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MAY 18, 2026

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Civils & Competitive Careers
TRANSFORMING ASPIRANTS INTO ACHIEVERS

A/C CAMPUS

Table of Contents

1. UAPA Bail Curbs & Supreme Court Review 3
   - A. Core Idea 3
   - B. Why in News 3
   - C. Key Facts & Figures 3
   - D. Important Terms 3
   - E. Institutions / Organisations Involved 3
   - F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes 3
   - G. Direct Exam Takeaways 4
   - H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles 4
2. India–Nordic Summit & Strategic Partnership 4
   - A. Core Idea 4
   - B. Why in News 4
   - C. Key Facts & Figures 4
   - D. Important Terms 4
   - E. Institutions / Organisations Involved 5
   - F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes 5
   - G. Direct Exam Takeaways 5
   - H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles 5
3. US Approves Apache & Howitzer Support for India 5
   - A. Core Idea 5
   - B. Why in News 5
   - C. Key Facts & Figures 6
   - D. Important Terms 6
   - E. Institutions / Organisations Involved 6
   - F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes 6
   - G. Direct Exam Takeaways 6
   - H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles 7
4. India–Vietnam Defence & Maritime Cooperation 7
   - A. Core Idea 7
   - B. Why in News 7
   - C. Key Facts & Figures 7
   - D. Important Terms 7
   - E. Institutions / Organisations Involved 7
   - F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes 8
   - G. Direct Exam Takeaways 8
   - H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles 8
5. Tamil Nadu Two-Language Policy & PM SHRI Dispute 8
   - A. Core Idea 8
   - B. Why in News 8
   - C. Key Facts & Figures 8
   - D. Important Terms 9
   - E. Institutions / Organisations Involved 9
   - F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes 9
   - G. Direct Exam Takeaways 9
   - H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles 9
6. Tiger Deaths in Kanha Tiger Reserve due to CDV 10
   - A. Core Idea 10
   - B. Why in News 10
   - C. Key Facts & Figures 10
   - D. Important Terms 10
   - E. Institutions / Organisations Involved 10
   - F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes 10
   - G. Direct Exam Takeaways 11
   - H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles 11
7. Trump–Xi Summit & India-China Relations 11
   - A. Core Idea 11

Dr. GINDI'S IAS ACADEMY

B. Why in News 11
C. Key Facts & Figures 11
D. Important Terms 12
E. Institutions / Organisations Involved 12
F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes 12
G. Direct Exam Takeaways 12
H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles 12
8. Chandrayaan-3 Hop Experiment & Lunar Regolith 13
A. Core Idea 13
B. Why in News 13
C. Key Facts & Figures 13
D. Important Terms 13
E. Institutions / Organisations Involved 13
F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes 13
G. Direct Exam Takeaways 14
H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles 14
9. Quad, Strategic Autonomy & Global Power Shift 14
A. Core Idea 14
B. Why in News 14
C. Key Facts & Figures 14
D. Important Terms 15
E. Institutions / Organisations Involved 15
F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes 15
G. Direct Exam Takeaways 15
H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles 15
10. Separate Habitat for Asiatic Lions 16
A. Core Idea 16
B. Why in News 16
C. Key Facts & Figures 16
D. Important Terms 16
E. Institutions / Organisations Involved 16
F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes 16
G. Direct Exam Takeaways 16
H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles 17
11. Need to Empower Local Bodies in India 17
A. Core Idea 17
B. Why in News 17
C. Key Facts & Figures 17
D. Important Terms 18
E. Institutions / Organisations Involved 18
F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes 18
G. Direct Exam Takeaways 18
H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles 18
12. US Waiver on Russian Crude Oil & India 19
A. Core Idea 19
B. Why in News 19
C. Key Facts & Figures 19
D. Important Terms 19
E. Institutions / Organisations Involved 19
F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes 19
G. Direct Exam Takeaways 19
H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles 20

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1. UAPA Bail Curbs & Supreme Court Review

A. Core Idea

The issue is about whether people accused under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) can get bail if their trial is delayed for a very long time.

B. Why in News

Delhi Police requested the Supreme Court to form a larger Bench to clarify rules related to bail under UAPA.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- UAPA enacted in: **1967**
- Important provision: **Section 43D(5)**
- Related Fundamental Right: **Article 21**
- Key Case:
  - **K.A. Najeeb Case (2021)**
  - **Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali Case (2019)**

D. Important Terms

- **UAPA**: Anti-terror law used against unlawful and terrorist activities.
- **Bail**: Temporary release of an accused person from jail.
- **Presumption of Innocence**: A person is considered innocent until proven guilty.
- **Coordinate Bench**: Bench of same number of judges in a court.
- **Statutory Bail Bar**: Legal restriction on granting bail.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- Supreme Court of India
- Delhi Police
- Ministry of Home Affairs

F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **UAPA, 1967** – Prevent unlawful and terrorist activities.
- **Article 21** – Right to life and personal liberty.
- **Article 145(3)** – Constitution Bench requirement in important constitutional matters.

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G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- UAPA is related to anti-terror activities.
- Section 43D(5) makes bail difficult under UAPA.
- Article 21 includes right to speedy trial.
- K.A. Najeeb case allowed bail due to long imprisonment.
- Watali judgment made UAPA bail stricter.
- Supreme Court can refer matters to larger Bench.
- "Bail is the rule, jail is exception" is a famous judicial principle.

H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- Match the following:
  - UAPA — Anti-terror law
  - Article 21 — Personal liberty
- Statement-based question on Section 43D(5)
- Question on meaning of Coordinate Bench
- Question on constitutional right to speedy trial

2. India–Nordic Summit & Strategic Partnership

A. Core Idea

India and Nordic countries decided to strengthen cooperation in technology, green energy, trade, and sustainability.

B. Why in News

The Third India-Nordic Summit was held in Oslo, Norway.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- Summit location: **Oslo, Norway**
- Nordic countries:
  - Denmark
  - Finland
  - Iceland
  - Norway
  - Sweden
- India-EFTA TEPA investment target:
  - **$100 billion**
- EFTA members:
  - Iceland
  - Liechtenstein
  - Norway
  - Switzerland

D. Important Terms

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- **Blue Economy**: Sustainable use of ocean resources.
- **EFTA**: European Free Trade Association.
- **Multilateralism**: Cooperation among many countries.
- **Rule of Law**: Everyone is equal before law.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- European Free Trade Association
- European Union
- Government of India
- Nordic Council countries

F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **India-EFTA TEPA** – Trade and investment agreement.
- **Article 51** – Promotion of international peace.
- **UNCLOS** – International law for oceans and seas.

G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- Oslo is the capital of Norway.
- Nordic region is in Northern Europe.
- EFTA is different from European Union.
- Blue Economy is related to ocean resources.
- India focuses on Arctic research cooperation.
- India-EFTA agreement aims investment in India.
- Sweden known for advanced manufacturing.
- Iceland known for geothermal energy.

H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- Map-based question on Nordic countries.
- Match the following:
  - Iceland — Geothermal energy
  - Norway — Blue economy
- Question on EFTA members.
- Statement-based question on UNCLOS.

3. US Approves Apache & Howitzer Support for India

A. Core Idea

The United States approved military support services for India's Apache helicopters and M777 Howitzers.

B. Why in News

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US approved defence support deals worth more than $428 million for India.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- Total deal value: **Over $428 million**
- Apache support package:
  - **$198.2 million**
- M777 support package:
  - **$230 million**
- India became Major Defense Partner in:
  - **2016**

D. Important Terms

- **Sustainment Support**: Repair, maintenance, training, and spare parts support.
- **Ultra-Light Howitzer**: Lightweight artillery gun for difficult terrains.
- **Major Defense Partner**: Special US status given to India for defence cooperation.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- United States Department of State
- Boeing
- Lockheed Martin
- BAE Systems
- Quad grouping

F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **US Arms Export Control Act (AECA)** – Controls US defence exports.
- **LEMOA** – Logistics sharing agreement.
- **COMCASA** – Secure communication agreement.
- **BECA** – Geospatial intelligence sharing agreement.

G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- Apache is an attack helicopter.
- M777 is an ultra-light howitzer.
- P-8I aircraft used for maritime surveillance.
- Quad members:
  - India
  - US
  - Japan
  - Australia
- LEMOA related to logistics support.
- COMCASA related to communication systems.
- BECA related to geospatial data sharing.

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H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- Match the following:
  - LEMOA — Logistics
  - COMCASA — Communication
  - BECA — Geospatial sharing
- Question on Quad members.
- Statement-based question on Apache helicopter.
- Defence equipment identification question.

4. India–Vietnam Defence & Maritime Cooperation

A. Core Idea

India and Vietnam agreed to strengthen defence cooperation, maritime security, and military training.

B. Why in News

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met Vietnam's Defence Minister in Hanoi.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- Meeting location: **Hanoi, Vietnam**
- Defence credit line to Vietnam:
  - **$600 million**
- Important agreement:
  - **Joint Vision Statement Towards 2030**
- INS Kirpan gifted in:
  - **2023**

D. Important Terms

- **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**: Highest level of diplomatic partnership.
- **Missile Corvette**: Small warship equipped with missiles.
- **Freedom of Navigation**: Free movement of ships in international waters.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- Indian Navy
- Vietnam People's Navy
- ASEAN
- Ministry of Defence

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F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **UNCLOS 1982** – International maritime law.
- **Act East Policy** – India's policy to strengthen ties with East and Southeast Asia.
- **Defense Acquisition Procedure (DAP)** – Framework for defence procurement and exports.

G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- Hanoi is the capital of Vietnam.
- South China Sea is strategically important.
- INS Kirpan is a missile corvette.
- BrahMos is a supersonic cruise missile.
- Vietnam is important for India's Act East Policy.
- UNCLOS governs maritime rights.
- Malacca Strait is a major trade route.

H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- Map question on South China Sea and Malacca Strait.
- Match the following:
  - INS Kirpan — Missile corvette
  - UNCLOS — Maritime law
- Statement-based question on Act East Policy.
- Question on ASEAN-related cooperation.

5. Tamil Nadu Two-Language Policy & PM SHRI Dispute

A. Core Idea

Tamil Nadu government has again supported its two-language policy (Tamil and English) and opposed the three-language formula under NEP 2020.

B. Why in News

Tamil Nadu reiterated that it will not implement the three-language policy linked with PM SHRI schools.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- Tamil Nadu follows:
  - **Two-language policy**
- Policy officially adopted in:
  - **1968**
- PM SHRI linked with:
  - **NEP 2020**
- Chola copper plates belong to:
  - **11th century**

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- Important Chola rulers:
  - Rajaraja Chola I
  - Rajendra Chola I

D. Important Terms

- **Two-Language Policy**: Teaching only Tamil and English in schools.
- **PM SHRI Scheme**: Scheme to upgrade government schools.
- **JNV (Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya)**: Central government residential schools.
- **PPP Model**: Public-Private Partnership in development projects.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- Ministry of Education
- Archaeological Survey of India
- Leiden University, Netherlands
- Tamil Nadu School Education Department

F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **NEP 2020** – National Education Policy.
- **PM SHRI Scheme** – Modernization of schools.
- **Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972** – Protection of historical objects.
- **42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976)** – Education shifted to Concurrent List.

G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- Education is in Concurrent List.
- Article 343 relates to official language.
- Article 351 promotes development of Hindi.
- Tamil Nadu is the only state without JNVs.
- PM SHRI schools are linked to NEP implementation.
- Keeladi excavation is linked with Sangam-era civilization.
- Thanjavur is associated with Chola heritage.

H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- Match the following:
  - Article 343 — Official language
  - PM SHRI — School modernization
- Question on Concurrent List.
- Statement-based question on NEP 2020.
- Question on Chola dynasty artifacts.

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6. Tiger Deaths in Kanha Tiger Reserve due to CDV

A. Core Idea

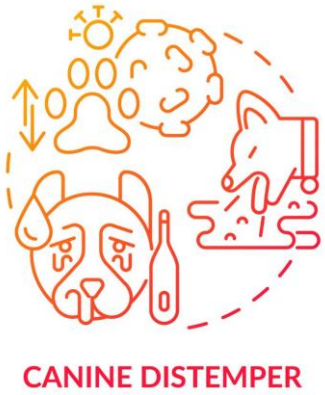
Several tigers died in Kanha Tiger Reserve due to suspected Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) spread from stray dogs.

B. Why in News

Six tiger deaths were reported in Kanha Tiger Reserve within one month.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- Reserve:
  - **Kanha Tiger Reserve**
- State:
  - **Madhya Pradesh**
- Tiger deaths:
  - **6**
- Virus:
  - **Canine Distemper Virus (CDV)**
- Important ranges:
  - Mukki
  - Sarhi



D. Important Terms

- **CDV**: Viral disease affecting carnivores like dogs and tigers.
- **Ring Vaccination**: Vaccinating animals around infected area.
- **Forest-Village Interface**: Area where forests and villages meet.
- **One Health**: Joint approach linking human, animal, and environmental health.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- National Tiger Conservation Authority
- Forest Department
- Animal Husbandry Department
- Kanha Tiger Reserve management

F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**
- **Article 48A** – Protection of environment and wildlife.
- **Article 51A(g)** – Fundamental duty to protect environment.

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G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- Tiger is protected under Schedule I.
- Madhya Pradesh is called “Tiger State”.
- CDV mainly spreads through infected dogs.
- Kanha Tiger Reserve is in Madhya Pradesh.
- Ring vaccination helps stop disease spread.
- One Health concept links humans, animals, and environment.
- Serengeti National Park is in Africa.

H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- Question on Wildlife Protection Act schedules.
- Match the following:
  - CDV — Viral disease
  - NTCA — Tiger conservation
- Map question on Kanha Tiger Reserve.
- Statement-based question on One Health approach.

7. Trump–Xi Summit & India-China Relations

A. Core Idea

The US and China agreed to reduce tensions and improve economic cooperation after the Trump-Xi summit in Beijing.

B. Why in News

The Beijing summit discussed trade, AI, Taiwan, and global stability.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- Summit location:
  - **Beijing, China**
- Important concept:
  - **Constructive Strategic Stability**
- Quad members:

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    - India
    - US
    - Japan
    - Australia
- Important historical agreement:
    - **Shanghai Communiqué (1972)**

D. Important Terms

- **Strategic Autonomy**: Independent foreign policy decisions.
- **G2**: Informal idea of US-China global leadership.
- **Decoupling**: Reducing economic dependence between countries.
- **Taiwan Strait**: Water body separating Taiwan and mainland China.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- Quadrilateral Security Dialogue
- BRICS
- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **Article 51** – Promotion of international peace.
- **One China Policy** – China considers Taiwan part of China.
- **Major Defense Partner Status** – Special US defence status for India.

G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- Beijing is the capital of China.
- Taiwan issue is sensitive in US-China relations.
- Quad is related to Indo-Pacific security.
- BRICS includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa.
- SCO headquarters is in Beijing.
- Strategic autonomy is key feature of India's foreign policy.

H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- Match the following:
    - Quad — Indo-Pacific grouping
    - SCO — Eurasian grouping
- Map question on Taiwan Strait.
- Statement-based question on BRICS and Quad.
- Question on One China Policy.

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8. Chandrayaan-3 Hop Experiment & Lunar Regolith

A. Core Idea

Chandrayaan-3 experiments showed that the Moon's upper soil has different layers and strong heat insulation properties.

B. Why in News

Scientists published findings from Chandrayaan-3's "hop experiment" on lunar soil.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- Hop height:
  - **40 cm**
- Drift distance:
  - **50 cm**
- Temperature drop:
  - **About 60°C**
- Important payload:
  - **ChaSTE**
- Study published in:
  - **Astrophysical Journal**

D. Important Terms

- **Lunar Regolith**: Dust and broken rocks on Moon surface.
- **Hop Maneuver**: Small jump made by spacecraft after landing.
- **ChaSTE**: Instrument measuring lunar temperature and heat properties.
- **Thermal Conductivity**: Ability of material to transfer heat.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- Indian Space Research Organisation
- Physical Research Laboratory

F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

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- **Outer Space Treaty, 1967** – Space exploration for peaceful purposes.
- **Indian Space Policy, 2023** – Space sector development policy.
- **Article 51A(h)** – Development of scientific temper.

G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- Chandrayaan-3 landed near Moon's south pole.
- ChaSTE measured lunar temperature profile.
- Lunar regolith acts as heat insulator.
- ISRO is headquartered in Bengaluru.
- PRL is located in Ahmedabad.
- Moon has extreme temperature variation.
- Outer Space Treaty prohibits ownership of Moon territory.

H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- Match the following:
  - ChaSTE — Thermal experiment
  - Regolith — Lunar soil
- Statement-based question on Chandrayaan-3.
- Question on Outer Space Treaty.
- Space mission identification question.

9. Quad, Strategic Autonomy & Global Power Shift

A. Core Idea

India is reassessing its foreign policy strategy as US-China relations improve and China-Russia ties become stronger.

B. Why in News

Discussions increased over the future role of the Quad and India's strategic autonomy amid changing global power relations.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- Quad members:
  - India
  - US
  - Japan
  - Australia
- Important defence agreements:
  - LEMOA

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    - COMCASA
    - BECA
- Article related to foreign relations:
    - **Article 51**

D. Important Terms

- **Strategic Autonomy**: Independent foreign policy decisions.
- **G2**: Informal idea of US-China global dominance.
- **Power Imbalance**: Unequal military or economic strength between countries.
- **Multi-Alignment**: Maintaining relations with many global powers simultaneously.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- Quadrilateral Security Dialogue
- BRICS
- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **Article 51** – Promotion of international peace.
- **LEMOA** – Logistics support agreement.
- **COMCASA** – Secure military communication agreement.
- **BECA** – Geospatial intelligence sharing agreement.

G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- Quad focuses on Indo-Pacific security.
- India follows multi-alignment policy.
- BRICS includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa.
- SCO headquarters is in Beijing.
- BECA is related to geospatial data.
- COMCASA is related to communication systems.
- LEMOA is related to logistics support.

H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- Match the following:
    - LEMOA — Logistics
    - COMCASA — Communication
    - BECA — Geospatial sharing
- Question on Quad members.
- Statement-based question on strategic autonomy.
- Map question on Indo-Pacific region.

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10. Separate Habitat for Asiatic Lions

A. Core Idea

The government is planning a second habitat for Asiatic lions to reduce the risk of extinction from disease or disasters.

B. Why in News

The Centre is consulting states for creating a geographically separate lion population.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- Current lion population:
  - **Around 891**
- Main habitat:
  - **Gir landscape, Gujarat**
- Important proposed site:
  - **Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh**
- Supreme Court order:
  - **2013**
- IBCA launched by:
  - **India**

D. Important Terms

- **Asiatic Lion**: Lion species found only in India.
- **Translocation**: Shifting animals from one habitat to another.
- **Metapopulation**: Separate populations connected through movement.
- **IBCA**: International Big Cat Alliance.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- National Tiger Conservation Authority
- International Big Cat Alliance
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**
- **Article 48A** – Protection of forests and wildlife.
- **2013 Supreme Court Order** – Directed lion translocation to Kuno.

G. Direct Exam Takeaways

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- Asiatic lions are found mainly in Gujarat.
- Gir National Park is famous for Asiatic lions.
- Asiatic lion is protected under Schedule I.
- Kuno National Park is in Madhya Pradesh.
- CDV is a major disease threat to lions.
- Project Cheetah is linked with Kuno.
- Maldharis are traditional communities in Gir region.

H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- Map question on Gir and Kuno National Parks.
- Match the following:
  - Gir — Asiatic lion
  - Kuno — Project Cheetah
- Statement-based question on Schedule I species.
- Question on IBCA objectives.

11. Need to Empower Local Bodies in India

A. Core Idea

Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Panchayats in India still lack sufficient money, staff, and powers for proper governance.

B. Why in News

Discussions highlighted weak financial and administrative powers of local bodies in India.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- 73rd Amendment:
  - **1992**
- 74th Amendment:

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- **1992**
- ULB tax collection:
  - **Around 0.3% of GDP**
- Twelfth Schedule:
  - **18 functions**

D. Important Terms

- **ULB**: Urban Local Body like Municipal Corporation.
- **PRI**: Panchayati Raj Institution.
- **Fiscal Autonomy**: Power to raise and spend own revenue.
- **State Finance Commission**: Recommends fund sharing for local bodies.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- Municipal Corporations
- Panchayati Raj Institutions
- State Finance Commissions
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **73rd Constitutional Amendment** – Panchayats.
- **74th Constitutional Amendment** – Municipalities.
- **AMRUT Mission** – Urban infrastructure improvement.
- **Smart Cities Mission** – Urban modernization.
- **JNNURM** – Urban renewal mission.

G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- Panchayats are covered under Part IX.
- Municipalities are covered under Part IXA.
- Twelfth Schedule relates to municipalities.
- State Finance Commission recommends fund distribution.
- Municipal bodies can collect property tax.
- Nagar Panchayat is for transitional urban areas.
- Urban planning is municipal function.

H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- Match the following:
  - Part IX — Panchayats
  - Part IXA — Municipalities
- Question on 73rd and 74th Amendments.
- Statement-based question on State Finance Commission.
- Question on Twelfth Schedule functions.

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12. US Waiver on Russian Crude Oil & India

A. Core Idea

The US extended temporary permission for countries like India to continue purchasing Russian crude oil.

B. Why in News

The US extended sanctions waiver for Russian crude imports till June 17.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- Waiver validity:
  - **Till June 17**
- Important chokepoint:
  - **Strait of Hormuz**
- Strait of Hormuz handles:
  - Around **one-fifth of global oil trade**
- Major Russian companies:
  - Rosneft
  - Lukoil

D. Important Terms

- **Sanctions Waiver**: Temporary legal exemption from sanctions.
- **Secondary Sanctions**: Penalties on third-party countries or firms.
- **Maritime Chokepoint**: Narrow sea route important for global trade.
- **OFAC**: US agency implementing economic sanctions.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- Office of Foreign Assets Control
- United States Department of the Treasury
- Indian oil refining companies

F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **IEEPA (International Emergency Economic Powers Act)** – US law for sanctions.
- **Article 73** – Union executive powers.
- OFAC General License framework.

G. Direct Exam Takeaways

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- Strait of Hormuz connects Persian Gulf with Arabian Sea.
- OFAC manages US economic sanctions.
- Russia is a major crude oil exporter.
- Sanctions waiver helps stabilize oil prices.
- India imports large quantity of crude oil.
- Secondary sanctions affect third-party countries.

H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- Map question on Strait of Hormuz.
- Match the following:
  - OFAC — US sanctions agency
  - IEEPA — US sanctions law
- Statement-based question on sanctions waiver.
- Question on maritime chokepoints.

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