Hoyer amendment naming the top 10 importers (China, India, Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Hungary, Slovakia, UAE, Kyrgyz Republic) did **not** pass into the final version.

— INDIA'S POSITION (MEA)

- ◆ India "remains firmly committed to ensuring **energy security** for its 1.4 billion people" via diversified sourcing driven by market forces, and will **protect its trade and economic interests**.
- ◆ Russia accounted for **over 51%** of India's oil imports in July (all-time high); comes amid an India–U.S. **preliminary trade deal** negotiation and an earlier extra **25% tariff** (over an existing 25%) imposed in July 2025.

Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP) — Arunachal CM denies arm-twisting

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Arunachal CM denies govt. arm-twisting people to push mega dam on Siang river

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has trashed perceptions that the government was arm-twisting people to push a mega dam project on the Siang river, which flows as the Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet upstream.

The government remained open to discussions with villagers and organisations opposed to the proposed Siang Upper Multipurpose Project, Mr. Khandu said. The project's capacity is expected to range between 11,000 megawatts (MW) and 12,500 MW.

The Chief Minister's assertion that "there is nothing forceful" came days after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered a case against lawyer and anti-dam activist Bhanu Tatak for allegedly receiving foreign funds in violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act or FCRA.

"The discussions on the proposed project and its pre-feasibility report have been ongoing for two years. Many villagers have come forward and signed Memoranda of Understanding in favour of the project," Mr. Khandu said.

'Open for discussion'
The government's doors were open for people who harboured concerns about the Siang Upper Multipurpose Project. "Any organisation, individual, or group with any doubt regarding the pre-feasibility report can come and discuss with the government," he said.

India has justified pursuing the project as a countermeasure against the 60,000 MW Medog hydropower station that China is building on the Yarlung Tsangpo.

Although the Arunachal Pradesh government has garnered support from several villages for the Siang Upper Multipurpose Project, many people across four districts — East Siang, Siang, Upper Siang, and West Siang — are opposing the project over possible displacement, environmental impact, and seismic risks.

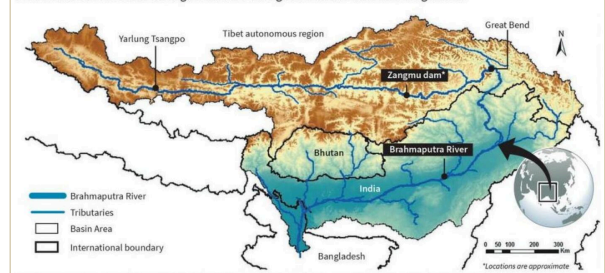


Pema Khandu said that the government's doors are open for people who harboured concerns about the project. X/@PEMAKHANDUJP

- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has trashed perceptions that the government was arm-twisting people to push a mega dam project on the Siang river, which flows as the Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet upstream.
- The government remained open to discussions with villagers and organisations opposed to the proposed Siang Upper Multipurpose Project, Mr. Khandu said. The project's capacity is expected to range between 11,000 megawatts (MW) and 12,500 MW.
- The government's doors were open for people who harboured concerns about the Siang Upper Multipurpose Project. "Any organisation, individual, or group with any doubt regarding the pre-feasibility report can come and discuss with the government," he said.
- India has justified pursuing the project as a countermeasure against the 60,000 MW Medog hydropower station that China is building on the Yarlung Tsangpo.

Taming the 'rogue' river

The Brahmaputra is a transboundary Himalayan river basin spanning four riparian countries. This map shows its flow from the Tibetan Autonomous Region in China through Bhutan and India into Bangladesh.



— WHY IN NEWS

- Arunachal CM **Pema Khandu** rejected claims that the government was **arm-twisting** people to push a mega dam on the **Siang** (the **Yarlung Tsangpo** in Tibet). Government "doors are open" for those with concerns.
- India frames SUMP as a **countermeasure** to China's **60,000 MW Medog** hydropower station on the Great Bend of the Yarlung Tsangpo.

— PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- Storage-type mega hydro-electric & flood-control project; installed capacity **11,000–12,500 MW** (~11,200 MW), consolidating two earlier proposals.
- Dam height **280–300 m**; annual generation ~**47 billion kWh**; reservoir volume ~**9 billion m³**. Location: near **Geku village**, Upper Siang district.

— RIVER GEOGRAPHY

- Siang enters India near **Gelling**; upstream **Yarlung Tsangpo** rises ~5,300 m in the **Chemayungdung** range near Mansarovar.
- Siang flows ~197 km to meet its largest right-bank tributary, the **Shiyomi**, then joins the **Dibang** and **Lohit** in Assam to form the **Brahmaputra** (basin shared by China, Bhutan, India, Bangladesh).

CONTESTATION

Project is **stalled**. Protests led by the **Siang Indigenous Farmers' Forum (SIFF)** and **Adi Banne Kebang (ABK)** have blocked executing agency **NHPC** from pre-feasibility surveys at three sites — **Ugeng, Dite Dime, Parong** — amid fears of displacement, seismic risk and submergence across four districts.

Three-Language Policy: SC asks Centre to defer Class 6 roll-out to 2027

- **Basin Confluences:** The Siang flows 197 km to its confluence with its largest right-bank tributary, the Shiyomi River, before joining the Dibang and Lohit downstream in Assam to form the mighty Brahmaputra River.
- The basin is also fed by the high-altitude Yar Gyap Chu stream flowing through the Mechuka Valley.
- The project is currently stalled.
- Intense grassroots protests led by the Siang Indigenous Farmer's Forum (SIFF) and the Adi Banne Kebang (ABK) have blocked the executing agency, NHPC, from conducting essential pre-feasibility surveys.
- On-the-ground resistance covers three proposed coordinates—Ugeng, Dite Dime, and Parong—leaving the exact scope of village submergence and displacement highly contested.

— WHY IN NEWS

- ◆ The **Supreme Court** (three-judge Bench led by **CJI Surya Kant**) urged the Centre to make the three-language policy mandatory for **Class 6 from 1 January 2027**, not "spring a surprise" with barely four months left in the year.
- ◆ The suggestion rests on **logistics and balance of convenience** for students and families; the Centre (ASG Aishwarya Bhati) agreed to reconsider its position.

— THREE-LANGUAGE FORMULA — EVOLUTION

- ◆ First formulated by the **Ministry of Education in 1968** on the **Kothari Commission (1964–66)** recommendations.
- ◆ **NEP 1968:** Hindi-speaking States — Hindi, English & a modern Indian (preferably southern) language; non-Hindi States — Hindi, English & the regional language.

— UNDER NEP 2020

- ◆ Requires **three languages**, of which **at least two must be native Indian languages**; greater **flexibility & autonomy** (no rigid mandating of Hindi).
- ◆ A **foreign language** can be the third (R3) only if the other two are native Indian languages, or taken as an optional fourth.
- ◆ Under **NCF-SE, CBSE** proposed three languages up to Class 10 (≥ 2 native). Interim **teacher accommodations**: staff with "functional proficiency", **Sahodaya** cluster sharing, hybrid/virtual teaching, retired teachers.

PAC pulls up Railways over gaps in passenger amenities

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PAC pulls up Railways over gaps in amenities despite promises

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Thursday expressed concern over persistent deficiencies in passenger amenities and sanitation across railway stations, with a recent Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audit finding that bio-toilets, projected as a game changer by the Indian Railways, were found deficient or non-functional at 491 of the 512 stations inspected.

The findings were discussed at a PAC meeting headed by senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, which examined the CAG's Report No. 31 of 2026 on passenger amenities and sanitation at stations.

Sources said Mr. Venugopal acknowledged the scale and complexity of managing the Indian Railways, but said that should not hamper basic services for citizens. He noted that



K.C. Venugopal

four PAC reports on the subject have been presented since 2007, highlighting key deficiencies, but the Railways ignored the findings. He added that Ministry of Railways continued to submit action-taken reports, without making any significant improvements on the ground.

Sources said the PAC Chairperson directed the Ministry to review the committee's observations, made since its 2007 report, and submit a response within a month detailing measures to address the deficiencies.

"The meeting was one of the most important subjects concerning common passengers in this country. Basic amenities provided to passengers have serious discrepancies, including drinking water, seating arrangements, fans, and roofing on platforms... The audit has pointed out serious lapses on the part of the Railways, which we are examining... After one month, we will call another meeting with Railway officials and we will discuss this" Mr. Venugopal said after the meeting.

The latest audit noted that while the Ministry had informed the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways in 2020-21 that it had introduced bio-toilets, water-vending machines and Wi-Fi facilities, several shortcomings remained. Audit teams found deficiencies in water-vending machines at 29 of 77 stations, and Wi-Fi facilities at 65 of 380 stations.

— WHY IN NEWS

- ◆ The **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)**, chaired by **K.C. Venugopal**, flagged persistent deficiencies in passenger amenities & sanitation, examining **CAG Report No. 31 of 2026**.
- ◆ A CAG audit found **bio-toilets** deficient/non-functional at **491 of 512** stations; water-vending machines faulty at 29 of 77; Wi-Fi issues at 65 of 380 stations. Ministry directed to respond within a month.

— PAC — STATIC FACTS

- ◆ Introduced **1921**; first mentioned in the **Government of India Act, 1919 (Montford Reforms)**. Constituted yearly under **Rule 308** of Lok Sabha Rules.
- ◆ **22 members** — 15 (Lok Sabha) + 7 (Rajya Sabha); term of **one year**. Chairman appointed by the **Speaker**; since **1967**, conventionally from the **Opposition**. A Minister cannot be a member.
- ◆ **Advisory** body: examines appropriation accounts and the annual Finance Accounts — checks that money was spent within the "**scope of demand**" granted by Parliament.

PRELIMS POINTER

PAC is one of the three **Financial Committees** of Parliament, along with the **Estimates Committee** (30 members, all Lok Sabha) and the **Committee on Public Undertakings** (22 members). The PAC works *ex-post* — after money is spent — earning it the nickname the "**twin sister**" of the Estimates Committee. It relies heavily on the reports of the **CAG** (Article 148), who is often called its "friend, philosopher and guide".

A war room for India in an age of sanctions

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A war room for India in an age of sanctions

The next sanctions crisis may begin with a name on a Washington list and end in an Indian kitchen. Between them lie a New York bank, a London insurer, a tanker in the Strait of Hormuz and several ministries in Delhi. Foreign pressure moves through one system. No single Ministry follows the whole journey. Diplomacy, law, banking, trade, shipping and fuel supplies sit in different parts of government. Who owns the combined response?

Washington sanctioned four companies based in India and three Indian nationals over alleged trade in Iranian oil and petrochemicals. Tehran listed an LNG carrier serving India and an Indian flagged bulk carrier for possible fines, detention or confiscation in the Strait of Hormuz. One order travels through bank wires, the other waits at sea.

'Weaponised interdependence' India makes its own laws and foreign policy. Yet, an Indian company may need an American bank for payment, a foreign insurer for its ship, and safe passage to deliver cargo through a strait that another state can deny. Whoever controls a critical network can exert pressure on those who depend on it. Scholars call this weaponised interdependence.

Secondary sanctions tell a foreign business to abandon a targeted transaction or risk losing access to American finance. On August 24, the United States widened that threat under Operation Economic Sanctions across five Iranian sectors: digital assets, technology, gold, aviation and shipping. On September 14, Washington imposed Iran-related sanctions on Russia's VTB Bank, which has a Delhi branch. Banks dealing with it face sanctions risk, even where a transaction is permitted under Indian law. American law in the 1990s threatened foreign companies with penalties for conduct abroad. Europe responded with a blocking statute. When secondary sanctions against Iran returned in 2018, several European companies withdrew, despite having legal protection at home. The possible loss of access to American banking and dollar payments was enough to change oil trade



Syed Akbaruddin
Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, New York, currently, Dean, Academy School of Public Policy, Hyderabad

that remained legal in Europe. Sanctions against Russia widened after 2022. Export controls pursued foreign suppliers of chips and machine tools. Oil restrictions reached tankers, insurers, ship managers and traders. Sanctions increasingly followed the transaction rather than stopping with the seller. On September 16, the U.S. Congress passed a sanctions bill that would authorize the U.S. President to impose tariffs as a form of economic coercion. Indian experts to the U.S. could face tariffs of up to 100% over India's purchases of Russian oil. The Indian government is monitoring developments and has said that it will work with industry to protect India's trade and economic interests.

Iran is using a different chokepoint at sea. On August 23, its Persian Gulf Strait Authority published a list of 45 vessels it called non-compliant. They included *Fluiba*, chartered by Petrofac LNG and managed by the Shipping Corporation of India, and *Mohi Koot*, an Indian flagged bulk carrier. The authority did not explain the alleged breaches. By September 14, the list had grown to 77. The authority also warned insurers against covering listed ships. Washington has already sanctioned the authority and warned that seeking passage guarantees from it could carry sanctions risks, even without payment.

The domestic consequences Economic coercion ties foreign policy directly to the domestic economy. Its consequences reach households, farmers and seafarers. No Ministry can see the whole chain on its own.

During the current West Asia crisis, the government coordinated. Ministers, monitored vessels and supplies, raised LNG production and found alternative cargoes. It has kept pumps open and firehoses supplied. That coordination should survive the crisis. An Economic Security and Sanctions Office under the Cabinet Secretariat should become India's permanent war room for economic coercion. It should bring together officials responsible for foreign policy, finance, commerce, energy, shipping, law and defence, alongside the Reserve

Bank of India and market regulators. Its staff should track where transactions could fail, from payment and insurance to shipping and delivery. It would seek evidence behind foreign listings, support legitimate requests for removal, negotiate written exemptions and transition periods, and issue clear Indian guidance. Banks should distinguish legal prohibitions from their own commercial cautions. Companies should be warned early when a payment route, insurer or port is at risk.

India also needs more LPG storage, an expanded Indian-controlled tanker fleet and a stronger Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool, while securing long-term LNG contracts outside Hormuz. Rupee settlement can preserve lawful trade when sellers accept it, but cannot shield a bank that still needs New York.

Why India cannot follow China's stand China has said that the American measures had no basis in international law or authorisation from the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Earlier in May, Beijing told Chinese businesses not to recognise, enforce or comply with American sanctions against five Chinese refining companies. India also says that it upholds sanctions mandated by the UNSC and does not accept unilateral sanctions. That does not mean Delhi can simply copy Beijing. China's market power, state-directed economy and leverage over critical supply chains give it more room to resist.

India's financial and commercial ties with the U.S. make adopting Beijing's approach costly. A legal objection alone offers little comfort if Indian firms still bear the cost. India must protect household energy, seafarers, fertilizer supplies and livestock trade while preserving ties with the U.S., Russia, Iran and the Gulf. Delhi needs the full picture in one room before it acts. The first test of sovereignty happens when Delhi decides. The second comes when that decision meets a New York bank or the Strait of Hormuz. In the age of sanctions, India cannot move these checkpoints. It can, however, make sure that every decision is taken with the whole journey in view.

— CONTEXT

- Washington sanctioned **four India-based companies** and **three Indian nationals** over alleged trade in Iranian oil & petrochemicals — illustrating how sanctions now reach Indian firms.

— WEAPONISED INTERDEPENDENCE

- An Indian firm may still need an **American bank** for payment, a **foreign insurer** for its ship and **safe passage** through a strait. Whoever controls such a **critical network** can coerce those dependent on it — scholars call this **weaponised interdependence**.
- Economic coercion ties foreign policy to the **domestic economy** — households, farmers, seafarers. **No single Ministry** can see the whole chain.

— PROPOSAL — ECONOMIC SECURITY & SANCTIONS OFFICE

- A **permanent "war room"** under the **Cabinet Secretariat** bringing together foreign policy, finance, commerce, energy, shipping, law & defence, with the **RBI** and market regulators.
- Would track where transactions could fail, seek evidence behind listings, negotiate exemptions/transition periods, and warn firms early on risky payment routes, insurers or ports.
- India also needs more **LPG storage**, an expanded **India-controlled tanker fleet**, a stronger **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool**, long-term LNG contracts **outside Hormuz**, and **rupee settlement** where sellers accept it.

WHY INDIA CANNOT SIMPLY COPY CHINA

China told its firms not to comply with unilateral U.S. sanctions, citing lack of UNSC authorisation. India also rejects unilateral sanctions, but its deep financial/commercial ties with the U.S. make Beijing's defiance costly — Delhi must protect energy, seafarers and fertilizer supplies while preserving ties with the U.S., Russia, Iran and the Gulf.

New fault lines — Manipur's Kuki-Zo–Naga conflict

Page No.10 , GS 2

New fault lines

Manipur's new Kuki-Zo–Naga conflict needs firm, even-handed State action

In the three years since the conflagration of May 2023 hardened into a fault line between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities, Manipur has traversed a slow path towards peace between them. After nearly a year of President's Rule gave way in February 2026 to a Bharatiya Janata Party-led government under a new Chief Minister, Yumnam Khemchand Singh, attempts to engineer a thaw gathered pace with the everyday violence between the communities abating. Yet, many of those displaced in 2023 remain in relief camps; an RTI reply puts those dead in these camps at over 700, many due to the lack of access to basic health care and adequate nutrition. Even so, there have been tentative and encouraging openings towards rebuilding normalcy. On September 2, two Kuki-Zo MLAs attended the Assembly session – the first time since legislators from the community began boycotting it following the attacks in Imphal at the start of the ethnic conflict. In doing so they defied a directive from the Kuki-Zo civil society organisation, the Kuki Inpi Manipur, to continue the boycott until there was a concession on the demand for a separate administration. The two MLAs seem to acknowledge that it is time to reopen the political space even if differences persist, and for this, their presence in the Assembly must be welcomed.

sence in the Assembly must be welcomed.

Yet, these moves have coincided with a new ethnic fault line in Manipur. Since February, violence between the Naga and Kuki-Zo communities – which began as localised disputes – has spread across the hill districts. Till July, at least 15 Kuki-Zo people, 11 Nagas, three security personnel and a truck driver were killed; more have died in the last two months. Houses in Naga and Kuki-Zo villages have been burnt down and the newly displaced have moved into camps. Blockades imposed by partisans of the communities against the other have held up essentials and medicines, with the smaller Kuki-Zo community the worse affected. Health centres in the hills have been left dysfunctional. This echoes the Naga-Kuki violence of the 1990s, now revived by armed groups claiming to act on behalf of their respective communities and resurrecting arguments over who controls the hills and whose customary laws prevail there. With its tenure ending soon and Assembly elections due next year, the State government must move quickly to contain this outbreak of hostilities. It must work with civil society to lower the rhetoric – reportage from the ground suggests a weariness with the violence across communities – while acting against the armed groups with the help of the security forces. Those imposing blockades must be deterred by the force of law. Criminal law must apply equally across communities in the hills, and the safety and welfare of civilians must be guaranteed irrespective of ethnicity.

— WHY IN NEWS

- ◆ Since **February 2026**, violence between the **Naga** and **Kuki-Zo** communities — beginning as localised disputes — has spread across Manipur's hill districts; till July, at least **15 Kuki-Zo**, **11 Nagas**, **3 security personnel** and a truck driver were killed.
- ◆ This is a **new ethnic fault line** layered over the 2023 **Meitei–Kuki-Zo** conflict; echoes the **Naga–Kuki violence of the 1990s**, with armed groups reviving disputes over control of the hills and customary law.

— SIGNS OF A THAW — AND STRAIN

- ◆ After nearly a year of President's Rule, a **BJP-led government** under CM **Yumnam Khemchand Singh** took office (Feb 2026); everyday violence has been abating.
- ◆ On **2 September**, two Kuki-Zo MLAs attended the Assembly for the first time since the boycott — defying a **Kuki Inpi Manipur** directive — signalling a reopening of political space.
- ◆ Yet many displaced since 2023 remain in relief camps; an RTI reply puts camp deaths at **over 700**, many from lack of health care and nutrition. **Blockades** have held up essentials and medicines, hitting the smaller Kuki-Zo community hardest.

THE EDITORIAL'S ASK

The State must move quickly and even-handedly: work with civil society to lower rhetoric, act against armed groups with security forces, deter blockades by force of law, and apply criminal law **equally** across communities — guaranteeing civilian safety irrespective of ethnicity.

Practice Zone

MAINS — ANSWER WRITING (GS 2 / GS 3)

Q1. "In an era of weaponised interdependence, managing the domestic fallout of foreign secondary sanctions requires dedicated institutional machinery, not ad-hoc responses." In light of recent U.S. sanctions affecting Indian entities, examine the case for a permanent Economic Security and Sanctions Office. **(250 words / 15 marks)**

प्रश्न 1. "अस्त्रीकृत अन्योन्याश्रयता (weaponised interdependence) के युग में विदेशी द्वितीयक प्रतिबंधों के घरेलू प्रभावों का प्रबंधन तदर्थ प्रतिक्रियाओं से नहीं, बल्कि समर्पित संस्थागत तंत्र से संभव है।" भारतीय संस्थाओं को प्रभावित करने वाले हालिया अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों के आलोक में, एक स्थायी 'आर्थिक सुरक्षा एवं प्रतिबंध कार्यालय' की आवश्यकता की समीक्षा कीजिए।

Approach: Define weaponised interdependence (control over payments, insurance, chokepoints) → show how sanctions on 4 Indian firms/3 nationals hit households, seafarers, fertilizer & energy → argue no single Ministry sees the whole chain → detail the proposed Cabinet-Secretariat war room (RBI, finance, energy, shipping, law) + enablers (LPG storage, tanker fleet, Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool, rupee settlement) → note why India cannot copy China's defiance → conclude with strategic autonomy + credible institutions.

Q2. Large storage dams on trans-boundary Himalayan rivers are increasingly justified as strategic countermeasures, yet face grave ecological and social objections. Critically examine with reference to the Siang Upper Multipurpose Project. **(250 words / 15 marks)**

प्रश्न 2. सीमा-पार हिमालयी नदियों पर बड़े भंडारण बाँधों को प्रायः रणनीतिक प्रत्युपाय के रूप में उचित ठहराया जाता है, फिर भी वे गंभीर पारिस्थितिक एवं सामाजिक आपत्तियों का सामना करते हैं। सियांग अपर बहुउद्देशीय परियोजना के संदर्भ में समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

Approach: Introduce SUMP (11,000–12,500 MW, Upper Siang) as a counter to China's 60,000 MW Medog dam → strategic/water-security & flood-control case → social costs: displacement across four districts, SIFF/ABK protests blocking NHPC surveys at Ugeng, Dite Dime, Parong → ecological/seismic fragility of the eastern Himalaya → governance lesson: free prior informed consent, transparent pre-feasibility, riparian diplomacy → balanced conclusion.

Q1. Consider the following about the recently passed U.S. sanctions Bill targeting Russian energy:

- ◆ 1. It authorises tariffs of up to 100% on countries buying Russian oil and gas.
- ◆ 2. It is an amendment to the "Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, 2026".
- ◆ 3. Countries whose gas imports are less than 15% of Russia's total gas exports may be exempt.
- ◆ 4. The final version named India and China explicitly as targets.

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only (b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q2. With reference to the Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP), consider the following:

- ◆ 1. It is planned near Geku village in the Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ◆ 2. Its proposed installed capacity is in the range of 11,000–12,500 MW.
- ◆ 3. The executing agency is the NHPC.
- ◆ 4. It is justified as a countermeasure to China's Medog hydropower station.

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only (d) All of the above

Q3. Arrange the correct downstream sequence of the river system feeding the Brahmaputra:

- ◆ Yarlung Tsangpo → Siang → confluence with Shiyomi → joins Dibang & Lohit → Brahmaputra

- (a) The sequence is correct (b) Only the first two are in correct order
(c) Dibang & Lohit precede the Shiyomi confluence (d) The Siang is called Yarlung Tsangpo only in Bangladesh

Q4. The Brahmaputra is a trans-boundary basin spanning which of the following riparian countries?

- ◆ 1. China 2. Bhutan 3. India 4. Bangladesh 5. Myanmar

- (a) 1, 3 and 4 only (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only (d) All five

Q5. The Three-Language Formula was first formulated on the recommendations of which body?

- (a) Radhakrishnan Commission (b) Mudaliar Commission
(c) Kothari Commission (1964–66) (d) Yashpal Committee

Q6. Regarding the Three-Language Formula under NEP 2020, consider the following:

- ◆ 1. At least two of the three languages must be native Indian languages.
- ◆ 2. A foreign language can be chosen as the third language even if only one of the other two is Indian.
- ◆ 3. It allows greater flexibility to States and students than the 1968 formula.

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

Q7. Consider the following about the Public Accounts Committee (PAC):

- ◆ 1. It was first provided for under the Government of India Act, 1919.
- ◆ 2. It is constituted every year under Rule 308 of the Lok Sabha Rules.
- ◆ 3. It has 22 members — 15 from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha.
- ◆ 4. A Union Minister can be elected as its member.

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q8. Which of the following is/are correct about the PAC?

- ◆ 1. Its Chairman is appointed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- ◆ 2. Since 1967, the Chairman is conventionally from the Opposition.
- ◆ 3. Its recommendations are binding on the Executive.

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

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

Q9. The term "weaponised interdependence", used in the context of sanctions, best refers to:

(a) Two states jointly developing weapons under a treaty (b) Mutual deterrence between nuclear-armed rivals

(c) Using control over critical networks (finance, insurance, shipping routes) to coerce dependent states (d) Interdependence of defence supply chains among allies

- Q10. The proposed "Economic Security and Sanctions Office" is suggested to function under which body?**
- (a) The Reserve Bank of India
(b) The Cabinet Secretariat
(c) The Ministry of External Affairs
(d) NITI Aayog

- ## ANSWER KEY & RATIONALE
- Q1 — (a) 1, 2 and 3 only.** The Hoyer amendment naming the top-10 importers (incl. India, China) did NOT pass — 4 is wrong; 1, 2, 3 correct.
- Q2 — (d) All of the above.** All four statements are correct as per the article — location (Geku, Upper Siang), capacity (11,000–12,500 MW), agency (NHPC) and rationale (vs. 60,000 MW Medog).
- Q3 — (a) The sequence is correct.** The Siang (Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet) meets its largest right-bank tributary the Shiyomi, then joins the Dibang and Lohit in Assam to form the Brahmaputra — sequence correct.
- Q4 — (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only.** The Brahmaputra flows through the Tibet Autonomous Region (China), Bhutan, India and Bangladesh — four riparian countries. Myanmar is not part of the basin.
- Q5 — (c) Kothari Commission (1964–66).** The formula was formulated by the Ministry of Education in 1968 based on the Kothari Commission (1964–66) recommendations, and reflected in NEP 1968.
- Q6 — (b) 1 and 3 only.** A foreign language can be the third language ONLY if the other two are native Indian languages — so 2 is wrong. 1 and 3 are correct.
- Q7 — (a) 1, 2 and 3 only.** A Minister cannot be a member of the PAC — 4 is wrong. The PAC traces to GoI Act 1919 (introduced 1921), is constituted under Rule 308, and has 22 members (15+7).
- Q8 — (a) 1 and 2 only.** The PAC is not an executive body; its findings are advisory, not binding — 3 is wrong. 1 and 2 are correct.
- Q9 — (c) Using control over critical networks (finance, insurance, shipping routes) to coerce dependent states.** Weaponised interdependence = whoever controls a critical network (e.g., dollar payments, insurance, chokepoints) can exert pressure on those who depend on it.
- Q10 — (b) The Cabinet Secretariat.** The editorial proposes a permanent "war room" for economic coercion under the Cabinet Secretariat, coordinating multiple Ministries along with the RBI and market regulators.

Q10 — (b) The Cabinet Secretariat. The editorial proposes a permanent "war room" for economic coercion under the Cabinet Secretariat, coordinating multiple Ministries along with the RBI and market regulators.

LAST-MINUTE

Revision & Value Add

⚡ QUICK REVISION RECAP

- ▶ **U.S. Sanctions Bill:** House 262–159; up to 100% tariff; amends Graham Act 2026; exemption if Russian gas <15% of Russia's exports.
- ▶ **SUMP:** 11,000–12,500 MW on Siang near Geku; NHPC; counter to China's 60,000 MW Medog; height 280–300 m; ~47 bn kWh/yr.
- ▶ **3-Language Formula:** Kothari Commission (1964–66) → NEP 1968 → NEP 2020 (≥2 native Indian languages; SC nudges Class 6 to 1 Jan 2027).
- ▶ **PAC:** GoI Act 1919; introduced 1921; Rule 308; 22 members (15 LS + 7 RS); chair from Opposition since 1967; advisory only.
- ▶ **War Room idea:** Economic Security & Sanctions Office under the Cabinet Secretariat for weaponised interdependence.
- ▶ **Manipur:** New Kuki-Zo–Naga fault line since Feb 2026; CM Yumnam Khemchand Singh; 700+ relief-camp deaths (RTI).

TRAP-SETTERS — WATCH OUT

- ⚠ The Bill's final version did **not** name India/China (the Hoyer amendment failed).
- ⚠ Exemption threshold is on **gas** imports being <15% of Russia's gas **exports** — not oil.
- ⚠ Under NEP 2020 a **foreign language** is allowed as R3 **only if** the other two are Indian.
- ⚠ PAC is **advisory**, not binding; a Minister **cannot** be a member.
- ⚠ **Medog** (60,000 MW) is **China's** project; **SUMP** is India's counter — don't swap them.

PERSONS & PLACES IN NEWS

- ★ **Pema Khandu** — CM, Arunachal Pradesh (Siang project).
- ★ **K.C. Venugopal** — Chairperson, PAC (CAG Rpt 31/2026).
- ★ **CJI Surya Kant & Justice Bagchi** — 3-language ruling.
- ★ **Yumnam Khemchand Singh** — CM, Manipur.
- ★ **SIFF & Adi Banne Kebang** — anti-dam bodies.
- ★ **Kuki Inpi Manipur** — Kuki-Zo civil society body.
- ★ **Geku · Ugeng · Dite Dime · Parong** — Siang survey sites.
- ★ **Chemayungdung range · Shiyomi river** — Brahmaputra system.

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