

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- India's forex reserves hit an all-time high of **\$740.80 billion**, up \$11.47 billion in a week.
- Japan Credit Rating Agency upgrades India to '**A-**' from '**BBB+**' - its first upgrade in 35 years.
- UNEP says a **1.5°C overshoot is now unavoidable**; best-case peak warming about 1.8°C.
- Ganga crosses its previous **highest flood level** at Patna; 19.57 lakh affected across 11 Bihar districts.
- Home Ministry unveils a three-year roadmap for a **drug-free India by 2029**.
- A Supreme Court judge's letters to the CJI reopen the **judicial accountability** debate.
- SIR final rolls delete **1.85 lakh names** across Manipur and Sikkim.
- Tribal Affairs Ministry says the **FRA has no gram sabha consent clause** for forest clearance.
- DRDO and University of Hyderabad patent **BAM-H24**, a boron-rich solid rocket propellant.
- Chhattisgarh tops **Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari 3.0** with 77,719 structures completed.

SECTION A • GS-III: SCIENCE & TECH, ECONOMY, SECURITY

ISRO refutes 'privatisation'; the IN-SPACe remark explained

[SCI-TECH] HIGH-YIELD: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III - Achievements of Indians in science and technology ; indigenisation. Prelims : IN-SPACe, NSIL, Indian Space Policy 2023.
Context	Nine ISRO employee associations wrote on 4 September seeking clarity after the IN-SPACe chairman said on 21 August that ISRO would eventually not manufacture launch vehicles . ISRO called privatisation fears ' completely baseless '.
Key Facts	- The associations asked about Space Commission approval, sanctioned strength and recruitment over a 5-10 year horizon. - IN-SPACe clarified the direction is 'not a smaller ISRO but a larger ecosystem'. - Division of labour: industry scales mature vehicles and satellites; ISRO keeps advanced R&D, scientific and strategic missions. - Department of Space staff are outside the statutory definition of 'industry' and organise as service associations under CCS (Recognition of Service Associations) Rules, 1993.
Way Fwd	Publish a transparent transition roadmap with workforce guarantees, so technology transfer does not read as withdrawal from a domain.
Concept	IN-SPACe authorises and regulates non-government space activity; NSIL is the commercial arm that markets mature ISRO technology. Both were created by the 2020 space reforms .

INDIA'S SPACE ECOSYSTEM

What the 2020 reforms actually changed

450+ space start-ups today	\$8.4 bn space economy now	\$44 bn target by 2033
2020 space sector reforms	2035 Bharatiya Antariksh Station	2040 crewed lunar mission
WHY IT MATTERS ISRO is not shrinking - it is moving up the ladder. Industry takes over mature launchers and satellites; ISRO keeps strategic missions, deep-space science and human spaceflight . The friction is over workforce planning , not ownership.		

Japan's JCR upgrades India to 'A-' after 35 years

[ECONOMY] HIGH-YIELD: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III - Indian economy, growth and development ; mobilisation of resources. Prelims : sovereign ratings, country ceiling, fiscal deficit.
Context	Japan Credit Rating Agency raised India's sovereign rating to ' A- ' from ' BBB+ ' with a stable outlook - its first upgrade of India in 35 years. The country ceiling was also raised to ' A '.
Key Facts	- JCR cites GDP growth projected above 6% for 2026-27. - Central fiscal deficit improved from 4.7% of GDP in FY25 to 4.4% in FY26. - Banking health: gross NPA ratio fell to 1.8% by March 2026. - A higher rating lowers external borrowing costs for the sovereign and for Indian corporates raising funds abroad.
Way Fwd	Sustained fiscal consolidation and better capital-expenditure quality decide whether the larger agencies follow with upgrades.
Concept	A country ceiling caps the rating most domestic issuers can receive, since few borrowers are considered safer than their sovereign. Ratings assess default risk , not growth.

UNEP: breaching 1.5°C is now unavoidable

[ENVIRONMENT] HIGH-YIELD: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III - Environment , conservation and climate change. Prelims : Paris Agreement, overshoot, carbon dioxide removal.
Context	A UNEP report on limiting overshoot concludes the 1.5°C threshold will be crossed, with warming peaking around 1.8°C in the best case. Current policies point to roughly 2.6°C by 2100 .
Key Facts	- Every five years of sustained emissions at present levels could add about 0.1°C. - The report maps a narrow return pathway below 1.5°C after overshoot. - Return requires large-scale carbon dioxide removal, whose scalability remains unproven. - Some overshoot effects - ice-sheet loss, coral die-off - are effectively irreversible on human timescales.
Way Fwd	The policy question shifts from avoiding overshoot to minimising its depth and duration , raising the salience of adaptation finance for the Global South.
Concept	Overshoot means temporarily exceeding a temperature limit before returning below it. The Paris Agreement (2015) targets 'well below 2°C' while pursuing 1.5°C.

DRDO and UoH patent BAM-H24 rocket propellant

[SCI-TECH]

COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III - Indigenisation of technology and developing new technology; defence R&D. Prelims: solid propellants, DRDO.
Context	DRDO with the University of Hyderabad secured Indian Patent No. 599900 on 20 August 2026 for BAM-H24 , a boron-, hydrogen- and nitrogen-rich compound for solid rocket propulsion.
Key Facts	- Key properties: high thermal stability and reduced ignition delay. Boron-rich formulations offer high volumetric energy density, valuable where volume is constrained. - Useful for compact tactical missiles and boosters where storage life matters. - Developed by Dr Muddamarri Hanumantha Rao and Prof. Muralidharan Krishnamurthi.
Way Fwd	Indigenous energetic materials cut import dependence in missile propulsion and feed the Atmanirbhar Bharat defence push.
Concept	Solid propellants cast fuel and oxidiser into a single grain - simple, storable and instantly ready, but they cannot be throttled or shut down once ignited, unlike liquid engines.

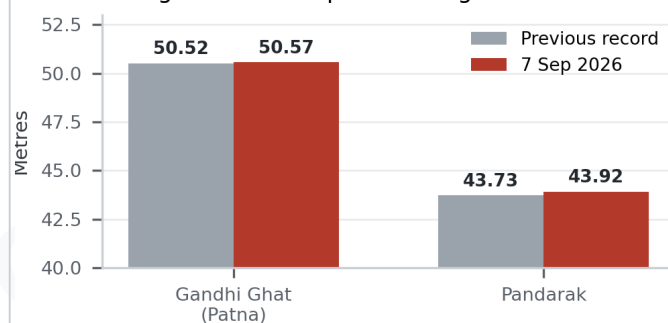
Bihar floods: Ganga crosses its record flood level

[DISASTER]

HIGH-YIELD: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III - Disaster management. GS-I - Geography: Ganga basin, drainage and floods.
Context	About 19.57 lakh people across 11 districts and 330 gram panchayats are affected as the Ganga crossed its previous highest flood level at Patna. Eight rivers are above danger level.
Key Facts	Gandhi Ghat, Patna: 50.57 m, above the August 2016 record of 50.52 m. Pandarak: 43.92 m, above the 2021 record of 43.73 m. - Districts hit include Patna, Bhojpur, Saran, Vaishali, Bhagalpur, Begusarai and Buxar. - Response: 110 community kitchens, 1,345 boats, 27 SDRF and 10 NDRF teams.
Way Fwd	Shift from embankment-only defence to basin-level management - silt policy, floodplain zoning and data sharing with Nepal on Himalayan tributaries.
Concept	About 73% of Bihar's area is flood-prone . Himalayan rivers carry heavy silt loads onto a low-gradient plain, raising riverbeds and reducing the carrying capacity behind embankments.

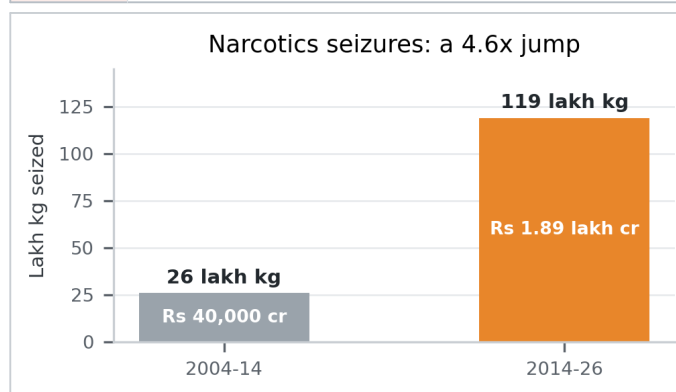
Ganga crosses its previous highest flood levels



Three-year roadmap for a drug-free India by 2029

[SECURITY] HIGH-YIELD: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III - Internal security: challenges of narcotics, trafficking and money-laundering linkages. Prelims: NDPS Act, NCORD, NCB.
Context	The Union Home Minister unveiled a roadmap running July 2026 to July 2029 to make India drug-free, framing narcotics control as a national security priority comparable to counter-Naxal operations.
Key Facts	- Four pillars: intelligence-led enforcement, precursor and synthetic drug control, demand reduction, and institutional capacity. - Seizures rose from 26 lakh kg (Rs 40,000 cr) in 2004-14 to over 1.19 crore kg (Rs 1.89 lakh cr) in 2014-26. De-addiction centres to triple to 1,751; 10,000 volunteers for community outreach. 274 fugitives extradited from 36 countries (2019-July 2026); assets worth Rs 17,874 crore seized.
Way Fwd	Synthetic drugs and precursor diversion are the emerging front - chemical-industry regulation and port scanning matter as much as street seizures.
Concept	The NDPS Act, 1985 is the parent statute. NCORD gives four-tier Centre-State coordination and the Narcotics Control Bureau is the apex enforcement agency.

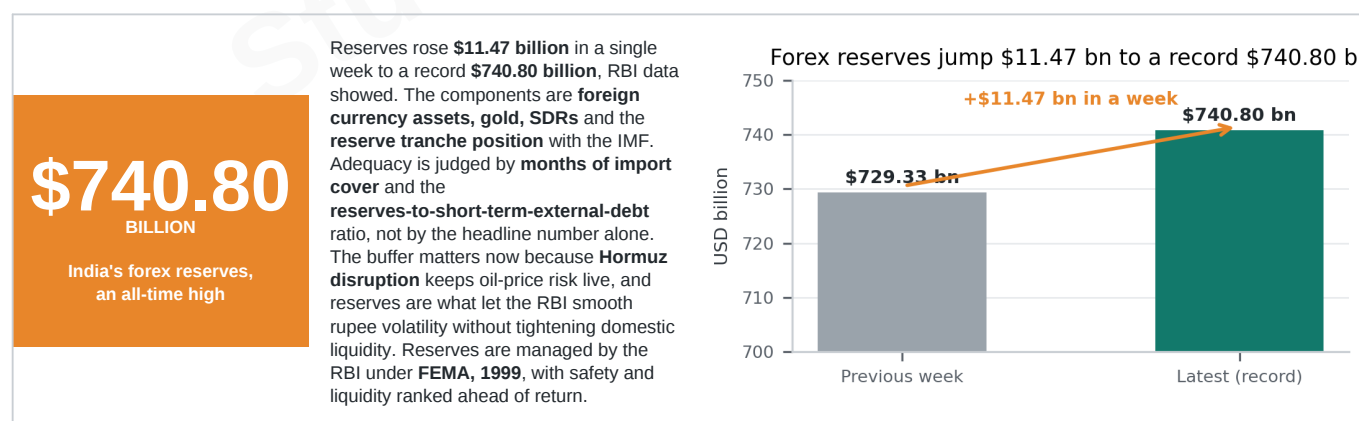


SEBI and ESMA renew cooperation on clearing houses

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III - Capital markets and financial regulation. Prelims: SEBI, central counterparties, EMIR.
Context	SEBI and the European Securities and Markets Authority signed an updated MoU on the supervision of central counterparties , replacing a 2017 agreement. It lets Indian CCPs reapply for recognition under the EU's EMIR framework.
Key Facts	- Signed by SEBI chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey and ESMA chair Verena Ross. - A central counterparty sits between buyer and seller in a trade, guaranteeing settlement if one side defaults. - EU recognition matters because European banks face higher capital charges when clearing through unrecognised CCPs. - The 2017 MoU had lapsed amid a supervisory access dispute between the two regulators.
Way Fwd	Restored recognition lowers the cost for European banks to clear Indian trades and supports rupee-market depth.
Concept	EMIR (European Market Infrastructure Regulation) governs derivatives clearing in the EU. Regulatory deference - recognising another jurisdiction's supervision as equivalent - is what avoids duplicate compliance.

SECTION B • ECONOMY DATA POINT OF THE DAY



SECTION C • GS-II: GOVERNANCE, POLITY & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Judicial accountability row reaches the CJI

[POLITY] HIGH-YIELD: Prelims + Mains GS2

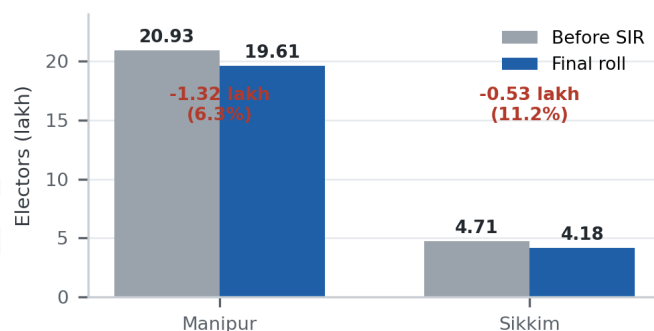
Syllabus Linkage	GS-II - Judiciary: structure, appointments, accountability. Prelims: Articles 124(4), 217(1)(b), Judges (Inquiry) Act 1968.
Context	A sitting Supreme Court judge wrote three letters (2, 10 and 17 August) to the CJI seeking the transfer of the Acting Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court , alleging victimisation of judges, misuse of the master-of-roster power and nepotism in appointments.
Key Facts	- The Rajasthan HC functioned without a regular Chief Justice for about 11 months. - The Collegium recommended a new Chief Justice on 31 August 2026. K. Veeraswami (1991): prior permission of the CJI is needed to register an FIR against a higher judiciary judge. - The Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill passed the Lok Sabha in 2012 but lapsed in 2014.
Way Fwd	Strengthen the 1999 in-house procedure with time limits and a reasoned outcome, and revive a statutory accountability framework short of impeachment.
Concept	Removal is governed by Articles 124(4) (SC) and 217(1)(b) (HC) read with the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 . No impeachment has ever succeeded in India - making the in-house mechanism the only working check.

SIR: 1.85 lakh names deleted in Manipur and Sikkim

[POLITY] HIGH-YIELD: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II - Election Commission , electoral rolls and franchise. Prelims: RP Act 1950, Articles 324 and 326.
Context	Final rolls after the Special Intensive Revision showed about 1.85 lakh deletions across Manipur and Sikkim. Karnataka's CEO separately published a notice list covering 43.81 lakh electors.
Key Facts	Manipur: 20,93,076 to 19,60,620 - a deletion of 1,32,456 names (about 6.3%). Sikkim: about 4,71,081 to 4,18,467 - a deletion of 52,614 names (about 11.2%). - Deletion heads: shifted, deceased, absent and duplicate entries. - Manipur's final roll sex ratio: 1,056 women per 1,000 men.
Way Fwd	Credibility rests on grievance redress - appeals run from the ERO to the District Magistrate and then the Chief Electoral Officer.
Concept	Section 21(3), RP Act 1950 lets the ECI order a special revision at any time for reasons recorded in writing. Intensive revision means fresh house-to-house enumeration; summary revision only invites claims and objections against the existing roll.

SIR: 1.85 lakh names deleted in two States



'FRA has no gram sabha consent clause', says Ministry

[GOVERNANCE] HIGH-YIELD: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II - Government policies and issues arising out of their design and implementation. GS-III - Environment: forest clearance.
Context	The Ministry of Tribal Affairs told NHPC in a 31 August letter that the FRA, 2006 has no provision for gram sabha consent for forest clearance and that the matter is not under its purview - despite being the Act's nodal ministry .
Key Facts	- Environment Ministry circulars since 2009 make FRA compliance and a gram sabha NOC a precondition for Stage-II forest clearance. - A Standing Committee report (3 August) found forest clearance for NHPC projects averaged 106 months. - NHPC proposed a 'qualified super-majority' of 70-75% of affected gram sabhas for national-importance projects. Teesta-IV hydro project remains stalled awaiting gram sabha consent.
Way Fwd	A jurisdictional disclaimer by the nodal ministry leaves a governance vacuum ; clarity, not abdication, is what both project timelines and forest dwellers need.
Concept	Section 5, FRA empowers the gram sabha to protect forests and biodiversity. Niyamgiri (2013) held gram sabha consent decisive on community and religious forest claims. PESA, 1996 mandates consultation in Fifth Schedule areas.

ST classification criteria and the Lokur legacy

[SOCIETY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS1

Syllabus Linkage	GS-I - Society: tribal identity. GS-II - Social justice, Scheduled Tribes. Prelims: Articles 342, 366(25), 338A.
Context	A national convention of the Adivasi Adhikar Rashtriya Manch in New Delhi demanded that ST classification criteria be insulated from political manipulation , opposing proposals to delist converted Adivasis on religious grounds.
Key Facts	Lokur Committee (1965) criteria: primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact and backwardness - widely called obsolete. Article 342: the President specifies STs; only Parliament by law can include or exclude a community. - Unlike Scheduled Castes, ST status carries no religion condition - the delisting campaign seeks to change this. - The convention also sought Adivasi languages in the Eighth Schedule, which now has 22 languages.
Way Fwd	An evidence-based revision of the Lokur criteria is the long-pending reform; a 2002 task force proposed changes but none were ever adopted.
Concept	Article 366(25) defines STs with reference to Article 342. Article 338A (89th Amendment, 2003) created the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes .

Hasina interview strains India-Bangladesh ties

[IR] HIGH-YIELD: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II - India and its neighbourhood ; bilateral agreements. Prelims: 2013 extradition treaty, 1951 Refugee Convention.
Context	Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina , in India since 5 August 2024 , defended her right to address party workers and the press. Dhaka has linked the postponement of a high-level visit to her public interactions.
Key Facts	- She has been convicted in Bangladesh over the 2024 crackdown on student protesters. - India has no domestic refugee or asylum law and is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention. - The 2013 extradition treaty (amended 2016) exempts offences of a political character. - Pending files: Teesta water sharing and renewal of the Ganga Waters Treaty, 1996.
Way Fwd	India needs a statutory asylum framework so individual cases stop becoming bilateral irritants with every political transition next door.
Concept	The relationship rests on the 1971 Liberation War legacy, the 1972 Treaty of Friendship , the 2015 Land Boundary Agreement settling enclaves, and the 2014 UN maritime boundary award .

US-Iran war enters sixth month; Hormuz still unsafe

[IR] HIGH-YIELD: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II - Effect of policies of developed countries on India's interests. GS-I - Geography: strategic chokepoints .
Context	Iranian strikes on US warships and American retaliation against Iranian tankers have kept the Strait of Hormuz unsafe. Diplomacy collapsed after the 17 June Islamabad MoU failed to produce talks.
Key Facts	- The strait is about 21 nautical miles at its narrowest; usable shipping lanes are only kilometres wide. - Bordered by Iran to the north and Oman's Musandam exclave and the UAE to the south. - It is the world's most critical oil chokepoint, carrying a large share of traded crude and LNG. - India has run Operation Sankalp escort deployments in the Gulf since 2019.
Way Fwd	Bypass pipelines - Saudi East-West to Yanbu and the UAE's Habshan-Fujairah - fall well short of Hormuz throughput, so India's import basket stays exposed.
Concept	Transit passage under UNCLOS allows continuous and expeditious passage through international straits. Iran signed but never ratified UNCLOS and is bound by the customary rule.

Chhattisgarh tops Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari 3.0

[GOVERNANCE] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II - Government schemes and community participation . GS-III - Water resources and conservation.
Context	Chhattisgarh ranked first nationally under Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari 3.0 , part of the Catch the Rain campaign, completing 77,719 of 79,775 registered water conservation structures.
Key Facts	Five districts feature in India's top ten - Surajpur, Mahasamund, Balod, Balodabazar-Bhatapara and Kabirdham. - Koriya district's '5 Per Cent Model' asks farmers to set aside 5% of farmland for groundwater recharge. - The scheme sits under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign of the Jal Shakti Ministry. - It works through panchayat and community participation rather than pure departmental construction.
Way Fwd	Community-led recharge is replicable in water-stressed States, but maintenance of structures after completion remains the weak link.
Concept	Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain is a time-bound campaign promoting rainwater harvesting and aquifer recharge , with the tagline 'catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls'.

Punjab's 'Pehchaan' portal for unidentified dead

[GOVERNANCE] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II - e-governance: applications, models and citizen services. Prelims: CCTNS, MedLEaPR.
Context	Punjab launched the ' Pehchaan ' portal to help identify unclaimed deceased persons - the first such State-level system in India. It is built on the MedLEaPR medico-legal platform.
Key Facts	- Photographs and identification marks are uploaded within 48 hours of a body being found. - The portal integrates with CCTNS, the national police crime and criminal records network. - It lets families search across districts instead of visiting individual police stations or morgues. MedLEaPR digitises post-mortem and medico-legal reports, linking hospitals with police.
Way Fwd	A searchable national registry would extend the benefit beyond State borders, where most missing-person cases actually run.
Concept	CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems) is a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan , linking police stations into a common database.

SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. Forex reserves stand at a record \$740.80 billion ; the weekly rise was \$11.47 billion .	2. JCR is a Japanese rating agency; it moved India from BBB+ to A- with a stable outlook.
3. Patent No. 599900 covers BAM-H24 , a boron-rich solid rocket propellant .	4. Gandhi Ghat and Pandarak are the Ganga gauge sites in Patna district that crossed record levels.
5. Section 21(3) of the RP Act, 1950 is the legal basis for a Special Intensive Revision.	6. The Lokur Committee of 1965 laid down the five criteria still used to identify Scheduled Tribes.

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

Prelims MCQ 1. With reference to the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls, consider the following statements:

1. It is conducted under the Representation of the People Act, **1951**.
2. An intensive revision involves fresh **house-to-house enumeration**.
3. Appeals against an Electoral Registration Officer's decision lie to the **District Magistrate**.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Why: Statements **2 and 3** are correct. Statement **1** is wrong - electoral roll preparation is governed by the RP Act, **1950**; the RP Act, **1951** deals with the **conduct of elections** and disqualifications.

Prelims MCQ 2. Consider the following pairs of **constitutional provisions** and their subject:

1. **Article 342** - specification of Scheduled Tribes
2. **Article 338A** - National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
3. **Article 366(25)** - definition of Scheduled Tribes

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (c)

Why: **All three** are correctly matched. Note that only **Parliament by law** can include or exclude a community from the ST list, even though the President issues the initial notification under Article 342.

Mains Practice Question

"The absence of a working removal mechanism has made India's judiciary accountable largely to itself." In light of recent developments, examine the adequacy of existing judicial accountability mechanisms and suggest reforms. **(250 words, 15 marks)**

Hint / approach: Open with the **Articles 124(4) / 217(1)(b)** route and the fact that **no impeachment has succeeded**. Cover the **1999 in-house procedure**, the **K. Veeraswami (1991)** bar on FIRs, and the lapsed **2012 Bill**. Balance **independence versus accountability** - avoid executive-controlled remedies. Close with time-bound in-house inquiry, reasoned outcomes and transparency in **Collegium** decisions.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Forex \$740.80 bn record | JCR upgrade to A- | UNEP 1.5°C overshoot, peak 1.8°C | Ganga 50.57 m at Gandhi Ghat | Drug-free India 2029 roadmap | SIR deletes 1.85 lakh in Manipur + Sikkim | FRA consent row | BAM-H24 patent | Chhattisgarh tops Jal Sanchay 3.0

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team | **YouTube: @Study_ForGS** | **Telegram: t.me/studymforgeneralstudies**