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THE HINDU

Why was actor Imran Khan asked to leave India?

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1

Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy,

Mains: General Studies - 2

Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Why in Focus?

- Actor **Imran Khan**, a U.S. citizen and **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)** cardholder, was asked to leave India by October 28 after participating in a protest.
- The notice was issued by the **Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO)** following a complaint by BJP leader Kirit Somaiya.

Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO): An office under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) responsible for foreign nationals' registration, visa-related services and immigration formalities in India.

Key Highlights:

- The notice invokes **Sections 7(2)(c) and 29 of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025**, empowering the government to regulate foreign nationals' presence and activities.

Overseas Citizen of India (OCI): A scheme allowing eligible foreign nationals of Indian origin to register as Overseas Citizens of India without conferring Indian citizenship.

- Under **Section 7A of the Citizenship Act, 1955**, eligibility for OCI extends to former Indian citizens, their descendants, and certain foreign spouses of Indian citizens.
- OCI cardholders receive a **lifelong, multiple-entry visa**, are generally exempt from FRRO registration and enjoy parity in domestic airfares.
- They can pursue certain professions and appear for **NEET/JEE under NRI or supernumerary seats**.
- Article 19 of the Constitution** guarantees freedoms like speech and assembly specifically to citizens, not OCI cardholders.
- Section 7(2)(c) allows the government** to direct a foreigner not to remain in India or in a specified area.
- Section 29 empowers the government to order the removal of a foreigner** for violating the Act or based on an adverse security report.
- In 2020, the **Calcutta High Court** quashed a **notice against Polish student Kamil Siedczynski for participating in a political rally**, citing Article 21.

Implications:

- Highlights differences between **OCI privileges and citizens' rights**.
- Raises concerns about **personal liberty and**



government powers.

- **Affects political participation** by foreign nationals.
- Emphasises **judicial review** and constitutional safeguards in immigration decisions.

Way Forward:

- **Clear legal procedures** should ensure consistent application of immigration laws.
- **Reasoned decisions** should protect the legal rights of foreign nationals.
- **Judicial scrutiny** should ensure compliance with constitutional safeguards.
- **Awareness of legal remedies** should help OCI cardholders understand their rights and restrictions.
- **Rule of law** should balance immigration control with personal liberty.

Rule of Law: The principle that everyone, including the government, is subject to the law and no one is above it.

Mains Question:

Discuss the rights and limitations of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders in India. Examine the balance between government powers under immigration law and the constitutional protection of personal liberty. (250 words, 15 marks)

How does the U.S.–Russia diesel deal impact India?

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2

Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Why in Focus?

- On **October 10, 2026**, U.S. President **Donald Trump** announced a deal allowing Russia to supply diesel to the U.S. and global markets.
- The following day, he announced an **energy ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine**, with implications for India's energy security and trade relations.

Key Highlights:

- Russia agreed to supply over **3 lakh tonnes of diesel immediately**, followed by **5 lakh tonnes in November**, **10 lakh tonnes thereafter** and another **30 lakh tonnes**, subject to refinery conditions.
- The **Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026**, signed on **September 18**, aims to restrict Russia's funding for the Ukraine war through sanctions on Russian leaders and companies and tariffs on major trading partners.

Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026: A U.S. legislative measure aimed at restricting Russia's funding for the Ukraine war through sanctions on Russian leaders and companies and tariffs of up to 100% on countries importing significant amounts of Russian oil and gas.

- The Act threatens **tariffs of up to 100%** on major importers of Russian oil and gas, particularly India and China.
- **India–U.S. trade negotiations** have faced repeated delays since February 2025. U.S. tariffs on India rose to **50% in August 2025** over Russian oil imports.
- India may continue importing **Russian oil** to meet its energy needs, particularly amid **fuel supply constraints caused by the West Asia conflict**.
- Russia imported a record **1.72 lakh tonnes of oil products in August 2026**, with India accounting for **70% of these imports**.

Implications:

- **Russian oil supplies** remain important for India's energy security amid global disruptions and fuel shortages.
- **Uncertainty over U.S. tariffs** could further delay the India–U.S. trade agreement.
- **Russia's refinery recovery** could reduce its demand for Indian petroleum products.
- **Increased diesel supplies** may help reduce global fuel prices.

Way Forward:

- **Diversify energy imports** to reduce dependence on individual suppliers and

minimise supply risks.

- **Strengthen trade negotiations** with the U.S. through dialogue and predictable trade policies.
- **Expand strategic petroleum reserves** to manage global supply disruptions and price volatility.
- **Protect strategic autonomy** by prioritising energy security and national interests while maintaining balanced international relations.

Mains Question:

Examine the implications of changing U.S. policies towards Russian energy for India's energy security, trade relations and strategic autonomy. (15 marks, 250 words)

Why have Central banks around the world began hiking rates?

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 3

Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

Why in Focus?

- **Geopolitical tensions in West Asia, high crude oil prices and persistent inflation** are complicating global monetary policy.
- Rising **U.S. Treasury yields** and pressure on the rupee may limit the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)** ability to cut interest rates.

Key Highlights:

- Central banks began **raising interest rates in 2022** from very low levels.
- **Borrowing costs are now high in many economies**, leaving less room for further hikes.
- **Rising oil prices and persistent inflation** make it difficult for central banks to control prices without slowing economic growth.
- The **World Bank** projected global economic growth to decline from **2.9% in 2025 to 2.6% in 2026**.

- **Higher crude oil prices** increase India's oil import bill, transportation costs and prices of goods.
- **U.S. Treasury yields** have risen since late February due to inflation concerns, expectations of interest rates remaining high and increased government borrowing.

U.S. Treasury Yields: The rate of return on U.S. government bonds, influenced by bond prices, inflation expectations and interest rate expectations.

- Higher U.S. Treasury yields may attract investors towards **U.S. assets**, reducing investment flows to countries such as India.
- A **weaker rupee** makes imported oil more expensive, increasing inflation and potentially widening India's **Current Account Deficit (CAD)**.

Current Account Deficit (CAD): A situation in which a country's current account payments exceed its receipts from trade, income and transfers.

- **Higher inflation and rupee depreciation** may limit the RBI's ability to cut interest rates to support economic growth.

Rupee Depreciation: A decline in the value of the Indian rupee relative to foreign currencies, such as the U.S. dollar.

Implications:

- **Domestic inflation** can rise as higher energy prices increase transportation and production costs.
- **Borrowing costs** may increase for Indian businesses and the government due to rising global yields.
- **Capital outflows** may increase as investors seek higher returns in U.S. assets, putting pressure on the rupee.
- **External sector stability** may weaken as costlier imports widen India's current account deficit.
- **Economic growth** may slow if limited scope for interest rate cuts affects consumption and investment.

Way Forward:

- **Data-driven monetary policy** should balance



inflation control with economic growth.

- **Energy diversification** should reduce import dependence and accelerate renewable energy production.
- **Foreign exchange reserves** should remain adequate to manage external volatility.
- **Deeper bond markets** can reduce vulnerability to global financial shocks.

Mains Question:

Explain how rising U.S. Treasury yields and crude oil prices influence India's macroeconomic stability. How do current global monetary conditions differ from the 2022 rate-hiking cycle? (250 words, 15 marks)

KEYWORDS

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)

- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) was established on **29 August 1997** as an attached office of the **Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**.
- Its primary objective is to ensure the **availability and affordability of essential medicines** in India.
- The authority implements the **Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013**.
- It fixes **ceiling prices for scheduled medicines** and monitors price increases in non-scheduled medicines.
- Its powers are derived from the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**, and include monitoring drug availability and shortages.

Fundamental Right to Access Internet for Children

- The Supreme Court of India held that children's access to the **Internet** is linked to fundamental rights under **Article 21** (right to life and personal liberty) and **Article 19(1)(a)** (freedom of speech and expression).
- In **Just Rights for Children Alliance v. S. Harish (2026)**, the Court emphasised that blanket restrictions on children's

Internet access may be disproportionate and push them towards unsafe online platforms.

- It recommended a dedicated **"child mode"** for social media, with private-by-default settings and restrictions on messages from unknown adults.
- The Court highlighted **parental consent, guidance and supervision**, alongside age-appropriate safeguards that protect children's privacy.
- The case addressed the detection and removal of **Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Material (CSEAM)** from digital platforms, including measures to support its identification and removal.
- It referred to **Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India (2020)**, which recognised that constitutionally protected freedoms can be exercised through the Internet.

Sucrose and Fructose

- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** proposed prohibiting the addition of sucrose and fructose to food products intended for infants up to **six months of age**, through a draft amendment notified in October 2026.
- **Sucrose** is a type of sugar made of two simple sugars, **glucose and fructose**.
- Commonly known as **table sugar**, it is **obtained from sugarcane and sugar beet**.
- **Fructose** is a simple sugar, also called **fruit sugar**, naturally found in fruits, honey and some vegetables.
- Both are **carbohydrates that provide approximately 4 kcal of energy per gram**; sucrose is broken down during digestion into glucose and fructose.
- The excessive intake of free sugars is associated with **tooth decay and unhealthy weight gain**.

Acetamidoprid and Imidacloprid

- **Acetamidoprid and imidacloprid** are insecticides used to control pests that damage crops.

- They affect the **nervous system of insects**, disrupting normal nerve signals.
- Both are **systemic insecticides**, meaning plants absorb them and transport them to different parts of the plant.
- In October 2026, **FSSAI proposed maximum residue limits (MRLs) in tea** of 20 mg/kg for acetamiprid and 50 mg/kg for imidacloprid. These are proposed, not finalised limits.
- **Maximum Residue Limit (MRL)** is the highest amount of pesticide residue legally permitted in food or agricultural products, usually expressed in milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg).
- It can harm **bees and other pollinators**, raising concerns about their environmental impact.

Places in News

Dhamar Province, Yemen

- Saudi airstrikes reportedly killed **three children** and injured **17 people** in Dhamar province.
- Located in **west-central Yemen**, Dhamar lies around 100 km south of Sana'a, with Dhamar City as its capital and 12 administrative districts.
- The region features **mountains, high plateaus, plains and valleys**, with elevations ranging from approximately 1,600 to 3,200 metres.
- It has a **cold semi-arid climate**, with seasonal rainfall, while agriculture supports the local economy through crops such as qat, coffee and grains.
- Dhamar is known for **mineral resources**, including zeolite, agate and volcanic rock, as well as traditional terraced farming and rainwater-harvesting systems.



Mekedatu Dam Project

- The **Mekedatu Dam Project** is in the news due to opposition from **Tamil Nadu**, which fears that the project could restrict the flow of Cauvery water into the state.
- The **Mekedatu Dam Project** is a proposed multipurpose project near Kanakapura in Karnataka's Ramanagara district, aimed at supplying drinking water and generating hydroelectricity.
- Located about **90 km from Bengaluru**, the project is proposed at the confluence of the **Cauvery River and its tributary, Arkavathi**.
- It proposes a **99-metre-high and 735-metre-long concrete gravity dam**, with a reservoir capacity of **66 TMC** and a planned power generation capacity of **400 MW**.
- The project aims to supply over **4 TMC of water to Bengaluru** for drinking purposes.
- **Tamil Nadu opposes the project**, arguing that it could restrict the unrestricted flow of Cauvery water into the lower riparian state.

Species In News

Hoolock gibbons

- Hoolock gibbons are in the news due to concerns over **habitat fragmentation by roads and railway lines**, which isolates populations, restricts movement and threatens their long-term survival.
- The **Hoolock gibbon** is the only ape found in India and is distributed across Northeast India, south of the Brahmaputra.



- It is found in **India, Myanmar, Bangladesh and southern China**, inhabiting tropical and subtropical forests.
- Two species occur in India: **Western Hoolock Gibbon** (*Hoolock hoolock*), classified as Endangered, and **Eastern Hoolock Gibbon** (*Hoolock leuconedys*), classified as Vulnerable by the IUCN.
- Hoolock gibbons are **arboreal, diurnal and monogamous**. Both species are listed under **Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**

