

THE DAILY UPSC BRIEF

HIGH-YIELD DAILY SOURCES & ANALYSIS | 20 SEPTEMBER 2026

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HOW TO READ THIS BRIEF

- ☐ Why in News / Target Prelims MCQ ☐ How to Use in UPSC Mains ☐ Mains Practice / Case Study Question
☒ Correct Answer

GS PAPER 2: Polity, Governance & International Relations

Delhi's SIR Notices Sweep Up 33.1 Lakh Electors — From a Former Vice-President to Ordinary Voters

Why in news: Delhi's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has flagged 33.1 lakh electors for notices under two error categories, pulling in several prominent names before the final roll is published on November 4.

Key Details:

- **Two flag categories:** About 19.3 lakh electors were flagged for 'logical discrepancies' (name/age mismatches); another 13.79 lakh were marked 'no mapping' — untraceable in the earlier SIR roll.
- **High-profile names caught up:** Former Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, ex-CM Arvind Kejriwal, Justice Madan Lokur and Kapil Sibal all figure on the list, alongside CM Rekha Gupta (since validated).
- **The verification bar:** Electors must prove eligibility using 1 of 12 EC-prescribed documents; the EC's own SOP treats Aadhaar alone as insufficient proof of eligibility.
- **Timeline:** Pending cases are to be disposed of by October 29; the final electoral roll for Delhi is due on November 4.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **The national backdrop:** Of 1.45 crore electors on Delhi's rolls as of June 16, 2026, only 97.5 lakh remain in the draft roll after large-scale ASDD deletions; over a third of these now face notices.
- **A parallel appeals backlog:** In West Bengal's SIR, 22.21 lakh excluded voters have filed appeals before 19 tribunals, of which only 1,26,194 stand decided — a preview of the disposal load Delhi's tribunals may face.

Delhi SIR Notices — Two Categories, One Deadline

Category	What It Means	Electors Flagged
Logical discrepancies	Name/age mismatch vs. the earlier roll	~19.3 lakh
No mapping	Elector/relative untraceable in prior roll	~13.79 lakh
Total notices issued	—	33.1 lakh

How to use in UPSC Mains: Cite the Supreme Court's 2026 ruling in *Association for Democratic Reforms v. ECI* — which added Aadhaar as a 12th identity document while denying it proves citizenship, and held that prior roll-inclusion is not a 'perpetual guarantee' — to pin down exactly where SIR's legal footing stands today.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. With reference to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, consider the following statements:

1. The Election Commission derives its power to prepare and revise electoral rolls from Article 324 of the Constitution and the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
2. Aadhaar is an acceptable document during an SIR to establish an elector's identity, but it does not by itself establish citizenship.
3. An elector already included in an earlier electoral roll cannot be asked to furnish fresh proof of eligibility in a subsequent revision.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Article 324 vests superintendence and control of elections — including roll preparation — in the EC, operationalised through the RP Act, 1950 (statement 1 correct). Aadhaar is accepted as an identity document, but courts and the EC's own SOP treat it as proof of identity, not citizenship (statement 2 correct). However, courts have held that inclusion in an earlier roll is not a 'perpetual guarantee', so the EC can demand fresh documentary proof during a later SIR (statement 3 false).

Related PYQ: UPSC Mains 2022, GS Paper II: "Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in the light of the evolution of the Model Code of Conduct." (15 marks/250 words). Same core idea as today's story: this tests the ECI's evolving regulatory authority over the electoral process — the same institutional power now being exercised, and contested, in Delhi's SIR notices.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** SIR: Special Intensive Revision | EC: Election Commission | ASDD: Absent/Shifted/Dead/Duplicate

JMM Protests Erupt Across Jharkhand Over the Amended Mines Act's Federalism Squeeze

Why in news: JMM workers staged protests at 264 block headquarters across all 24 Jharkhand districts against the amended Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, which the ruling coalition says strips the State of its mineral-revenue powers.

Key Details:

- **What the amendment bars:** The amended MMDR Act bars States from levying new taxes or cess on mineral-bearing land — directly narrowing a power the Supreme Court had just affirmed for States.
- **The revenue at stake:** Jharkhand estimates the amendment will cost it around ₹14,000 crore; a new Section 9(D) is expected to block the State's separate ₹1.36 lakh crore claim against coal companies.
- **Other demands:** Jharkhand's Finance Minister also wants the Centre to restore a 90:10 central-State funding ratio under the VB-G RAM scheme and compensate GST-linked revenue losses.
- **The political framing:** The BJP calls the JMM's campaign 'misleading' and has launched its own awareness drive; the JMM says protests continue until the Centre rolls back the law.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **The constitutional backdrop:** In Mineral Area Development Authority v. Steel Authority of India (2024), a 9-judge Bench held 8:1 that mining royalty is not a 'tax', and that States retain Entry 50 (List II) power to tax mineral rights — the very power this amendment now narrows.
- **Scale of the protest:** Demonstrations were held the same day across every one of Jharkhand's 24 districts, with the JMM's Bokaro unit warning of further dharnas in Ranchi and Delhi.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Frame this as a live test of the MADA v. SAIL (2024) verdict — Parliament narrowing, through ordinary legislation, a taxing power the Court had just read into the Seventh Schedule for States.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Recent amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act have reopened the debate on States' fiscal powers over mineral resources. Discuss this conflict in light of the Supreme Court's 2024 ruling on mineral royalty and taxation. (250 words)

Related PYQ: UPSC Prelims 2016, GS Paper I: "What is/are the purpose/purposes of 'District Mineral Foundations' in India? 1. Promoting mineral exploration activities in mineral-rich districts 2. Protecting the interests of persons affected by mining operations 3. Authorizing State Governments to issue licences for mineral exploration. Select the correct answer using the code given below." (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 — Answer: (b). Same core idea as today's story: District Mineral Foundations sit inside the same MMDR-Act architecture for routing mining revenue to mineral-bearing States and districts that today's amendment now narrows.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** MMDR: Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) | JMM: Jharkhand Mukti Morcha | GST: Goods and Services Tax

Supreme Court Strikes Down Maharashtra's Poisons Rules, Says Prohibition Alone Can't Stop Hooch Deaths

Why in news: The Supreme Court struck down Rules 18A and 18B of the Maharashtra Poisons Rules as unconstitutional, using the ruling to observe that Gujarat's decades-old prohibition has repeatedly failed to prevent mass hooch tragedies.

Key Details:

- **What was struck down:** The Rules restricted methanol purchase and mandated adding bitterant/colourant before sale to non-drug manufacturers; the Court called them arbitrary and an unjustified burden.
- **The Gujarat record:** Gujarat has recorded at least 10 major hooch tragedies since prohibition began in 1960, killing over 600 people — echoed this month by 20-plus deaths in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh.
- **The Court's core finding:** A total alcohol ban mainly pushes the liquor trade underground, the Bench held, increasing unregulated, often lethal brews rather than eliminating them.
- **The directions issued:** States must break the liquor supply-demand chain, step up vigilance at inter-State borders, and move methanol only in dedicated, tamper-resistant tankers.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **The scale of one tragedy:** The 2009 Ahmedabad hooch tragedy alone killed 93 of the roughly 250 people who consumed liquor laced with methanol.
- **Where prohibition still survives:** Only Gujarat, Bihar (since 2016), Nagaland, Mizoram and Lakshadweep enforce full prohibition today; Bihar's ban has faced similar criticism after a 2022 Chhapra tragedy killed 70-plus.

Major Hooch Tragedies, at a Glance

Location	Year	Toll
Bhavnagar, Gujarat	1989	~13 dead
Ahmedabad, Gujarat	2009	93 of ~250 affected died
Chhapra, Bihar	2022	70+ dead
Sagar, Madhya Pradesh	Sept 2026	20+ dead

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use Article 47's prohibition directive alongside this judgment to show how a DPSP's moral aspiration can conflict with Article 14's bar on arbitrary regulation — and that courts will strike the latter down without touching prohibition policy itself.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Prohibition policy in India illustrates the tension between a Directive Principle's moral objective and the unintended costs of its enforcement. Discuss, with reference to a recent Supreme Court ruling on liquor-regulation rules. (250 words)

Related PYQ: UPSC Mains 2018, GS Paper IV (Case Study, 20 marks): "It is a State where prohibition is in force. You are recently appointed as the Superintendent of Police of a district notorious for illicit distillation of liquor. The illicit liquor leads to many deaths... Raids, arrests, police cases, and criminal trials — all these had only limited impact..." Candidates were asked to prepare a note on the nature of the problem and a plan of action. Same core idea as today's story: illicit/hooch liquor deaths and the limits of a pure enforcement approach to prohibition are exactly what this judgment revisits.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** SC: Supreme Court | DPSP: Directive Principles of State Policy

828 Police-Station CCTV Cameras Lie Dark in Odisha, Testing a Supreme Court Mandate

Why in news: Odisha's police have sought urgent release of funds after 828 CCTV cameras at police stations and outposts were found non-functional, reviving scrutiny after a 2024 custodial-abuse case exposed the same gap.

Key Details:

- **The numbers:** Of 16,672 CCTV cameras installed across Odisha's 645 police stations and 263 outposts, 795 at stations and 33 at outposts are currently offline.
- **What triggered the scrutiny:** The Orissa High Court raised concerns after an alleged 2024 custodial assault on an Army officer and sexual harassment of his fiancée at a Bhubaneswar station that had no CCTV installed at all.
- **The funding gap:** Police want release of a ₹76 crore allocation that was surrendered in FY2025-26, routed through a supplementary budget to the Odisha Computer Application Centre.
- **The State's promise:** The Mohan Majhi government has assured the High Court it will restore full camera coverage within three months.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **The legal mandate:** In *Paramvir Singh Saini v. Baljit Singh* (2020), the Supreme Court ordered CCTV with audio and night vision at every police-station entry point, lock-up and interrogation room, with footage preserved for at least 18 months.
- **The oversight layer, often missing:** The same 2020 ruling required every State to set up District- and State-Level Oversight Committees to inspect footage and fund gaps — the exact safeguard Odisha's own fund-surrender bypassed.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Trace the line from D.K. Basu (1997) through Paramvir Singh Saini (2020) to show how the Court has used binding directions to fill a legislative gap on custodial safeguards — and why enforcement, not the law itself, remains the weak link.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Judicial directions have repeatedly filled the legislative gap on custodial rights and police accountability in India, from D.K. Basu (1997) to CCTV-surveillance mandates. Examine why implementation of such directions remains uneven across States. (250 words)

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** HC: High Court | CCTV: Closed-Circuit Television

GS PAPER 3: Economy, Environment, S&T & Security

The US Confirms It Has 'Space Control' Weapons in Orbit — And International Law Barely Covers Them

Why in news: US Space Force leadership disclosed that America has deployed 'space control' weapons in orbit to counter 'hostile adversary action', reviving questions about how thinly the Outer Space Treaty regulates conventional weapons in space.

Key Details:

- **What was disclosed:** US Air Force Secretary Troy Meink said the US has space-control assets in orbit, without specifying their number, orbit, or whether they are kinetic or non-kinetic.
- **What the law actually bans:** The Outer Space Treaty, 1967 bars nuclear weapons or WMDs in orbit and military bases on celestial bodies — but does not prohibit conventional weapons in orbit.
- **The 'due regard' clause:** Article IX requires 'due regard' for other states' interests, giving affected countries only a diplomatic, not enforcement, lever against unilateral deployments.
- **Where multilateral talks stand:** The UN's Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) process holds its third substantive session in November, with no binding treaty yet in sight.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **A precedent that worries planners:** In 2022, China's Shijian-21 satellite used a robotic arm to tow a defunct Chinese satellite into a graveyard orbit — a manoeuvre with plainly dual-use, potentially offensive, implications.
- **India's own posture:** India ran its first simulated space-war exercise, 'IndSpaceX', in 2019, months after its Mission Shakti anti-satellite test — precursors to today's Defence Space Agency.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Distinguish what the Outer Space Treaty actually prohibits (WMDs, celestial military bases) from what it leaves open (conventional counter-space weapons) — this legal gap, not a treaty violation, is the crux of today's disclosure.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. The Outer Space Treaty, 1967 was designed for a different era of space competition. Examine the gaps in international space law that allow modern 'space control' capabilities to remain outside binding regulation. (250 words)

Related PYQ: UPSC Mains 2014, GS Paper III: "International civil aviation laws provide all countries complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above their territory. What do you understand by 'airspace'? What are the implications of these laws on the space above this airspace? Discuss the challenges which this poses and suggest ways to contain the threat." (12.5 marks). Same core idea as today's story: the legal boundary between sovereign airspace and outer space — which is not subject to national sovereignty — is exactly the architecture that lets states place conventional assets in orbit without breaching anyone's airspace.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** OST: Outer Space Treaty | PAROS: Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space | WMD: Weapon of Mass Destruction

188 Scientists Warn of a 'Super El Niño' Bearing Down on India

Why in news: 188 Indian scientists and ecologists issued a joint 'Call to Action' warning that a developing El Niño could bring India some of its most extreme heat and drought anomalies in a thousand years.

Key Details:

- **The trigger:** Pacific temperatures crossed 2.6°C above threshold in August 2026 — a level matched only by the 2015-16 event, the strongest 'Super El Niño' on record before this one.

- **The scale of the projected anomaly:** Anomalies of up to 4°C are projected, higher than any point in the last 1,000 years, based on coral-core reconstructions.
- **When impacts peak:** Effects are expected to intensify in the Northern Hemisphere, including India, from November 2026 into 2027, even as this year's monsoon closes with a rainfall deficit.
- **What scientists are flagging:** The Call to Action highlights coral bleaching, large-tree die-offs and heat stress on farmers, fishers and shepherds as under-documented risks alongside the obvious drought threat.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Where the deficit bites hardest:** The Southern Peninsula has this year's worst monsoon shortfall, at 29% below normal, against a 15% national average deficit (June 4-September 19).
- **A useful benchmark:** The last El Niño of comparable intensity, in 2015-16, also peaked at 2.6°C on the Oceanic Niño Index — meaning 2026's event could still climb higher before it ends.

Ranking El Niño Strength (Peak Oceanic Niño Index)

Event	Peak ONI
1972-73	2.1°C
1982-83	2.2°C
1997-98	2.4°C
2015-16	2.6°C
2026 (ongoing, as of August)	2.6°C

How to use in UPSC Mains: Pair El Niño with the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) in any monsoon-variability answer — a positive IOD can partly offset El Niño's drying effect, so an answer citing ENSO alone is incomplete.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. With reference to El Niño and its effects on the Indian monsoon, consider the following statements:

1. El Niño refers to the warming of sea-surface temperatures in the eastern and central equatorial Pacific Ocean.
2. A positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) can partially offset the monsoon-suppressing effect of an El Niño.
3. Every recorded El Niño event has led to below-normal monsoon rainfall in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: El Niño is indeed defined by warming in the eastern/central equatorial Pacific (statement 1 correct). A positive IOD, via its own Walker Circulation effect, can partly counteract El Niño's drying influence on the monsoon (statement 2 correct). However, not every El Niño year has produced a deficient monsoon — outcomes vary depending on IOD phase and other factors, so statement 3 is false.

Related PYQ: UPSC Prelims 2017, GS Paper I: "With reference to 'Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)' sometimes mentioned in the news while forecasting Indian monsoon, which of the following statements is/are correct? 1. IOD phenomenon is characterised by a difference in sea surface temperature between tropical Western Indian Ocean and tropical Eastern Pacific Ocean. 2. An IOD phenomenon can influence an El Niño's impact on the monsoon." (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2 — Answer: (b). Same core idea as today's story: how IOD and El Niño jointly, not separately, shape the Indian monsoon forecast.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** ONI: Oceanic Niño Index | IOD: Indian Ocean Dipole

PM Modi: India Is the Only G20 Country to Meet All Its Paris Climate Commitments

Why in news: At the NGT's international climate conference, PM Modi claimed India is the only G20 nation to fulfil every 2015 Paris Agreement commitment ahead of schedule, even as a global UN report warns 1.5°C will likely be crossed within years.

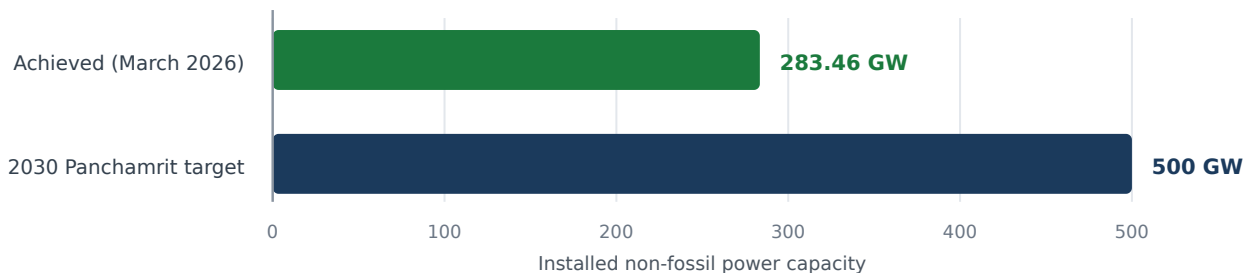
Key Details:

- **The claim:** India's per-capita emissions remain less than half the global average, Modi said, arguing that emissions blame is often 'wrongly placed' on developing nations.
- **Two of three NDC targets met early:** India's emissions-intensity and non-fossil-capacity targets were both met years ahead of the 2030 deadline; the third — an additional carbon sink — remains in progress.
- **Non-fossil capacity today:** Non-fossil sources reached 52.57% of India's total installed power capacity by February 2026, with solar capacity alone growing from about 2 GW to over 160 GW in 12 years.
- **The global counterpoint:** UNEP's September 2026 'Limiting Overshoot' report says warming will likely cross 1.5°C within a few years regardless, projecting 2.3-2.5°C this century even with full NDC implementation.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **The Panhamrit yardstick:** Against PM Modi's COP26 pledge of 500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030, India had reached 283.46 GW by March 2026 — about 57% of the way there.
- **The lagging target:** India's additional carbon-sink goal is 2.5-3 billion tonnes of CO₂-equivalent by 2030; its April 2026 UN submission reports 2.29 billion tonnes achieved between 2005-2021, calling itself 'on track'.

India's Non-Fossil Capacity vs. Its 2030 Panhamrit Target



How to use in UPSC Mains: Use the Panhamrit's 283-of-500 GW gap and the still-in-progress carbon-sink target to argue India's climate record is genuinely strong on two of three fronts, but not yet complete — a more defensible position than an uncritical 'India met every target' claim.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The term 'Intended Nationally Determined Contributions' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of —

- Pledges made by European countries to rehabilitate refugees from war-affected regions
- Plan of action outlined by countries of the world to combat climate change
- Capital contributed by member countries in the establishment of an international infrastructure bank
- Plan of action outlined by countries regarding Sustainable Development Goals

Answer: (b) Plan of action outlined by countries of the world to combat climate change

Explanation: INDCs were the climate-action pledges countries submitted ahead of the 2015 Paris COP21 summit, later formalised as each country's first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement — exactly the framework India's Paris-commitment claim is measured against.

Related PYQ: UPSC Prelims 2016, GS Paper I, Q.6: "The term 'Intended Nationally Determined Contributions' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of..." Answer: (b) Plan of action outlined by countries of the world to combat climate change. Same core idea as today's story: India's INDC, later its first NDC under the Paris Agreement, is the exact instrument PM Modi's "fulfilled every commitment" claim is being measured against — reused here as the question_block's own theme rather than a repeat citation.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** NDC: Nationally Determined Contribution | UNEP: UN Environment Programme | NGT: National Green Tribunal

India's Plastic Waste Problem Is Also Becoming a Clean-Hydrogen Opportunity

Why in news: With India generating an estimated 26,000 tonnes of plastic waste daily, researchers and small innovators are increasingly converting that waste into hydrogen and cooking gas rather than treating it purely as a disposal problem.

Key Details:

- **The scale of the problem:** India generates about 9.5 million tonnes of plastic waste a year, per CPCB estimates, and accounts for over 6.5% of global plastic use.
- **The conversion route:** Plastic waste can be converted into hydrogen via pyrolysis — using heat and atmospheric carbon dioxide as feedstock — as demonstrated in a UCLA-led study.
- **Working examples already in India:** A Pune innovator turns household plastic waste into a cooking gas called 'Vaayu'; a Karnataka waste-to-energy plant burns Bengaluru's garbage for electricity.
- **Beyond plastic, the same hydrogen push:** Tamil Nadu's Kalpakkam nuclear plant produces hydrogen by heating copper chloride, and Indian Railways has already run a long-distance service on hydrogen instead of coal.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **The policy hook:** India's National Green Hydrogen Mission carries a ₹19,744 crore outlay and targets at least 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen production annually by 2030.
- **The regulatory lineage:** Extended Producer Responsibility — the principle now central to India's Plastic Waste Management Rules — was first introduced into Indian law through the e-Waste Rules, 2011.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Frame plastic-to-hydrogen conversion as a concrete 'waste-to-wealth' circular-economy example — useful evidence in any answer on the National Green Hydrogen Mission or India's solid-waste management architecture.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. In India, 'Extended Producer Responsibility' was introduced as an important feature in which of the following?

- (a) The Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998
 (b) The Recycled Plastic (Manufacturing and Usage) Rules, 1999
 (c) The e-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 (d) The Food Safety and Standard Regulations, 2011

Answer: (c) The e-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011

Explanation: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) — making producers responsible for a product's post-consumer disposal — entered Indian environmental law through the e-Waste Rules, 2011, before later becoming a pillar of the Plastic Waste Management Rules framework as well.

Related PYQ: UPSC Prelims 2019, GS Paper I, Q.78: "In India, 'extended producer responsibility' was introduced as an important feature in which of the following?" Answer: (c) The e-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011. Same core idea as today's story: EPR is the exact regulatory mechanism now central to India's Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, reused here as the question_block itself rather than a separate citation.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** CPCB: Central Pollution Control Board | EPR: Extended Producer Responsibility

A Pakistani Influencer's Network Becomes India's 46th UAPA-Banned Terrorist Organisation

Why in news: The Home Ministry designated the 'Shahzad Bhatti Network' a terrorist organisation under the UAPA, formalising a year-long crackdown on an ISI-linked social-media recruitment operation spanning 14 States.

Key Details:

- **Who Bhatti is:** Shahzad Bhatti is a Pakistan-linked social-media influencer, allegedly directed by the ISI, who built an online following in India from the UAE before pivoting to organised recruitment.
- **How recruitment worked:** Economically vulnerable young men were paid ₹5,000-10,000 via social media to paste posters glorifying Bhatti, install CCTV cameras near railway stations/air bases livestreamed to Pakistan, and in some cases plant explosives.
- **The legal action:** The network was added as the 46th outfit under Section 35(1)(a) of the UAPA, 1967, alongside charges under the Official Secrets Act and India's immigration law.
- **Scale of the crackdown:** Delhi Police alone has registered 15 FIRs and arrested 69 people since October 2025, with over 200 suspects detained nationally, two-thirds of arrests from Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **What changed law-wise in 2019:** Before the UAPA (Amendment) Act, 2019, only organisations could be designated 'terrorist'; the amendment added a Fourth Schedule letting the Centre designate individuals too, without a prior conviction.
- **The only recourse:** A designated individual or organisation can only apply to a government-constituted Review Committee for de-notification — not approach an independent judicial forum in the first instance.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use the 2019 UAPA amendment's individual-designation power, and its executive-only de-notification remedy, to weigh national-security efficiency against due-process safeguards — a debate this case study puts in concrete terms.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Examine how social media has become a tool for cross-border recruitment of over-ground workers (OGWs) for terror-linked networks, and evaluate the adequacy of India's legal framework, including the UAPA, in countering this threat. (250 words)

Related PYQ: UPSC Mains 2019, GS Paper III: "The banning of 'Jamaat-e-Islami' in Jammu and Kashmir brought into focus the role of over-ground workers (OGWs) in assisting terrorist organizations. Examine the role played by OGWs in assisting terrorist organizations in insurgency affected areas. Discuss measures to neutralize the influence of OGWs." (10 marks/150 words). Same core idea as today's story: an organisation banned as a terrorist entity sustained by a recruited local support network is exactly the structure the Shahzad Bhatti Network replicates using paid, economically vulnerable recruits.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** UAPA: Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act | ISI: Inter-Services Intelligence | FIR: First Information Report