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HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

27 Aug · 1

Foundation Stone Laid for the Panchayatan Temple at Ekatma Dham, Omkareshwar

MP CM Mohan Yadav laid the foundation of a Panchayatan-style temple at Ekatma Dham, Omkareshwar, on August 27, 2026, with shila-pujan of 45 stones.

- Foundation stone of the Panchayatan Temple laid at Ekatma Dham, Omkareshwar, Khandwa district, on August 27, 2026 by CM Dr Mohan Yadav
- Shila-pujan of 45 sacred stones; saints of the Shad-darshan Sant Mandal participated
- An Ekatma Yatra announced ahead of Simhastha 2028
- ★ Three figures are routinely conflated: ₹2,195.54 crore is the MP Cabinet's revised outlay of **May 2025 for the Advaita Lok museum complex**
- The **whole Ekatma Dham**, about **126 hectares across four phases**, is reported at roughly **₹4,000 crore**
- No separate cost for the Panchayatan temple has been published**
- Nagara style; 26-foot-diameter dome over the main mandapa; 100 carved pillars; 121 kalashas
- Article 27 bars taxes for the promotion of any particular religion; Article 290A provides for the Travancore and Cochin Devaswom Funds



Full article

SYLLABUS GS1 · Indian culture covering salient aspects of art forms, literature and architecture from ancient to modern times

SOURCES IANS · Government of Madhya Pradesh

HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

28 Aug · 2

Mahatma Ayyankali at 163: The Man Who Told Landlords Weeds Would Grow in Their Fields

August 28, 2026 marks the 163rd birth anniversary of Mahatma Ayyankali, the Pulayar leader whose 1893 cart ride and 1907 agricultural strike forced open Travancore's schools.

- Born **28 August 1863** at **Venganoor**, Travancore; died **18 June 1941**.
- Villuvandi Yatra, 1893**: drove a bullock cart on a road reserved for caste Hindus at Venganoor, wearing clothing forbidden to his community.
- 1904**: built a school for Dalit children himself; it was **destroyed by upper-caste men**.
- ★ Founded the **Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sangham (SJPS)**, the Association for the Protection of the Poor, in **1907**.
- 1907: agricultural labourers' strike**, widely regarded as among the first organised agricultural strikes in India.
- Demands on calling off the 1907 strike included **educational rights for Dalit children, rest time during work, and payment of wages in cash**.
- The Guru inspired the **SNDP Yogam (1903)**, organised by **Dr Palpu** with **Kumaran Asan** as its first general secretary.
- Ayyankali (1863-1941)**: Pulayar; direct action, parallel schooling, labour strike, SJPS.



Full article

SYLLABUS GS1 · Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century

Geography

2 items · cards 3–4

GEOGRAPHY

27 Aug · 3

Bhote Koshi Flash Flood Destroys Rasuwagadhi Border Post; Indian Pilgrims Among Those Out of Contact

A flash flood down the Bhote Koshi gorge on August 26, 2026 destroyed the Rasuwagadhi border post, hydropower plants and the only road to Tibet.

- Toll rose fast and figures diverged: at least **157 killed** per Nepal Police (Bloomberg, August 27)
- Around **353 killed** was carried in later August 27 reporting
- ★ **288 Indian nationals uncontactable** per the MEA on August 27, which set up a control room and released state-wise details
- 21 Indians rescued**, all from Tamil Nadu
- Indians affected include **Trishuli-1 hydropower project workers**, Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims, and 32 travellers from West Bengal at Timure
- TWO Nepali rivers are called Bhote Koshi**. The name means "river from Tibet" and is not unique
- ICIMOD did NOT classify this event as a GLOF**
- Water rose **9 m at Galchhi** and **7 m at Malekhu** within 30 minutes



SYLLABUS GS1 · Important geophysical phenomena

SOURCES NPR · ICIMOD · Ministry of External Affairs

The Rasuwa Disaster: A Rock and Ice Collapse, a Barrier Lake, and Why It Was Not a Classic GLOF

A bedrock and glacier collapse on August 26, 2026 dammed the Lhende Khola in Nepal's Rasuwa district; the barrier lake then burst down the Bhotekoshi and Trishuli.

- **August 26, 2026**, around 9 a.m., **Rasuwa district**, north-central Nepal, on the Tibet border.
- Bedrock and glacier failure at about **5,200 metres**; a section roughly **600 metres wide** fell about **1,200 metres**.
- Displaced mass: **100 to 200 million cubic metres**. The collapse registered as an **Ms 5.2** seismic event.
- Impact along roughly **72 kilometres** of valley.
- Roughly **900** CWC-inventoried lakes exceed 10 hectares and are monitored; **432** were flagged as expanding in the CWC's June 2025 report.
- The **NDMA** classifies about **190 as high-risk**, of which **25** are rated most dangerous, under the **National GLOF Risk Mitigation Programme**.
- **Sikkim, October 3, 2023** (historical): **South Lhonak Lake** burst; **Chungthang dam** (Teesta Stage III) destroyed; toll **55 dead, 74 missing**.
- ★ **NDMA**: India's National Disaster Management Authority, chaired by the **Prime Minister**, under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**.



Full article

SYLLABUS GS1 · Important geophysical phenomena

SOURCES ICIMOD · PIB · The Kathmandu Post · Central Water Commission

GS Paper 2 Polity · Governance · Social Justice · International Relations

Cards 5–43

Polity & Governance

22 items · cards 5–26

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

25 Aug · 5

Amit Shah Inaugurates the 9th National Security Strategies Conference

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the two-day **9th National Security Strategies (NSS) Conference-2026** in New Delhi on **August 24, 2026**, in hybrid format with over **850 participants**.

- 9th NSS Conference-2026: August 24, 2026, New Delhi; hybrid; 850+ participants
- Organised by the Intelligence Bureau under the MHA; series began 2018
- Intelligence Bureau founded 1887, India's oldest intelligence organisation
- MAC traceable to the Kargil Review Committee (1999) and Group of Ministers report (2001)
- India's seven CAPFs: CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, SSB, NSG, Assam Rifles
- Police (List II, Entry 2) and public order (List II, Entry 1) are State subjects



Full article

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

25 Aug · 6

BWF World Championships Held in New Delhi; Treasa and Gayatri Take Bronze

The **30th BWF World Championships** were held at the Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi, from **August 17 to 23, 2026**, the first time India hosted the event since Hyderabad in 2009.

- BWF founded 1934 as IBF; headquarters Kuala Lumpur; World Championships began 1977
- 2026 edition was the 30th, held August 17-23 at Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi
- India's previous hosting: Hyderabad, 2009
- P. V. Sindhu (2019, Basel) is India's only BWF World Championships gold medallist
- National Sports Day: August 29, birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand



Full article

Centre Constitutes Committee to Finalise a Permanent Political Solution for the Gorkhas

The Centre formed a committee on August 22, 2026 under former BSF DG Pankaj Kumar Singh for a permanent political solution for the Darjeeling Gorkhas.

- Constituted: August 22, 2026
- 1907: Hillmen's Association of Darjeeling memorandum, the first formal demand
- 1943: All India Gorkha League founded
- 1986-88: GNLf agitation under Subhash Ghisingh
- August 22, 1988: Tripartite accord creates the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council
- 2011: Tripartite agreement creates the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration
- Sixth Schedule Autonomous District Councils: Article 244(2), applying to Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram
- Scheduled Tribes notification: Article 342; changes require an Act of Parliament



Full article

SYLLABUS GS2 · Federal structure

SOURCES Business Standard · The Week

India and Seychelles Hold High-Level Meeting on Fisheries and the Blue Economy

The **Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** hosted a high-level bilateral meeting in New Delhi on **August 25, 2026** with a Seychelles delegation.

- Meeting: August 25, 2026, New Delhi; Seychelles Minister Wallace Cosgrove; India's Fisheries Secretary Abhilaksh Likhi
- India's fish production: 19.7 million tonnes; seafood exports USD 8.46 billion
- PMMSY launched 2020, outlay ₹20,050 crore
- India: second-largest fish and aquaculture producer after China; largest shrimp producer
- Seychelles: 115 islands; capital Victoria on Mahé; first sovereign blue bond, 2018
- IORA founded 1997, secretariat in Mauritius



Full article

India Condemns Ambush on UN Peacekeepers in South Sudan

Unidentified armed individuals ambushed a **UNMISS** patrol in **Jonglei State, South Sudan**, on **August 24, 2026**, killing **two Ethiopian peacekeepers** and injuring seven.

- UNMISS established July 9, 2011 by UNSC Resolution 1996; headquarters Juba
- South Sudan: independent July 9, 2011; world's youngest country; 193rd UN member
- India is among the largest troop-contributing countries to UNMISS
- UNSC Resolution 2589 (2021) adopted during India's UNSC presidency, August 2021
- 2018 peace agreement: R-ARCSS; the Sudd wetland on the White Nile lies in South Sudan
- India also launched the UNITE Aware platform and deploys Female Engagement Teams



Full article

NSG Launches India's First Mahila Commando Conversion Course

The National Security Guard Training Academy at Manesar, Haryana, began India's first **Mahila Commando Conversion Course (MCCC)** on **August 24, 2026**.

- Raised 1984; statutory basis National Security Guard Act, 1986; under the Ministry of Home Affairs
- Motto: "Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha"; personnel known as Black Cats
- Components: Special Action Group (Army) and Special Ranger Groups (CAPFs)
- Training Academy: Manesar, Haryana
- **MCCC**: First batch of 25 women constables from the 5th Battalion, Rajasthan Armed Constabulary; 12 weeks from August 24, 2026.



Full article

Prime Minister Chairs 53rd PRAGATI Meeting, Reviews Six Projects Worth Over ₹30,000 Crore

PM Modi chaired the 53rd PRAGATI meeting on August 25, 2026, reviewing six railway, road and power projects worth over Rs 30,000 crore in nine States.

- Full form: Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation
- Launched: March 25, 2015
- Three-tier participation: PMO, Union Secretaries, State Chief Secretaries
- Date: August 25, 2026; Venue: Seva Teerth, New Delhi
- Six projects, nine States, cumulative cost over ₹30,000 crore
- Part of the Digital Agriculture Mission; anchored on the Farmer ID
- Related platforms: PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, National Infrastructure Pipeline
- PRAGATI sessions were originally designated for the fourth Wednesday of each month



Full article

SYLLABUS GS2 · Government policies and interventions for development

SOURCES PMIndia · PIB

Vice-President Launches India's First Non-GMO High-Expansion Popcorn Maize Hybrid

Vice-President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** launched India's first non-GMO high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid seeds, **Krisna459** and **Godari234**, at Musunuru, Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh, on **August 24, 2026**. Chief Minister N.

- Varieties: Krisna459 and Godari234; launched August 24, 2026 at Musunuru, Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh
- Launched by Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan, with AP Governor S. Abdul Nazeer and CM N. Chandrababu Naidu
- Popcorn maize: Zea mays var. everta; quality metric is the expansion ratio
- India's only commercially cultivated GM crop: Bt cotton
- ★ GM regulator: GEAC under MoEFCC, under the 1989 Rules of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986



Full article

AK-203 "Sher" Completes Firing Trials at Korwa

The fully indigenised **AK-203 "Sher"** rifle **completed firing trials** at Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited, Korwa, Amethi, on **August 26, 2026**, following the first firing of the 100 per cent indigenous rifle on **August 23**.

- **IRRPL**: joint venture at Korwa, Amethi, Uttar Pradesh; Indian partners **AWEIL** and **MIL**
- IRRPL's Russian partners: **Rosoboronexport** and **Kalashnikov Concern**
- ★ AK-203 fires **7.62 x 39 mm**, replacing the **5.56 x 45 mm INSAS**; effective range about **800 m**
- Contract: **6,01,427** rifles for about **₹5,200 crore**, deliveries to **December 2030**
- **AWEIL** and **MIL** are among the seven DPSUs formed from the Ordnance Factory Board corporatisation in October 2021



Full article

ICAT Issues India's First Compliance Certificate for a 15-Metre Multi-Axle Sleeper Bus

The **International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT)**, Manesar, issued its **first compliance certificate for a 15-metre multi-axle sleeper bus** on **August 26, 2026**.

- ICAT is at **Manesar, Haryana**, a division of **NATRiP** under the Ministry of Heavy Industries
- ★ Standards: **AIS-119** and **AIS-153**, with the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988
- AIS standards drafted by **ARAI** for the AISC, notified by MoRTH
- Other agencies: **ARAI** Pune, **CIRT** Pune, **NATRAX** Indore (Asia's longest high-speed test track), **GARC** Chennai
- **Bharat NCAP** launched 2023; **BS-VI** norms have applied nationwide since April 2020, skipping BS-V



Full article

India Post Launches Upgraded Dak Sewa and Dak MITRA Apps

Union Minister for Communications **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**, with Minister of State **Dr Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani**, launched upgraded versions of the **Dak Sewa** and **Dak MITRA** applications on **August 24, 2026**, and inaugurated **14 renovated post...**

- India Post under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications; **Post Office Act, 2023** repealed the Indian Post Office Act, 1898
- About **1.65 lakh** post offices, the largest network in the world; roughly 90 per cent rural
- Dak Sewa in **23 languages** via **BHASHINI**; Dak MITRA across **1.4 lakh** branch post offices
- PIN codes introduced **1972** by Shriram Bhikaji Velankar; six digits, nine zones, zone 9 for the Army Postal Service
- **India Post Payments Bank** launched **September 1, 2018**, 100 per cent Government of India owned
- ★ **BHASHINI** is a **MeitY** initiative (2022) under the National Language Translation Mission



Full article

Kerala Officially Becomes Keralam as the Centre Notifies Commencement

The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026 came into force on August 25, 2026, amending the First Schedule to the Constitution so that the State is now Keralam.

- Instrument: Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026
- Came into force: August 25, 2026, by Ministry of Home Affairs commencement notification
- Article 3: Parliament may alter the name of any State; Bill requires the President's recommendation
- ★ An Article 3 Bill must be referred to the State legislature, whose views are NOT binding
- Article 4: consequential amendments to the First and Fourth Schedules are NOT amendments under Article 368, so a simple majority suffices
- Background, Kerala Assembly resolutions: August 2023, re-adopted June 24, 2024
- Kerala formed November 1, 1956 under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, following the Fazl Ali Commission (1953-55)
- The language name "Odia" in the Eighth Schedule required the 96th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011



Full article

SYLLABUS GS2 : Indian Constitution, features and amendment

SOURCES PRS India · Ministry of Home Affairs

Odisha Launches Bidesh Sikhyabruti Overseas Scholarship

The Government of Odisha launched **Bidesh Sikhyabruti**, an overseas scholarship for **Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe** students, on **August 23, 2026**.

- **Bidesh Sikhyabruti**: Odisha; ₹25 lakh per annum; 50 students; QS Top 200; income ceiling ₹12 lakh
- ★ **Article 46**: Directive Principle on SC/ST and weaker sections; **Article 338A** (NCST) inserted by the **89th Amendment Act, 2003**
- Odisha has **62 Scheduled Tribes** and **13 PVTGs**, the highest of any State; STs are about **22.85 per cent** of its population (Census 2011)
- The **Fifth Schedule** governs Scheduled Areas outside the North-East; the **Sixth Schedule** applies to Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram



Centre Moves Supreme Court on the OBC Creamy Layer Verdict

The Union government filed a modification application on August 24, 2026 against the Supreme Court's creamy layer ruling, with a hearing set for August 31.

- Case: **Union of India v. Rohith Nathan and Others**
- ★ Operative prayer: allow service allocation of the **958 candidates recommended by the UPSC for CSE-2025**
- The Court indicated the **same bench that delivered the background verdict of March 11** will take it up
- Concerns nearly 100 OBC candidates selected through the Civil Services Examination since 2016
- Nine-judge bench; upheld 27 per cent OBC reservation
- Current income ceiling: ₹8 lakh per annum, EXCLUDING salary and agricultural income
- Article 338B: NCBC, constitutional status via the 102nd Amendment, 2018
- Article 342A: specification of SEBCs; 105th Amendment, 2021 restored States' power to identify SEBCs



Full article

SYLLABUS GS2 : Mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of vulnerable sections

SOURCES ThePrint · Supreme Court of India · DoPT

Hindalco Commissions India's First Superfine PPT ATH Plant

Hindalco Industries commissioned a greenfield **Superfine Precipitated Alumina Trihydrate (PPT ATH)** plant at **Belagavi, Karnataka**, announced on **August 27, 2026**, bringing domestic production of this specialty alumina to India for the first...

- ★ **ATH** = aluminium trihydroxide, $Al(OH)_3$, a **halogen-free flame retardant** acting by endothermic decomposition
- Plant at **Belagavi, Karnataka**; **30,000 tpa**, expandable to 60,000 tpa
- Hindalco is the metals flagship of the **Aditya Birla Group**
- India is the world's **second-largest aluminium producer**; **Odisha** is the largest bauxite-producing state
- Bayer process** yields alumina from bauxite; **Hall-Heroult process** yields aluminium



Full article

UNDP and HUL Scale Plastics Circular Economy to 50 Cities

UNDP India and **Hindustan Unilever Limited** announced on **August 24, 2026** a new phase of their partnership to support **50,000 Safai Mitras** and strengthen waste-management systems across **50 cities by 2028**.

- ★ **Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016**; **EPR Guidelines** notified **2022**, with recycling targets and certificates on the CPCB portal
- Ban on identified **single-use plastics** in force since 2022, effective **July 1, 2022**
- Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016** mandate source segregation
- NAMASTE** = National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem, jointly MoSJE and MoHUA
- SBM-Urban 2.0** launched 2021; **UNEA resolution 5/14 (2022)** mandated the global plastics treaty negotiation
- Project Utthaan was launched in **2020**



Full article

PM Addresses the Khelo India Dialogue

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the "**Khelo India Dialogue**" by video conferencing on **August 27, 2026**, reaching more than **1,500 locations** nationwide, organised by **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)** at two colleges in every district, ahead...

- National Sports Day: **August 29**, birth anniversary of **Major Dhyan Chand (b. 1905)**
- Dhyan Chand's Olympic hockey golds: **1928, 1932, 1936**
- ★ **Khelo India** launched **2018**; **TOPS** = Target Olympic Podium Scheme; **KIRTI** = Khelo India Rising Talent Identification
- India's Olympic hosting target year: **2036**
- Highest sporting honour: the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**, renamed in **2021**
- Fit India Movement** launched **August 29, 2019**



Full article

CAG and IIT Madras Launch a Certification for Auditing AI and Digital Public Infrastructure

On August 27, 2026, the CAG launched the Certification on Audit of Digital Systems with IIT Madras, and said it will in time become mandatory for officers auditing digital systems.

- 27 August 2026**, at **IIT Madras**. CAG **K. Sanjay Murthy**; IIT Madras Director **Prof. V. Kamakoti**.
- Aligned with **NEP 2020** and the **National Credit Framework (NCrF)**.
- Article 148**: the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, appointed by the **President**.
- ★ **Article 149**: duties and powers of the CAG.
- Article 150**: form of accounts of the Union and States, prescribed by the President on the CAG's advice.
- Article 151**: audit reports submitted to the **President** (Union) or **Governor** (State), for laying before the legislature.
- Governed by the **CAG's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971**.
- National Credit Framework (NCrF)**: credit accumulation and transfer across general, vocational and skill education, under **NEP 2020**.



Full article

SYLLABUS GS2 : Constitutional bodies, their powers, functions and responsibilities

Tamil Nadu Scraps the Parandur Airport and Announces Two Welfare Schemes

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **C. Joseph Vijay** announced in the Assembly on **August 24, 2026** the cancellation of the **Parandur greenfield airport** project, and two welfare schemes.

- Tamil Nadu CM: **C. Joseph Vijay (TVK)**, in office since 2026, sworn in **May 10, 2026**; TVK won **108 of 234** seats
- Parandur: proposed 2022, about ₹27,000 crore, about 5,369 acres, scrapped August 24, 2026
- Annapoorani Super 6: 3 free LPG cylinders a year, income cap ₹2.5 lakh, from Pongal 2027, about 1.30 crore families
- Vetri Payanam expansion from **October 2, 2026**, no income ceiling, about ₹6,000 crore a year
- ★ **RFCTLARR Act, 2013** consent thresholds: **70 per cent PPP, 80 per cent private**
- Greenfield Airports Policy, 2008** governs new airport site approval



Full article

Mediation Council of India Notified Three Years After the Act That Created It

The Centre notified establishment of the Mediation Council of India on August 27, 2026, under Section 31(1) of the Mediation Act, 2023, the regulator without which the Act's core machinery could not run.

- Made under **Section 31(1)** of the **Mediation Act, 2023 (Act No. 32 of 2023)**.
- The parent Act received assent in **September 2023**; the Council was constituted roughly **three years** later.
- India signed the **Singapore Convention on Mediation in 2019**; the Act was framed with that framework in view.
- Singapore Convention full name: **United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation, 2019**.
- **Arbitration**: a third party hears both sides and delivers a **binding award**. Governed by the **Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996**.
- **Lok Adalat**: a statutory forum under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**.
- **Article 39A**: equal justice and free legal aid, a Directive Principle inserted by the **42nd Amendment, 1976**.
- ★ **NALSA**, the National Legal Services Authority, is constituted under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**.



Full article

SYLLABUS GS2 · Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies

President Creates a Ladakh High Court Bench Using Article 240, a Power That Exists Because Ladakh Has No...

On August 27, 2026, the President promulgated Regulation No. 10 of 2026 under Article 240 permitting the J&K and Ladakh High Court to sit in Ladakh, bypassing the usual route for creating a bench.

- ★ Made under **Article 240** read with **Section 58(2), Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019**.
- Article 240 also applies to **Puducherry when its legislature is suspended or dissolved**.
- **Delhi is excluded**, being governed by **Article 239AA**, and **Jammu and Kashmir**, having a legislature, is outside Article 240.
- **Article 239**: administration of Union Territories by the President through an Administrator.
- **Article 239A**: creation of local legislatures for certain Union Territories.
- The **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019** created **two Union Territories** with effect from **31 October 2019**.
- **Section 58(2)** of that Act provides for a **common High Court** for both.
- **Article 214**: a High Court for each State.



Full article

SYLLABUS GS2 · Indian Constitution, features and significant provisions

High-Powered Task Force on Public Examination Reform Invites Public Suggestions

The Centre's High-Powered Task Force chaired by Nandan Nilekani, examining the conduct, security, design and governance of public examinations including those run by the NTA, opened public consultation on August 28, 2026.

- **Article 14**: equality before the law, the basis of fair and non-arbitrary selection.
- **Article 16**: equality of opportunity in matters of public employment.
- **Article 21A**: right to education for children aged 6 to 14, inserted by the **86th Amendment, 2002**.
- NEP 2020 proposed the **National Assessment Centre, PARAKH**.
- ★ **UPSC** is a **constitutional body** under **Article 315**; the **SSC** and the **NTA** are not. This distinction is frequently tested.
- The **NTA is an autonomous society**, not a statutory or constitutional body. **UPSC is constitutional (Article 315)**.
- The **2024 Act does not criminalise the ordinary candidate** for the offences carrying the heaviest penalties; it targets organised malpractice.
- **PARAKH** is the assessment centre proposed under NEP 2020, distinct from the NTA.



Full article

SYLLABUS GS2 · Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and...

SOURCES · PIB · Department of Personnel and Training · Ministry of Education

SOCIAL ISSUES

23 Aug · 27

NCSK Marks Foundation Day; Law Minister Calls for Mechanisation of Sanitation Work

The **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)** observed its **Foundation Day** in New Delhi on **August 23, 2026**, with Union Law and Justice Minister **Arjun Ram Meghwal** calling for reducing manual intervention in sanitation work through...

- ★ NCSK constituted as a statutory body: **August 12, 1994**, under the NCSK Act, 1993
- Act lapsed: **February 29, 2004**; NCSK now non-statutory, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Key legislation: **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers Act, 2013**
- Related scheme: **NAMASTE** (National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem)
- Manual scavenging is also linked to Article 17 of the Constitution, abolishing untouchability



Full article

SOURCES PIB · Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

SOCIAL ISSUES

25 Aug · 28

National Conclave on Tribal Languages and Museums Opens at Mysuru

The National Conclave on Tribal Languages and Museums ran at Mysuru from August 24 to 26, 2026, with a major upgrade to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs Adi Vaani platform.

- August 2026 upgrade: iOS app, five new languages, new logo, Jago AI bot
- Article 29: conservation of distinct language, script, culture
- Article 350A: mother-tongue instruction at primary stage
- Article 350B: Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities
- Article 342: notification of Scheduled Tribes
- Article 275(1): grants-in-aid; funds Eklavya Model Residential Schools
- ST population: 10.43 crore, 8.6 per cent (Census 2011)
- UNESCO: 197 endangered Indian languages, the highest of any country



Full article

SYLLABUS **GS1** · Salient features of Indian society

SOURCES Ministry of Tribal Affairs · PIB · CIIL

SOCIAL ISSUES

26 Aug · 29

e-Shram Portal Completes Five Years With 31.89 Crore Registrations

The e-Shram portal, India's national database of unorganised workers, completed five years on August 26, 2026 with 31.89 crore registrations.

- Launched in 2021, on August 26 of that year, by the Ministry of Labour and Employment
- Identifier: Universal Account Number (UAN), 12 digits
- Eligibility: age 16 to 59; excludes EPFO/ESIC members and income-tax payers
- 31.89 crore registrations; approximately 11.5 lakh platform and gig workers
- First Indian law to define "gig worker" (Section 2(35)) and "platform worker" (Section 2(61))
- Rajasthan's Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Act, 2023 was the first State law of its kind
- NITI Aayog (2022) projected 2.35 crore gig workers by 2029-30, from 77 lakh in 2020-21
- Budget 2025-26: identity cards and PM-JAY cover for about 1 crore gig workers



Full article

SYLLABUS **GS2** · Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections

SOURCES Ministry of Labour and Employment · PIB

SOCIAL ISSUES

29 Aug · 30

FSSAI Proposes Red Hexagon Warning Labels for High Fat, Sugar and Salt Foods

In a compliance affidavit to the Supreme Court, FSSAI proposed red hexagonal HIGH FAT, HIGH SUGAR and HIGH SALT warnings, moving away from the Indian Nutrition Rating star system that FSSAI had shelved earlier in 2026.

- Filed as a **compliance affidavit before the Supreme Court**, reported **August 28 and 29, 2026**.
- ★ Thresholds aligned to the **ICMR-NIN Dietary Guidelines for Indians, 2024**.
- Proposes a threshold warning in place of the **Indian Nutrition Rating (INR)** star-rating model, which FSSAI **put on hold in February 2026**.
- PIL filed by **3S and Our Health Society**, a public charitable trust.
- A **statutory body** established under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**.
- The 2006 Act consolidated earlier laws including the **Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954**.
- WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health (2004)**, the international policy anchor for dietary regulation.
- This is a **proposal in an affidavit**, not a notified regulation. It becomes binding only when notified under the FSS Act.



Full article

SYLLABUS **GS2** · Issues relating to the development and management of the social sector relating to health

SOURCES FSSAI · Ministry of Health and Family Welfare · ICMR

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

23 Aug · 31

EAM Jaishankar Co-Chairs 27th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission Session in Moscow

External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** visited Russia on **August 23-24, 2026**, to co-chair the **27th Session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC)**...

- Indian co-chair: **S. Jaishankar**; Russian co-chair: **Denis Manturov**
- Visit dates: **August 23-24, 2026**
- India-Russia ties: termed a **"Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership"**
- ★ IRIGC-TEC has operated as the principal India-Russia economic cooperation mechanism **since 1992-93**
- The visit follows recent US tariff measures affecting Indian exports



Full article

SOURCES PIB · Ministry of External Affairs

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

24 Aug · 32

BRICS Science Ministers Adopt the Chennai Declaration Under India's Chairship

The 14th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial adopted the Chennai Declaration by consensus on August 22, 2026, under India's BRICS chairship.

- ★ **14th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial, Chennai**, closing session **August 22, 2026**
- Outcome: the **Chennai Declaration** (Chennai Consensus), adopted **by consensus**
- Announced by **Dr Jitendra Singh**, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences
- The STI Ministerial process passes to **China's Chairship in 2027**
- BRICS GRAIN** = BRICS Global Research Advanced Infrastructure Network — **progress toward operationalising, not yet operational**
- A **BRICS Science and Research Repository** as a digital public good
- The **BRICS STI Calendar of Activities 2026-27**
- 14** thematic Working Groups; **11** Young Scientist Forum editions; **9** Young Innovators Prize editions; **9** STI Framework Programme calls



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK a declaration is **adopted**, not ratified, and is politically binding at most. Do not describe the Chennai Declaration as a treaty or as legally binding.

SYLLABUS GS2 · Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and affecting India's interests

SOURCES PIB · Department of Science and Technology

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

24 Aug · 33

India-Cambodia Trade Working Group Meets; UPI Linkage Becomes the More Interesting Story

The third India-Cambodia Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment met in Phnom Penh on August 24, 2026, with bilateral trade up 36 per cent to USD 406.78 million.

- 3rd India-Cambodia Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment, Phnom Penh, August 24, 2026**; next meeting in **India, 2027**
- USD 406.78 million** in 2025-26, up over **36 per cent** from **USD 299 million**
- 63.25 per cent** year-on-year growth in April-June 2026
- Cambodia is India's **8th largest ASEAN trading partner**, at **0.31 per cent** of India-ASEAN trade
- UPI acceptance at KHQR-enabled merchants in Phnom Penh**, launched in 2026, on **June 2, 2026**
- KHQR** is Cambodia's national QR standard, run by the **National Bank of Cambodia** via the **Bakong** system
- The reverse leg, Cambodian apps scanning UPI QR in India, is **under discussion, not live**
- ★ **Context:** Cambodia joined **ASEAN in 1999**, the last of the ten members.



Full article

SYLLABUS GS2 · India and its neighbourhood

SOURCES PIB · Department of Commerce

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

25 Aug · 34

25th Round of India-China Special Representatives Talks Held in Beijing

NSA Ajit Doval held the 25th round of Special Representatives talks on the India-China boundary question with Wang Yi in Beijing on August 25, 2026.

- Instituted: 2003, during PM Vajpayee's Beijing visit
- 25th round: Beijing, August 25, 2026
- Governing agreement: 2005 Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles
- Article VII safeguards settled populations in border areas
- Length as cited by India: approximately 3,488 km
- 1993: Peace and Tranquillity Agreement
- 2012: Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC)
- Modi-Xi meetings referenced: Kazan, Russia (October 2024) and Tianjin, China (2025 SCO Summit)



Full article

SYLLABUS GS2 · India and its neighbourhood

SOURCES Business Standard · Ministry of External Affairs

India to Host the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi in September

India announced on August 27, 2026 that the 18th BRICS Summit will be held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on September 12 and 13, 2026.

- 18th BRICS Summit: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, September 12 and 13, 2026
- Announced August 27, 2026; the summit itself is scheduled, not yet held
- India's fourth BRICS chairship began in 2026, assumed on January 1, 2026
- 2026 marks twenty years since BRICS was established
- "BRIC" coined in 2001 as an investment thesis
- First BRIC foreign ministers' meeting: 2006, on UN General Assembly sidelines
- Contingent Reserve Arrangement: corpus of USD 100 billion
- India is simultaneously a member of BRICS and the Quad, and participates in I2U2



Full article

SYLLABUS GS2 · Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India or affecting India's interests

SOURCES IANS · Ministry of External Affairs

UN Racial Discrimination Committee Issues Findings on India; India Rejects Them

UNCERD issued its concluding observations on India on August 25, 2026. India rejected them on August 26 as politically motivated and highly malicious.

- UNCED concluding observations on India published August 25, 2026
- ★ Document symbol: **CERD/C/IND/CO/20-21**, the concluding observations on India's **combined twentieth and twenty-first periodic reports**
- Background: the review sitting was held in Geneva on **August 11 and 12, 2026**, in the Committee's **118th session (August 10 to 25, 2026)**
- Article 14 is the optional individual-complaints procedure; India has NOT made this declaration
- India holds that caste-based discrimination is not "racial discrimination" under ICERD Article 1
- India is NOT a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or the 1967 Protocol
- Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955; SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989
- Forest Rights Act, 2006; Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (NHRC)



SYLLABUS GS2 · Important international institutions, agencies and fora, their structure and mandate

SOURCES The Hindu · OHCHR · Ministry of External Affairs

India and China Move to Operationalise the Eight-Point Consensus from the 25th SR Talks

The MEA said on August 28, 2026 that India and China are working out how to activate the eight-point consensus reached at the 25th Special Representatives talks on the boundary question.

- ★ **25th round** of Special Representatives' talks, **Beijing, August 25, 2026**; MEA briefing on operationalisation, **August 28, 2026**.
- **26th round to be held in India in 2027.**
- **Special Representatives (SR) mechanism**: established **2003**, political-level channel on the boundary question.
- **Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles**, signed **2005**: the framework document.
- **WMCC**: Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs, established **2012**, at official level.
- Earlier agreements: **Border Peace and Tranquillity Agreement, 1993**; **Confidence Building Measures Agreement, 1996**.
- The **McMahon Line** was drawn at the **Simla Convention of 1914**; China does not accept it.
- The **WMCC (2012)** is an official-level mechanism and is distinct from the **SR mechanism (2003)**, which is political-level.



Full article

SYLLABUS GS2 · India and its neighbourhood

SOURCES Ministry of External Affairs · PIB

Prime Minister Departs for Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan Ahead of the 26th SCO Summit

The Prime Minister left on August 29, 2026 for a State Visit to Tashkent on August 29 and 30, followed by the 26th SCO Summit at Bishkek from August 31 to September 1.

- Departure: **August 29, 2026**. Duration: four days.
- **Tashkent, Uzbekistan: August 29 to 30, 2026**, State Visit at the invitation of President **Shavkat Mirziyoyev**.
- ★ **Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic: August 31 to September 1, 2026, 26th SCO Summit**, at the invitation of President **Sadyr Zhaparov**.
- Vision pairing: **Viksit Bharat 2047** and Uzbekistan's "**Yangi Uzbekistan**".
- Formalised as the **SCO in 2001** when **Uzbekistan** joined.
- **SCO Development Strategy 2035** was adopted at the preceding summit.
- **2017**: India becomes a **full SCO member**.
- The **Shanghai Five (1996)** and the **SCO (2001)** are different things with different membership. Uzbekistan was not in the Shanghai Five.



SYLLABUS GS2 · Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India or affecting India's interests

SOURCES PIB · Ministry of External Affairs · The Indian Express

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

24 Aug · 39

Supreme Court Sets Aside NGT Order on Yamuna Floodplains, Holds Polluter Pays Needs Proof of Causation

On August 22, 2026 the Supreme Court set aside the NGT order fining the Art of Living Foundation, holding the Polluter Pays Principle requires proven causation.

- ★ *Vyakti Vikas Kendra India v. Manoj Misra (Dead) and Others*, 2026 INSC 910, decided **August 22, 2026**
- Underlying event: **World Culture Festival, 2016**, Yamuna floodplains, Delhi
- NGT order of **2017** imposed **₹5 crore**; refund ordered within **four weeks**; the deposit was held by the **Delhi Development Authority**
- The Court held **rehabilitation is not restoration**, and that DDA's own rehabilitation duty continues
- Polluter Pays** and the **Precautionary Principle** were read into **Article 21**
- The vehicles: **Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action v. Union of India (1996)** and **Vellore Citizens' Welfare Forum v. Union of India (1996)**
- National Green Tribunal Act, 2010**; jurisdiction over **seven** scheduled environmental statutes
- Appeals lie to the **Supreme Court under Section 22** of the Act



Full article

SYLLABUS **GS3** · Conservation and environmental pollution

SOURCES Supreme Court of India

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

28 Aug · 40

India Presents Snow Leopard Science in Moscow, and Tests Whether IBCA Can Be More Than a Platform

At a Russia-India roundtable in Moscow on August 26, 2026, India presented advances in snow leopard population estimation, radio telemetry and genetic analysis under an Irbis-IBCA partnership.

- The Irbis-IBCA Partnership Agreement was signed in **December 2025**. "Irbis" is the regional name for the snow leopard.
- Panthera uncia***. IUCN Red List: **Vulnerable, downlisted from Endangered in 2017**.
- ★ **Schedule I**, Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. **CITES Appendix I**. Listed on **CMS Appendix I** (Convention on Migratory Species).
- International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**: launched by India in **April 2023**, at the 50th anniversary of **Project Tiger**.
- The Union Cabinet approved IBCA with one-time budgetary support of **Rs 150 crore** over five years, **2023-24 to 2027-28**.
- IBCA aims to reach **97 range countries**.
- GSLEP (Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme)**: launched at **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in 2013**.
- NTCA (National Tiger Conservation Authority)** is a **statutory body** under the Wild Life (Protection) Act; **WII is not**.



Full article

SYLLABUS **GS3** · Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

Economy & Development

1 item · cards 41–41

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

28 Aug · 41

Jan Dhan at Twelve: 59.09 Crore Accounts, and the Constraint Shifts From Access to Depth

PMJDY completed twelve years on August 28, 2026, with 59.09 crore accounts and deposits of Rs 3.17 lakh crore, up nearly thirteen times, but an average balance of Rs 5,356 per account.

- Launched **28 August 2014** as the **National Mission on Financial Inclusion**.
- ★ **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**: life cover, ages 18-50, annual premium.
- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)**: accident cover, ages 18-70.
- Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**: guaranteed pension, administered by **PFRDA**.
- PMJJBY and PMSBY together are referred to as the **Jan Suraksha** schemes, launched in **2015**.
- TRAJ, July 2026**: rural teledensity **61.05 per cent**, urban **154.12 per cent**, the weak leg of the JAM chain.
- DBT** (Direct Benefit Transfer) was launched in **2013**; the **DBT Mission** sits in the **Cabinet Secretariat**.
- A **BSBDA is not the same as a no-frills account** of the pre-2012 era.



Full article

SYLLABUS **GS2** · Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections and their performance

PERSONS & AWARDS IN NEWS

29 Aug · 42

National Sports Day 2026: Dhyan Chand at 121, and the Year the Khel Ratna Was Not Given

India marked National Sports Day on August 29, 2026, the 121st birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand, days after the women's hockey team recorded its best World Cup finish in 52 years.

- Observed on **29 August**, the birth anniversary of **Major Dhyan Chand**, born **29 August 1905** at Allahabad.
- Instituted in 2012** by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. **2026 marks his 121st birth anniversary.**
- Campaign: '**Ek Ghanta Khel Ke Maidan Mein**', running since **National Sports Day 2025**.
- ★ Governing body: **FIH**, the International Hockey Federation, founded **1924**, headquartered at **Lausanne**.
- The first FIH Women's World Cup was held in **1974**.
- Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)**: individualised elite athlete support.
- The **National Anti-Doping Act, 2022** provides the statutory framework.
- The **National Sports Governance Act, 2025** governs national sports federations, their elections, athlete representation and grievance redress.



Full article

SYLLABUS GS2 · Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and...

SOURCES PIB · Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports · Sports Authority of India

Security & Defence

1 item · cards 43–43

SECURITY & DEFENCE

28 Aug · 43

Defence Export Rules Rewritten: OGEL Extended From 41 Countries to Nearly All

On August 28, 2026, the Department of Defence Production consolidated three OGEL procedures into one, raised validity to three years and extended coverage beyond 41 countries to all but sanctioned destinations.

- Notified **28 August 2026** by the **Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence**. Raksha Mantri: **Rajnath Singh**.
- ★ **OGEL validity: 2 years to 3 years.**
- Country coverage: 41 countries to all countries**, barring negative and sensitive nations and those under **UNSC sanctions or arms embargoes**.
- Defence production, FY 2025-26: Rs 1.78 lakh crore**, an all-time high.
- Defence exports, FY 2025-26: Rs 38,424 crore**, a record; target **Rs 50,000 crore by 2029**.
- Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020** replaced the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2016.
- Draft DAP 2026** removes offsets and mandates **indigenous content of up to 30 per cent** on global buys.
- Munitions fall in SCOMET Category 6**, licensed by the **Department of Defence Production**.



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Indian economy, industrial policy and ease of doing business

Economy & Development

9 items · cards 44–52

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

24 Aug · 44

Commerce Ministry Releases Service Producer Price Indices

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry released, on **August 24, 2026**, provisional **Service Producer Price Indices (SPPI)** for Q1 of FY 2026-27 and final indices for Q4 of FY 2025-26, on **base year 2022-23**.

- ★ **SPPI base year 2022-23**; released quarterly by the **Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Ten** indices; Banking has both a **Price Index** and a **Contribution Index**; Railway splits into **Freight** and **Passenger**
- No aggregate weights** are assigned, so there is no single headline services PPI
- Distinguish from **WPI** (base **2011-12**, goods only, same Office of the Economic Adviser) and **CPI** (base **2012**, released by **NSO/MoSPI**)
- India's **WPI excludes services altogether**; SPPI is the step toward a comprehensive Producer Price Index
- The WPI-to-PPI transition was recommended by the **Working Group on Revision of WPI (Saumitra Chaudhuri Committee, 2017)**



Full article

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

24 Aug · 45

RBI Swap Window Mobilises USD 73 Billion; FCNR(B) Closure Advanced to August 31

The Government said on August 24, 2026 that the RBI special swap facility had drawn USD 73 billion by August 21, and the FCNR(B) window closes a month early.

- ★ Special **USD-INR swap facility** launched in 2026, on **June 8, 2026**, covering **FCNR(B), OFCB and ECB**
- Inflows **USD 73 billion as on August 21, 2026**, of which **USD 65.40 billion** was FCNR(B)
- FCNR(B) window closure advanced from September 30 to August 31, 2026**
- Announced by the Ministry of Finance via PIB on **August 24, 2026**
- FCNR(B)** = Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank), a **foreign-currency-denominated** NRI term deposit; the **depositor bears no rupee exchange risk**
- ECB** = External Commercial Borrowing, regulated by the RBI under **FEMA, 1999**
- A swap facility gives banks **concessional forward cover**, subsidising hedging cost and moving exchange risk to the RBI
- The **2013 FCNR(B) swap**, during the taper tantrum, raised about **USD 26 billion in roughly three months**



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK an FCNR(B) deposit is **not** an ordinary NRE or NRO rupee deposit. NRE and NRO accounts are rupee-denominated and the depositor carries the exchange...

SYLLABUS **GS3** · Mobilisation of resourcesSOURCES **PIB** · RBI

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

25 Aug · 46

UPI Completes Ten Years of Public Operation

UPI completed a decade of public operation on August 25, 2026, growing from 1.78 crore transactions in FY 2016-17 to over 24,162 crore in FY 2025-26.

- Pilot launch: April 11, 2016, by RBI Governor Dr Raghuram Rajan
- ★ Regulated by: RBI under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007
- Legal form: Section 8, Companies Act, 2013 (earlier Section 25, Companies Act, 1956)
- FY 2016-17: 1.78 crore transactions, approximately ₹0.07 lakh crore
- FY 2025-26: over 24,162 crore transactions, approximately ₹314 lakh crore
- Settlement backbone: 24x7 IMPS
- Variants: UPI 123PAY, UPI Lite and Lite X, UPI AutoPay, RuPay credit card on UPI
- First cross-border real-time linkage: UPI-PayNow with Singapore, February 2023



Full article

SYLLABUS **GS3** · Mobilisation of resourcesSOURCES **PIB** · NPCI · RBI

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

26 Aug · 47

RBI August Bulletin: Monsoon Revival Eases Farm Risk, Growth Seen at a Four-Quarter Low

The RBI Bulletin released on August 25, 2026 noted the monsoon swung from a 35.4 per cent June deficit to a 1 per cent July surplus.

- RBI August 2026 Bulletin released August 25, 2026
- Q1 FY27 growth of about 7.2 per cent is a compilation of agency forecasts, NOT an RBI estimate or an actual print
- Q4 FY26 growth: 7.8 per cent; RBI's FY27 forecast raised to 6.7 per cent from 6.6 per cent
- ★ Established April 1, 1935 under the RBI Act, 1934, on the Hilton Young Commission's recommendation
- Constituted under Section 45ZB, inserted into the RBI Act, 1934 by the Finance Act, 2016 as part of Chapter IIIF (Sections 45ZA to 45ZO)
- Inflation target 4 per cent CPI, band plus or minus 2 per cent, under Section 45ZA
- IMD established 1875, headquartered New Delhi
- Normal monsoon: 96 to 104 per cent of the Long Period Average; June-September LPA about 87 cm



Full article

SYLLABUS **GS3** · Indian economy, growth and developmentSOURCES **RBI** · Business Standard

SEBI Introduces an IT Resilience Index for Market Infrastructure Institutions

SEBI issued a circular on August 24, 2026 introducing an IT Resilience Index scoring exchanges, depositories and clearing corporations on nine parameters.

- SEBI circular of August 24, 2026 introducing the IT Resilience Index (ITRI) for MIIs
- Nine parameters; Availability and Security weighted highest at 20 per cent each
- Other parameters at 10 per cent each: Integrity, Governance, Reliability, Monitoring, Business Continuity, Modularity, Flexibility
- Companion measure: Incident Reporting Portal aligned to the FSB's FIRE format
- India's two depositories: NSDL and CDSL
- ★ Constituted 1988; statutory from April 12, 1992 under the SEBI Act, 1992
- Established 2009 at the London G20 Summit, succeeding the Financial Stability Forum (1999)
- CERT-In operates under the IT Act, 2000; 2022 directions require six-hour incident reporting



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Indian economy, mobilisation of resources, financial markets and regulators

SOURCES SEBI · Business Standard

45 Coal-Fired Power Plants Running on Critically Low Fuel Stocks

Government data as of August 25, 2026 shows 45 power plants at critically low coal stocks, up from 31 at end-July, after rain disrupted mining and rail.

- 45 power plants at critically low coal stocks as of August 25, 2026; 40 of them domestic-coal-fired
- Up from 31 plants at end-July
- Aggregate stock 30.95 million tonnes, about 10 days of requirement, down from 12 days in July; a drawdown of about 19 per cent
- "Critical" means stock below 25 per cent of required inventory, or under three days' generation
- SHAKTI: Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India
- Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957
- Section 11, Electricity Act, 2003: power to direct generating companies in extraordinary circumstances
- ★ India met its 50 per cent non-fossil **capacity** target early; capacity share and generation share are different measures



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Infrastructure, energy

SOURCES Business Standard · Central Electricity Authority · Ministry of Coal

Regional Rural Banks Post Record Net Profit of ₹10,176 Crore

At an annual review meeting on **August 25, 2026**, chaired by the **Secretary, Department of Financial Services**, it was reported that consolidated **Regional Rural Bank** net profit reached an all-time high of **₹10,176 crore** in **FY 2025-26**.

- ★ Regional Rural Banks Act, **1976**, following the **Narasimham Working Group (1975)**
- First RRB: **Prathama Bank, October 2, 1975**
- Shareholding: Centre **50 per cent**, sponsor bank **35 per cent**, State Government **15 per cent**
- Regulated by the **RBI**, supervised by **NABARD**
- "One State, One RRB", introduced in 2025, reduced the number to **28**, effective May 1, 2025
- FY 2025-26: net profit **₹10,176 crore** (from ₹6,820 crore); business over **₹13.5 lakh crore**; **GNPA 5.3 per cent**, **NNPA 2.1 per cent**



Full article

IIP Grows 6.7 Per Cent With Mining in Contraction, as RBI Data Shows Corporate Sales Up 19.4 Per Cent

The NSO released July 2026 IIP at 6.7 per cent with mining down 0.9 per cent, a day after RBI data showed listed private corporate sales growth accelerating to 19.4 per cent in Q1 FY27.

- Overall growth 6.7 per cent**, down from **7.3 per cent** in June 2026. Index **124.8** against **117.0** in July 2025.
- ★ **19 of 23** NIC two-digit manufacturing groups grew in July 2026.
- The eight core industries have a combined weight of about **40 per cent** in the IIP and are released separately by the **DPIIT**.
- IT services 14.8 per cent** (from 9.9); **non-IT services 19.7 per cent**, led by wholesale and retail trade.
- Interest Coverage Ratio = EBIT / interest expense**. A ratio **below 1** means operating earnings do not cover the interest obligation.
- IIP base year is 2022-23**, not 2011-12. Using the old base year dates an answer.
- Q1 FY27 GDP had not been released** as of this date; MoSPI's calendar placed it on **31 August 2026**.
- Any Q1 FY27 growth figure circulating before the GDP release is a **forecast**, not data.



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Indian economy and issues relating to planning, mobilisation of resources, growth and development

Coal Stocks Turn Critical at 45 Thermal Plants as the Monsoon Runs 13 Per Cent Short

Government data as of August 25, 2026 showed 45 thermal power plants with critically low coal, up from 31 at end-July, against a southwest monsoon running 13 per cent below the long period average.

- ★ Monitoring body: **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)**, statutory under the **Electricity Act, 2003**.
- There is **no coal entry in the Concurrent List**. Coal is a **major mineral** regulated by the Union under the **MMDR Act, 1957**.
- State List Entry 23** covers mines and mineral development subject to List I. **Electricity** is Concurrent: **Entry 38, List III**.
- IMD's **Second Stage forecast** placed the season at **90 per cent of LPA**.
- IMD categories: Normal = LPA ±4 per cent; Below Normal = 90 to 96 per cent of LPA; Deficient = less than 90 per cent of LPA.**
- The **weakest monsoon since 2009** and a final deficit near **15 per cent** are **projections attributed to IMD sources**, not official forecasts.
- Target framework: **500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030; net zero by 2070**, announced at **COP26 in Glasgow**.
- Buffers: **National Food Security Act, 2013; PM-KISAN; PMFBY** crop insurance; **PMKSY** irrigation; **Atal Bhujal Yojana** for groundwater.



Full article

SYLLABUS GS1 · Climatology, including the Indian monsoon and factors influencing it

SOURCES Central Electricity Authority · India Meteorological Department · Ministry of Coal

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

24 Aug · 53

Biodiversity Authority Releases Rs 2.82 Crore in Benefit-Sharing Funds, and Exposes a Design Flaw

The NBA disbursed Rs 2.82 crore of access and benefit-sharing funds on August 22, 2026, after a corporate acquisition made the original benefit claimers untraceable.

- ₹2.82 crore total, released **August 22, 2026**
- ₹2.80 crore to **27 State Biodiversity Boards and 3 UT Biodiversity Councils**
- ₹2.01 lakh to **ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru**
- Source: **Advanta Enterprises Ltd., formerly UPL Limited**
- **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**, amended by the **Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023**
- **NBA**: statutory autonomous body, established **2003**, headquartered at **Chennai**, under **MoEFCC**
- ★ **ABS implements the third objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)**; the other two are conservation and sustainable use
- **Nagoya Protocol**: adopted **2010**, in force **2014**; India is a party



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Conservation and biodiversity governance

SOURCES PIB · National Biodiversity Authority

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

24 Aug · 54

India Crosses 300 GW of Non-Fossil Capacity, and Why That Is Not a Generation Figure

MNRE announced on August 24, 2026 that non-fossil capacity reached 300.50 GW as of July 31, securing over 60 per cent of the 500 GW target for 2030.

- ★ Non-fossil installed capacity **300.50 GW as of 2026**, specifically **July 31, 2026**; announced **August 24, 2026** at the Jaipur BRE roadshow
- Over **60 per cent** of the **500 GW non-fossil target for 2030**
- The 500 GW target is part of the **Panchamrit** commitments announced at **COP26, Glasgow**
- India's updated NDC separately targets **50 per cent of cumulative installed capacity** from non-fossil sources by 2030
- The official release claims 300.50 GW "accounts for over 54 per cent of total electricity generation"
- **BRE Summit and Expo 2026: November 2 to 5, 2026, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**
- Co-located with the **9th ISA Assembly** and the **4th International Conference on Green Hydrogen**
- The **International Solar Alliance** is headquartered at **Gurugram, Haryana**, jointly launched by India and France at **COP21 (2015)**



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Infrastructure and energy

SOURCES PIB · MNRE

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

25 Aug · 55

216 Rescued Indian Star Tortoises Released into Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve

216 Indian Star Tortoises seized from traffickers in Mumbai and Thane were released into Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve on August 23, 2026.

- 216 Indian Star Tortoises released, August 23, 2026
- Seized in Mumbai and Thane; transported over 800 km by specialised wildlife ambulance
- Executed by a 10-member Maharashtra Forest Department (Mumbai Range) and RAWW team
- CITES: Appendix I, uplisted from Appendix II at CoP18, Geneva, 2019, on a proposal co-sponsored by India
- Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
- Tadoba notified a national park in 1955; Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary added 1986; tiger reserve in 1993-94
- Project Tiger launched: April 1, 1973
- NTCA became statutory: 2006



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

SOURCES ThePrint · NTCA · CITES

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

26 Aug · 56

Centre Proposes Complete Ban on the Insecticide Carbosulfan

The Agriculture Ministry issued a draft order on August 25, 2026 proposing a complete ban on Carbosulfan, open to 30 days of public comment.

- Draft order proposing complete prohibition on Carbosulfan, issued August 2026
- Open to 30 days of public comment; NOT a final ban
- Background: expert committee constituted January 14, 2026; reported June 12, 2026
- Used on paddy and cotton; roughly 32 lakh acres; domestic market about ₹400 crore
- Insecticides Act, 1968 and Insecticides Rules, 1971
- ★ **Section 27(1)**: interim prohibition up to sixty days pending investigation. **Section 27(2)**: permanent prohibition after investigation
- **Section 4**: constitutes the Central Insecticides Board. **Section 5**: constitutes the Registration Committee
- Endosulfan banned by Supreme Court order in 2011; listed under the Stockholm Convention



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Major crops and cropping patterns

SOURCES Business Standard · Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

ICAR-NBAGR Registers 16 New Indigenous Breeds, Taking the National Total to 262

ICAR-NBAGR registered 16 new livestock and dog breeds across nine species, including the Periyar dwarf cattle of Kerala, taking India's total to 262.

- 16 new breeds registered by ICAR-NBAGR, reported August 25, 2026
- National total now 262: 258 indigenous and 4 synthetic
- The **16 new breeds** span nine species: cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, dog, pig, pony, donkey, yak
- The full register of 262 covers more species still, including camel, duck, chicken, geese and mithun
- ICAR: established July 16, 1929 following the Royal Commission on Agriculture, appointed 1926 and reporting 1928
- Rashtriya Gokul Mission launched December 2014, under the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- ★ Biological Diversity Act, 2002; Nagoya Protocol (2010, in force 2014) under the CBD
- FAO Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, Interlaken, 2007; DAD-IS database



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Conservation and biodiversity

SOURCES ICAR · Down To Earth

Tamil Nadu Notifies Three Elephant Corridors Linking Hosur Forests to Karnataka

Tamil Nadu notified three elephant corridors covering over 10,300 hectares in the Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary, the first tranche of 41 corridors the Madras High Court ordered expedited.

- **Three corridors**, notified late **August 2026**, in the **Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary, Hosur Forest Division**, Tamil Nadu.
- **Jawalagiri to Ulibanda to Thaggatti**: 18.50 km, 0.73 to 3.20 km wide, **3,241.53 ha**.
- **Jawalagiri to Panai to Anchetty**: 20.90 km, 0.80 to 5.00 km wide, **6,881.47 ha**.
- **Billikkal to Jawalagiri**: 2.20 km, 0.66 to 1.50 km wide, **196 ha**.
- ★ **Schedule I**, Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. **CITES Appendix I**.
- **Article 48A**: Directive Principle requiring the State to protect and improve the environment and safeguard forests and wildlife.
- **Article 51A(g)**: Fundamental Duty to protect and improve the natural environment and to have compassion for living creatures.
- **Eco-Sensitive Zones** are notified under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, not the WLP.



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

SOURCES Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change · Wildlife Institute of India · IUCN Red List

India Calls for Community-Led Rangeland Restoration at UNCCD COP17

At UNCCD COP17 in Ulaanbaatar, India urged community-led rangeland restoration recognising pastoralists as custodians, not beneficiaries.

- Adopted 1994, entered into force 1996; secretariat at Bonn, Germany
- Held at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 2026
- USD 1.3 billion package launched for restoring the world's rangelands
- Land restoration pledge raised at COP14 to **26 million hectares by 2030**
- Roughly **10 million hectares** of permanent pastures and grazing lands
- ★ Land Degradation Neutrality is **SDG target 15.3**
- **2026** is the UN **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists**
- The Forest Rights Act, 2006 provides for Community Forest Resource rights



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Conservation

SOURCES UNCCD · Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

World Lake Day: Only the Second Observance

August 27 is **World Lake Day**, and **2026** is only the **second annual observance**.

- ★ World Lake Day: **August 27**; designated by UNGA resolution **A/RES/79/142** of **December 12, 2024**
- World Lake Day marks the World Lake Conference first held in **1984**; first observed 2025
- Ramsar Convention signed **1971** at **Ramsar, Iran**; India has Asia's largest network of Ramsar sites
- Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, **2017**; National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems; Amrit Sarovar Mission
- **Eutrophication**: nutrient enrichment causing algal blooms and oxygen depletion
- **World Water Week** is organised annually by the **Stockholm International Water Institute**



Full article

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

23 Aug · 61

India Observes Third National Space Day, Marking the Chandrayaan-3 Landing Anniversary

India observed its **third National Space Day** on **August 23, 2026**, an anniversary commemorating the **Chandrayaan-3** mission's Vikram lander soft-landing at **Shiv Shakti Point** on the Moon's south polar region, background: since August 23, 2023...

- ★ Chandrayaan-3 landing site: **Shiv Shakti Point**, lunar south polar region
- Background, landing date: **August 23, 2023**; India is the 4th country to achieve a soft lunar landing, 1st near the south pole
- 2026 theme: **"Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership"**
- Host institution: **Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO, Ahmedabad**
- India's crewed spaceflight programme, **Gaganyaan**, is among the next milestones on India's space roadmap
- The planned **Bharatiya Antariksh Station** (target ~2035) is another milestone on India's space roadmap



Full article

SOURCES PIB · ISRO · Ministry of Science and Technology

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

23 Aug · 62

Iran Announces Major Natural Gas Discovery in Fars Province

Iran's Oil Minister **Mohsen Paknejad** announced discovery of a "sweet gas" field in **Fars Province** with over **7.5 trillion cubic feet** of gas-in-place, roughly 5,700 billion cubic feet recoverable, background: announced amid Iran's...

- ICMR: circulating H1N1 strain is A/Missouri/11/2025-like, not a new strain
- Iran's Fars Province gas discovery: >7.5 Tcf gas-in-place, ~5,700 Bcf recoverable



Full article

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

24 Aug · 63

China Launches Chang'e-7 to the Moon's South Pole

China launched its **Chang'e-7** lunar mission from the **Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site, Hainan**, aboard a **Long March-5 (Y14)** rocket on **August 24, 2026**, targeting a landing near **Shackleton crater** at the Moon's south pole.

- ★ **Chang'e-7**: launched **August 24, 2026** from **Wenchang, Hainan**, on a **Long March-5 (Y14)**
- Components: **orbiter, lander, rover and hopper**; target zone near **Shackleton crater**, lunar south pole
- China's crewed lunar landing target: **2030**
- International payloads from **Russia, Italy, Bahrain and Egypt, Thailand and Switzerland**
- India's **Chandrayaan-3** made the first soft landing near the lunar south pole, in 2023, at the site designated **Shiv Shakti Point**
- ★ **LUPEX** is the India-Japan Lunar Polar Exploration Mission, aimed at water-ice prospecting



Full article

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

24 Aug · 64

Rajnath Singh Lays Foundations for Rs 3,500 Crore GRSE and Yantra India Projects

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** performed the Bhumi Pujan on **August 23, 2026**, virtually from GRSE Bhavan, Kolkata, for **five expansion projects** — three of **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** and two of **Yantra India Limited (YIL)** —...

- ★ Five projects, about **₹3,500 crore**; Bhumi Pujan **August 23, 2026**, virtually from GRSE Bhavan, Kolkata
- GRSE sites: **Kidderpore, Shalimar, Raichak**; YIL site: **Metal and Steel Factory, Ishapore**, over **₹750 crore**
- Raichak** will enable warships up to **200 metres**
- GRSE**: over **800 vessels** built; **Navratna** status; next-generation OPVs to have over **80 per cent** indigenous content
- Yantra India Limited** was established in **October 2021**, one of the seven DPSUs created from the corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board
- MRO** = Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul



Full article

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

24 Aug · 65

Third National Space Day Marked at Ahmedabad as ISRO Sets Out Its Launch Backlog

India observed its third National Space Day on August 23, 2026 at Ahmedabad, where the ISRO Chairman set out an eight-launch plan and a Gaganyaan timeline.

- Observed on **August 23**; marks the **Chandrayaan-3** Vikram lander touchdown near the lunar south pole, achieved in 2023
- 2026 is the third edition**; national event at the **Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad**
- ★ **Dr Pawan Kumar Goenka** — Chairman, **IN-SPACE**, the single-window authorisation and promotion body created under the 2020 reforms
- 440+** space start-ups since the 2020 reforms
- 8 launch vehicle missions and 12 satellites** planned this financial year
- First uncrewed **Gaganyaan** test flight in about **four months**; **three uncrewed flights** before a crewed mission; about **8,000 tests** completed
- 56** Indian space assets today; **200 to 300** satellites projected as needed within five years
- LUPEX** is the India-Japan Lunar Polar Exploration Mission, aimed at water-ice prospecting



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Achievements of Indians in science and technology

SOURCES ISRO · PIB

CSIR-NAL Unveils Three Indigenous Micro and Small Gas Turbine Engines

CSIR-NAL unveiled the NJ-05, NJ-50 and NJ-100 indigenous gas turbine engines on August 25, 2026, for UAVs, drone interceptors and missile systems.

- Unveiled: August 25, 2026, SSB Auditorium, CSIR Headquarters, New Delhi
- NJ-05: 5 kgf thrust; NJ-50: 50 kgf; NJ-100: 100 kgf
- Team led by R. Prathapanayaka; Chief Guest Air Marshal Tejinder Singh, CISC
- Established: 1959, moved to Bengaluru in 1960; Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Programmes: HANSA-3, HANSA-NG, SARAS, CNM-5
- Founded: 1942; Headquarters: New Delhi
- DRDO's engine laboratory: Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), Bengaluru
- Integrated Defence Staff created in 2001, following the Kargil Review Committee and the Group of Ministers report



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Achievements of Indians in science and technology

SOURCES IANS · CSIR · CSIR-NAL

NITI Aayog Report Maps the Obstacles to Doing Research and Development in India

A NITI Aayog report on Ease of Doing Research and Development maps obstacles from funding to governance, and urges raising GERD to 2 per cent of GDP.

- Background: released **April 9, 2026** by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman **Suman Bery** and Union Minister **Dr Jitendra Singh**
- Headline recommendation: raise GERD from about **0.64 per cent** to at least **2 per cent of GDP over four to five years**
- The report finds close to **80 per cent of ANRF funding is concentrated in the IITs**
- India: about **0.64 to 0.7 per cent**; Israel and South Korea above 4 per cent; the United States and China above 2 per cent
- ★ Anusandhan National Research Foundation, created by the **ANRF Act, 2023**
- RDI scheme corpus: **₹1 lakh crore** for private-sector-led research
- **NEP 2020** recommended a National Research Foundation
- **NITI Aayog** was constituted by Cabinet resolution on January 1, 2015; it is neither constitutional nor statutory



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Achievements of Indians in science and technology

SOURCES NITI Aayog · ThePrint

SECURITY & DEFENCE

23 Aug · 68

India Test-Fires First Fully Indigenised AK-203 "Sher" Assault Rifle

Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) successfully test-fired, including burst-firing, the first prototype of a fully indigenised AK-203 "Sher" assault rifle at its Korwa facility, Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, on August 23, 2026, the first...

- Manufacturer: **IRRPL**; facility: **Korwa, Amethi, Uttar Pradesh**
- ★ Contract: **Rs 5,200 crore** for **6,01,427 rifles**
- Original delivery deadline: **October 2032**; targeted advancement to **December 2030**
- Army field trials: **September 2026**
- "Sher" designates the fully indigenised variant of the AK-203 assault rifle



Full article

SOURCES PIB · Ministry of Defence

SECURITY & DEFENCE

25 Aug · 71

India and Vietnam Coast Guards Hold 7th High-Level Meeting in Chennai

The 7th High-Level Meeting between the Indian Coast Guard and the Vietnam Coast Guard was held at Coast Guard Regional Headquarters (East), Chennai, on August 25, 2026.

- Indian Coast Guard raised August 18, 1978, under the Coast Guard Act, 1978; Ministry of Defence; motto "Vayam Rakshamah"
- 7th ICG-VCG High-Level Meeting: Chennai, August 25, 2026, under the 2015 MoU
- Joint exercise: SAHYOG-HOPTAC, August 27, 2026
- India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: 2016; INS Kirpan gifted 2023
- India's maritime frameworks: SAGAR (2015), IPOI (2019), IFC-IOR at Gurugram (2018)



Full article

SECURITY & DEFENCE

24 Aug · 69

Ninth National Security Strategies Conference Opens; AI Analysis Directed Over Multi Agency Centre...

Amit Shah inaugurated the 9th National Security Strategies Conference on August 24, 2026, directing AI-based analysis of Multi Agency Centre intelligence.

- 9th National Security Strategies (NSS) Conference-2026, New Delhi, inaugurated **August 24, 2026**, two-day
- Hybrid format, **850+ participants**; held annually in hybrid format **since 2021** on the Prime Minister's direction
- Originates in the **Kargil Review Committee** and Group of Ministers process; strengthened after **26/11**
- Direction given: **AI-based analysis of MAC platform information** to create SOPs
- ★ **UAPA** = Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, **1967**
- The **2019 UAPA amendment** allows designation of **individuals**, not only organisations, as terrorists
- **Trial in absentia** for proclaimed absconders is provided by the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023**
- **PRAHAAR** is an MHA scheme named in the release **without an expansion**; do not invent one



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Challenges to internal security through communication networks

SOURCES PIB · Ministry of Home Affairs

SECURITY & DEFENCE

26 Aug · 72

Navy Announces Commissioning of Diving Support Vessel Nipun

The Indian Navy announced on **August 25, 2026** that the second Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel, **Nipun**, will be **commissioned on August 31, 2026** at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.

- ★ DSV **Nipun**: second Nistar-class DSV, built by **Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam**; about **75 per cent** indigenous
- Historical background: **delivered July 30, 2026**; commissioning **scheduled August 31, 2026** at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai
- India's two **DSRVs** were inducted in **2018** and **2019**
- The original **INS Nistar** was commissioned in **1971**
- Naval DPSU shipyards: MDL Mumbai, GRSE Kolkata, Goa Shipyard, Cochin Shipyard, HSL Visakhapatnam
- **SAGAR** articulated 2015; **MAHASAGAR** is its 2025 successor formulation



Full article

SECURITY & DEFENCE

27 Aug · 73

Defence Minister Lays Foundation for a ₹472 Crore Tank Overhaul Facility at Jabalpur

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** laid the foundation stone on **August 27, 2026** for a **₹472 crore** facility to overhaul **T-72** and **T-90** battle tanks at **Vehicle Factory Jabalpur**, Madhya Pradesh.

- ₹472 crore facility at Vehicle Factory Jabalpur; **80 tanks** overhauled annually
- Operates under **Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL)**
- ★ AVNL is one of the **seven DPSUs** formed from the Ordnance Factory Board corporatisation in **2021**
- **T-72** = **Ajeya**; **T-90** = **Bhishma**



SECURITY & DEFENCE

25 Aug · 70

Defence Minister Clears Transfer of All DRDO Conventional Missile Technologies to Indian Industry

Rajnath Singh approved transfer of DRDO technologies for all conventional missile systems to Indian industry on August 25, 2026.

- Approved by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, reported August 25, 2026
- Covers DRDO-developed technologies for all conventional missile systems
- Established: 1958; Headquarters: New Delhi
- Launched: 1983; Led by: Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam; Formally closed: 2008
- BrahMos is outside IGMDP; India-Russia joint venture established 1998
- Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020; highest priority category Buy (Indian-IDDm)
- Positive Indigenisation Lists; SRIJAN portal; iDEX for startups and MSMEs
- FDI in defence: up to 74 per cent through the automatic route



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Indigenisation of technology and developing new technology

SOURCES Business Standard · Ministry of Defence · DRDO

Goa Shipyard Hands Over ICGS Ajit to the Indian Coast Guard

Goa Shipyard Limited formally handed over the indigenously designed and built Fast Patrol Vessel **ICGS Ajit** to the Indian Coast Guard on **August 25, 2026**.

- ★ Indian Coast Guard raised **February 1, 1977**, formally constituted under the **Coast Guard Act, 1978**
- The Coast Guard is under the Ministry of Defence; motto "**Vayam Rakshamah**"
- Goa Shipyard Limited** is a Ministry of Defence DPSU
- ICGS Ajit: 51.43 m, 330 tonnes, over 27 knots, 1,500 nm endurance, over 65 per cent indigenous
- Adamya-class: eight FPVs, GSL in-house design; **CPP** = controllable pitch propeller



Full article

Prelims Focus Reports and Indices · Schemes · Persons and Awards in News

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Reports, Indices & Schemes

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REPORTS, INDICES & SCHEMES

26 Aug · 75

Mission Samriddh Gaon Launched, With Pilots in Two Madhya Pradesh Blocks

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched Mission Samriddh Gaon on August 25, 2026, a convergence mission piloted in Budni and Khategaon blocks.

- Launched August 25, 2026 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi by Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992; in force April 24, 1993
- Part IX: Articles 243 to 243-O; Eleventh Schedule lists 29 subjects
- Article 243A: Gram Sabha; Article 243ZD: District Planning Committee
- Enacted 2005; guarantees 100 days of unskilled manual wage employment per rural household per financial year
- Section 3 creates the entitlement; unemployment allowance follows failure to provide work within 15 days
- Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana: 2014
- Aspirational Districts Programme: 2018, 112 districts



Full article

SYLLABUS GS2 · Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and...

SOURCES Ministry of Rural Development · ThePrint

REPORTS, INDICES & SCHEMES

26 Aug · 76

NITI Aayog Skilling Report Finds 8.7 Crore Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training

NITI Aayog released "Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047" on August 25, 2026, finding 8.7 crore Indians aged 15 to 29 are NEET.

- "Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047", released by NITI Aayog, August 25, 2026
- ★ 8.7 crore NEET youth aged 15 to 29, based on the **NSS 78th Round, FY 2020-21**; a NEET count is not an unemployment figure
- MSDE created 2014; NSDC is a PPP under it
- NCVET constituted 2018, subsuming NCVT and NSDA; single regulator for vocational education
- NSQF has 10 levels; Sector Skill Councils set standards
- PMKVY, now PMKVY 4.0; NAPS for apprenticeship; Skill India Digital Hub
- NEP 2020 targeted vocational exposure for 50 per cent of learners by 2025; fewer than 1 in 12 secondary schools offer vocational subjects
- PLFS is conducted by the NSO under MoSPI, launched 2017-18, monthly from January 2025



SYLLABUS GS2 · Issues relating to development and management of human resources

SOURCES NITI Aayog · MSDE

Economy & Development

14 items · cards 77–90

BUSINESS STANDARD

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

24 Aug · 77

A Losing Proposition: Retail Derivatives and the Limits of a Ban

Business Standard argues retail derivatives participation is falling and losses easing, but the average loss per trader still rose, so tighten suitability rather than ban.

- Unique investors in equity derivatives fell about **18 per cent to about 8.75 million** in FY26, the **first decline in a decade**.
- Aggregate net losses eased to about **Rs 91,685 crore** from about **Rs 1.12 trillion**.
- **Average loss per trader rose about 2 per cent to about Rs 1.17 lakh**.
- Households lost over **Rs 2 trillion** in the segment across two years.
- ★ **SEBI** was established in **1988** and given statutory status by the **SEBI Act, 1992**.
- SEBI's statutory objects are to **protect investor interests, promote the development of the securities market, and regulate it**.
- SEBI's earlier measures in this segment: **larger contract sizes, rationalised weekly expiries, upfront premium collection**.
- **Tighter position limits** were also imposed, a graduated approach rather than prohibition.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK falling **aggregate** losses and rising **per-trader** losses are not contradictory, and quoting only one is the most common error on this topic. Aggregates...

SYLLABUS GS3 · Indian economy, mobilisation of resources, the role of regulators in the financial sector, and the protection of retail...

THE HINDU

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

24 Aug · 78

Core Concerns: On the Indian Economy and the Road Ahead

The Hindu argues July core-sector growth of 5.4 per cent rests heavily on a low base, with the manufacturing PMI at its weakest since August 2021.

- ★ **ICI growth in July: 5.4 per cent**, down from **6 per cent** in June; still the **second-highest in seven months**.
- **Manufacturing PMI in July: lowest since August 2021**, attributed to weak domestic demand.
- **Coal: 7.6 per cent**, an eleven-month high, against a **12.3 per cent contraction** in July of the previous year.
- **Refinery products: 2.7 per cent**, ending a three-month contraction, also against a prior-year contraction.
- **Iron ore: 29.5 per cent**.
- The eight core industries carry a weight of about **40 per cent in the Index of Industrial Production**.
- The ICI is released by the **Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **PMI above 50 = expansion; below 50 = contraction**. It measures direction against the previous month, not level.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK a **base effect** is not a data error and not manipulation. It is an arithmetic property of year-on-year comparison. The correct response is to look at...

SYLLABUS GS3 · Indian economy, growth and development, indicators of industrial performance, and inflation and demand measurement

HINDUSTAN TIMES

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

24 Aug · 79

Trade Deals Are Key to the Saptadharma Vision

Hindustan Times argues India's recent free trade agreements, especially the EU deal concluded in January, align closely with the Saptadharma framework for 2047.

- **Saptadharma** (*Shakti ki Saptadharma*): seven streams in the **2026 Independence Day address**, targeting developed-country status by **2047**.
- The seven streams: **manufacturing, agriculture, technology, connectivity, the green and blue economy, defence, soft power**.
- Recent FTA partners named: **Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the UK, Oman, the EU, and EFTA**.
- **EFTA** comprises **Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland** — note it is **not** the EU, and Switzerland and Norway are not EU members.
- The **EU-India agreement was concluded in January**, after negotiations spanning nearly **two decades**.
- A **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** typically covers goods, services and investment.
- A **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** typically covers the same scope; a narrow **FTA** may cover goods alone.
- ★ India is **not** a member of **RCEP**, having declined to join on the 2019 terms, citing import-surge risk and inadequate safeguards.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK **EFTA is not the EU**. The EFTA agreement and the EU agreement are separate instruments with different partners, and Switzerland and Norway belong to...

SYLLABUS GS2 · Bilateral and regional agreements involving India and affecting India's interests

BUSINESS STANDARD

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

25 Aug · 80

Increasing Telecom Tariffs: Investment Capacity Against Affordability

Business Standard argues India's telecom industry is due for tariff rationalisation to monetise 5G and lift ARPU, while protecting affordability in rural markets.

- **Wireless teledensity: 59.46 per cent**, as cited in the editorial.
- ★ **TRAI** established under the **TRAI Act, 1997**; **TDSAT** created by the **TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000**.
- **Telecommunications Act, 2023** replaced the **Indian Telegraph Act, 1885** and the **Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933**.
- The **Universal Service Obligation Fund** was renamed **Digital Bharat Nidhi** under the 2023 Act.
- **Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)** is the base for licence fee and spectrum usage charges.
- The AGR definitional dispute was decided against operators by the Supreme Court in **2019**.
- **5G spectrum auction: 2022**. Tariffs operate largely under **forbearance**.
- **Teledensity** is defined as telephone connections per **100 persons**.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK **TRAI is a recommendatory and regulatory body, not a licensor**. Licences are granted by the **Department of Telecommunications** under the Ministry of...

SYLLABUS GS3 · Infrastructure

Youth Unemployment Has a Household Cost

The Hindu argues India measures youth unemployment as an individual condition when its real burden falls on the entire household.

- ★ **PLFS** launched **2017-18**, conducted by the **National Statistical Office** under **MoSPI**.
- PLFS replaced the quinquennial NSSO Employment and Unemployment Surveys; moved to monthly release from **January 2025**.
- Unemployment Rate** is measured as a share of the **labour force**, not of the population. **LFPR** and **WPR** are measured as a share of **population**.
- Reference periods: **Usual Status (ps+ss)**, 365-day recall; **Current Weekly Status**, seven-day recall.
- "Youth" is conventionally the **15 to 29** age group.
- ILO-IHD India Employment Report 2024**: youth were approximately **83 per cent** of India's unemployed workforce.
- Contributory social security bodies: **EPFO** and **ESIC**.
- Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana** covers insured persons who lose employment, not first-time jobseekers.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK The Unemployment Rate uses the **labour force** as its denominator, while LFPR and WPR use **population**. A falling unemployment rate accompanied by a...

SYLLABUS GS3 · Growth and development

Fair Pricing Could Help Sustain the UPI Network

The Indian Express argues UPI's Rs 20,700 crore annual operating cost against a Rs 2,000 crore zero-MDR allocation makes the present bargain unsustainable.

- MDR** is the fee a merchant pays for accepting a digital payment; it is **zero** on UPI person-to-merchant transactions in India.
- Annual UPI operating cost cited by the **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance**, report tabled **12 August 2026**: about **₹20,700 crore**.
- The compensating allocation is about **₹2,000 crore**, roughly **11 per cent** of actual UPI costs.
- UPI is operated by **NPCI** (incorporated **2008**, Mumbai, promoted by RBI and IBA).
- ★ UPI is regulated by the RBI under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.
- UPI volume rose from **1.78 crore transactions in FY 2016-17** to over **24,162 crore in FY 2025-26**.
- NPCI's proposed **30 per cent** market-share cap on third-party apps has been repeatedly deferred.
- ⚠ **Watch the trap**: MDR applies to **person-to-merchant (P2M)** transactions, not to person-to-person transfers, which were never within its scope. Also...



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK MDR applies to **person-to-merchant (P2M)** transactions, not to person-to-person transfers, which were never within its scope. Also distinguish MDR...

SYLLABUS GS3 · Indian economy

Bitter Harvest: Sugar Prices, Duty-Free Imports and the Ethanol Alibi

Business Standard argues the duty-free sugar import window is the right corrective to a 16 per cent price rise, and that blaming ethanol is misplaced.

- Retail sugar rose about **16 per cent in the month to 20 August**, from about **₹48.18/kg** to about **₹55.70/kg**.
- Output about **30.6 million tonnes** against an initial estimate of about **34.3 million tonnes**.
- Corrective: duty-free import window for **1 million tonnes of raw sugar to 31 October**.
- Stock limits**, for context: **400 tonnes** for dealers (1 August to 30 November) and **15 days' consumption** for bulk consumers (from 1 September).
- Crushing advised to begin **15 October**.
- Two retail price series are in circulation and they differ sharply**. The 16 per cent rise is the series Business Standard cites.
- The ministry series rise is about **30 per cent**. Prices eased after the import approval and stock limits took effect.
- ★ **FRP** is fixed by the Centre on **CACP** advice under the **Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966**; **SAP** is declared by some States.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK Do not confuse the **Minimum Selling Price of sugar**, an ex-mill floor for the commodity, with the **Minimum Support Price** for crops, or with the **Fair and...**

SYLLABUS GS3 · Major crops and cropping patterns

Inclusive Lending: Alternative Data Can Widen Credit, If Judgement Is Not Automated Away

Business Standard argues AI and alternative data can assess thin-file borrowers, but need consent, bias testing and a right to human review.

- Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005** governs credit bureaus in India.
- Account Aggregator** framework is RBI-regulated and provides consented, revocable, purpose-limited financial data sharing.
- OCEN**, the Open Credit Enablement Network, is the protocol layer for digital lending.
- ★ **DPDP Act, 2023** governs digital personal data; the **Data Protection Board of India** adjudicates.
- India Stack** comprises Aadhaar e-KYC, UPI, DigiLocker and the Account Aggregator layer.
- Priority Sector Lending** and **microfinance group liability** are the earlier instruments of credit expansion.
- ⚠ **Watch the trap**: An **Account Aggregator does not store or see the data**; it is a consent-and-transfer intermediary between the financial information provider...



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK An **Account Aggregator does not store or see the data**; it is a consent-and-transfer intermediary between the financial information provider and the...

SYLLABUS GS3 · Inclusive growth

Making India's Food System Climate-Proof Cannot Wait

The Hindu argues India's Green Revolution-era food security architecture was built for production adequacy and must now be retrofitted for climate resilience.

- ★ **MSP** is recommended by the **CACP** and announced by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**; declared for **23 crops**.
- National Food Security Act, 2013** covers up to **75 per cent of the rural** and **50 per cent of the urban** population.
- Food Corporation of India** established **1965** under the Food Corporations Act, 1964.
- 2023** was the **International Year of Millets**, proposed by India; millets are designated **Shree Anna**.
- One Nation One Ration Card** provides portability of PDS entitlements.
- Decentralised procurement** allows States to procure, store and distribute on the Centre's behalf.
- A **normal monsoon** is 96 to 104 per cent of the Long Period Average.
- ⚠ **Watch the trap:** MSP is announced for **23 crops** but **procurement at scale occurs mainly for rice and wheat**. Answers that treat MSP coverage as equivalent to...



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK MSP is announced for **23 crops** but **procurement at scale occurs mainly for rice and wheat**. Answers that treat MSP coverage as equivalent to procurement...

SYLLABUS GS3 · Issues of buffer stocks and food security

Skilling to Employment: 87 Million Young Indians Outside Work or Study

Business Standard reads a NITI Aayog report showing 87 million youth outside education, employment or training against a contracting unincorporated sector, and argues skilling alone cannot fix a demand problem.

- ★ **NITI Aayog report:** about **87 million** people aged **15-29** are **NEET**, outside education, employment or training.
- The NITI Aayog report finds only **8.25 per cent** of graduates work in jobs aligned to their qualification.
- Quarterly Bulletin of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises, Q1 2026-27 (NSO):** establishments **down 5.4 per cent** sequentially.
- NITI Aayog** replaced the **Planning Commission** on **1 January 2015**. Chairperson: the **Prime Minister**.
- The PLFS moved to a **monthly** release of key indicators in **2025**.
- Skill India Mission** was launched in **2015**; the nodal ministry is the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**, created in **2014**.
- The **National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)** is the regulator, formed in **2018**.
- The **National Credit Framework (NCrF)** and **NEP 2020** together seek to make vocational and general education credit-transferable.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK the **unincorporated sector is not the same as the informal sector**, though they overlap heavily. "Unincorporated" is a **legal form** test: the enterprise...

SYLLABUS GS3 · Growth, development and employment

Resilient, But the Risks Remain: Reading India's Q1 Momentum

The Indian Express finds broad-based domestic strength in the RBI's State of the Economy report but warns that El Nino, trade uncertainty and energy prices still cloud the outlook.

- ★ **RBI's August 2026 Monetary Policy Committee** projected **7 per cent** growth for Q1, in line with **Crisil** and **ICRA**.
- Index of Industrial Production up 5.8 per cent** in the quarter, aided by manufacturing.
- Non-oil exports up 12.8 per cent** in the first four months of the year.
- Central government capital expenditure up roughly 24 per cent** in the quarter.
- The **State of the Economy** report is prepared by RBI economists and carried in the **RBI Bulletin**.
- The MPC's statutory inflation target is **4 per cent CPI, with a tolerance band of plus or minus 2 percentage points**.
- ★ The inflation target is notified under the **RBI Act, 1934** as amended in **2016**.
- The **IIP base year is 2011-12**; its three sectoral components are **mining, manufacturing and electricity**.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK the **IIP is a volume index of industrial production, not a measure of industrial GDP**. It excludes construction entirely, and it covers only the...

SYLLABUS GS3 · Indian economy and issues relating to planning, mobilisation of resources, growth, development and employment

Cyclical Cheer, Structural Worry: Reading India's Growth Before the GDP Print

Ahead of the Q1 GDP release, Sajjid Chinoy argues India's resilience is cyclical, and that flat corporate capex and a rising capital-labour ratio are the real constraints.

- ★ **GDP for April to June 2026: scheduled for release 31 August 2026**. Not published as of this edition
- Forecasts: consensus about **7.2 per cent**; range **6.9 per cent (India Ratings)** to **8.0 per cent (SBI Research)**; preceding quarter **7.8 per cent**
- Other forecasts: **Bank of Baroda 7.0 to 7.2**, **CareEdge 7.3**, **ICRA 7.0** (revised up from an earlier 6.4 to 6.6)
- RBI FY27 projection: 6.7 per cent** (August 2026 MPC)
- MPC background, **3 to 5 August 2026: repo 5.25 per cent**, stance **neutral**, **SDF 5.00 per cent**, **MSF and Bank Rate 5.50 per cent**
- MPC: Governor **Sanjay Malhotra**; next meeting **5 to 7 October 2026**
- GST rationalisation**, September 2025
- Gross fixed investment: about **32 per cent of GDP**, its decadal average



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Indian economy and issues relating to planning, mobilisation of resources, growth, development and employment

Not Ethanol, But Policy: Reading the Sugar Price Spiral of 2026

The Indian Express argues the sugar price spike to Rs 65 a kg is a failure of market intelligence and control-era policy, not of the ethanol blending programme.

- Retail sugar: from about **Rs 45 to Rs 65 per kg** within a month, a rise of nearly **45 per cent**
- Gross production: **30.9 million tonnes**
- Initial projection at start of crushing in November: **34.4 million tonnes**
- Shortfall: about **3.5 million tonnes**
- Sugar diverted to ethanol: about **3 million tonnes**, roughly **one-tenth** of production
- Diversion in the four preceding sugar years: **3.5, 2.4, 4.3 and 3.6 million tonnes**
- ★ **Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966**: basis of the **Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)**, fixed by the Centre on **CACP** recommendation
- **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**: statutory basis for stock limits



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Issues of buffer stocks and food security

Saptadhara: Seven Streams, and the Reform Question They Leave Unanswered

Swaminathan Aiyar argues in the Economic Times that Saptadhara restates existing ambitions without naming the politically painful reforms Viksit Bharat would require.

- ★ India's average GDP growth over 25 years: about **6.5 per cent**
- Three years from **2023-24: 7.1, 7.2 and 7.6 per cent**
- RBI projection cited by Aiyar: **6.6 per cent**; the **August 2026 MPC** projection for FY27: **6.7 per cent**, repo held at **5.25 per cent**
- Bhalla's per-capita requirement implies roughly **10.8 per cent** GDP growth
- **India-UK Free Trade Agreement**: in force **since 2026**, effective **15 July 2026**
- **India-EU Free Trade Agreement**: **negotiations concluded 27 January 2026**; **not yet in force**
- **PM Gati Shakti (2021), National Logistics Policy (2022), Production Linked Incentive** schemes
- Pruning the **regulatory thicket** (the Jan Vishwas Act, 2023 is the decriminalisation vehicle)



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Indian economy and issues relating to planning, mobilisation of resources, growth, development and employment

BUSINESS STANDARD

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

24 Aug · 91

Development vs Conservation: The Case Against Shrinking Kaziranga's Buffer

Business Standard argues Assam's proposal to cut Kaziranga's eco-sensitive zone from 10 km to 1-3 km misreads the relationship between ecology and economics.

- ★ Assam's proposal: reduce Kaziranga's **ESZ from 10 km to 1-3 km**; defended by CM **Himanta Biswa Sarma** on civic and urban growth grounds.
- **Kaziranga tourism revenue: all-time high of about Rs 8.8 crore in 2024.**
- **2,613 one-horned rhinoceros**, about **two-thirds of the world population**; **148 tigers**; over **1,550 elephants**.
- Proposed alternative: a **Rs 6,957-crore, 35-km elevated corridor**.
- **Eco-Sensitive Zones** are notified by **MoEFCC** under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- **National Highway 715** runs along the park's southern edge.
- Animals cross NH-715 to reach the **Karbi Anglong** hills during the annual Brahmaputra floods.
- Kaziranga was declared a **National Park in 1974**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985**, and a **Tiger Reserve in 2006**.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK an **Eco-Sensitive Zone is not a buffer zone of a Tiger Reserve**, and the two are separate concepts under separate statutes. ESZs are notified under the...

SYLLABUS GS3 · Conservation, environmental impact assessment, biodiversity

DOWN TO EARTH

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

24 Aug · 92

India's Energy Transition: Who Pays the Price?

Down To Earth argues April 2026 peak demand showed solar meeting a third of load by day while coal still stabilised the evening, and asks who bears the transition cost.

- Background evidence, **24-25 April 2026**: demand surged to **252 GW**, then a record **256 GW**, during an intense heatwave.
- **Solar generation reached 80.8 GW**, meeting nearly **one-third of national demand** at peak solar hours.
- India's **non-fossil capacity crossed 300 GW** in mid-2026, against a **500 GW target for 2030** from the **Panchamrit** commitments at COP26.
- The **duck curve** describes a deep midday net-load trough followed by a steep evening ramp, produced by high solar penetration.
- ★ Coal district revenues flow through **royalties**, the **District Mineral Foundation** (created under the **MMDR Amendment Act, 2015**) and cess.
- **Just Transition** is recognised in the **Paris Agreement preamble**.
- India's grid is operated by **Grid Controller of India** (formerly POSOCO).
- Generation planning is coordinated by the **Central Electricity Authority**.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK meeting a third of demand **at peak solar hours** is not the same as meeting a third of **daily energy demand**. The first is an instantaneous share during...

SYLLABUS GS3 · Infrastructure and energy, conservation, climate change

ECONOMIC TIMES

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

25 Aug · 93

Do Not Tamper With Kaziranga's Buffer

The Economic Times argues that shrinking Kaziranga's eco-sensitive zone risks islanding the park and severing the flood-time animal migration to the Karbi Anglong hills.

- ★ Kaziranga: reserve forest **1905**, national park **1974**, **UNESCO World Heritage Site 1985**, **Tiger Reserve 2006**.
- Holds roughly **two-thirds of the world's greater one-horned rhinoceros** population; *Rhinoceros unicornis*, IUCN **Vulnerable**, **WLP Schedule I**.
- The **Big Five**: one-horned rhinoceros, tiger, Asian elephant, wild water buffalo, swamp deer (barasingha).
- **National Highway 715**, formerly **NH-37**, runs along the southern boundary; designated animal corridors cross it.
- Animals migrate south to the **Karbi Anglong** hills during monsoon floods.
- ESZs are notified under **Section 3(2)(v) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**; activities are **prohibited, regulated or permitted**.
- Supreme Court: **June 2022** minimum 1 km ESZ directive; **April 2023** modification permitting flexibility.
- ⚠ **Watch the trap**: Kaziranga is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, not a Ramsar site. Assam's Ramsar site is **Deepor Beel**. Also note that Kaziranga's flooding is...



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK Kaziranga is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, not a Ramsar site. Assam's Ramsar site is **Deepor Beel**. Also note that Kaziranga's flooding is ecologically...

SYLLABUS GS3 · Conservation

DOWN TO EARTH

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

25 Aug · 94

Infrastructure Alone Cannot Secure the Ganga's Future

Down To Earth argues that sewage plants and embankments cannot save the Ganga while its endangered biodiversity remains invisible to the millions who revere the river.

- ★ Ganga declared **National River: 2008**. **Namami Gange** launched **2014**; implementing body **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**.
- **National Ganga Council** constituted **2016** by order under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- **Ganges river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*): **declared** National Aquatic Animal in 2009**; functionally blind, navigates by echolocation.
- Dolphin protection status: **IUCN Endangered; WLP Schedule I; CITES Appendix I**.
- First comprehensive riverine dolphin estimation, surveyed 2021-23, released **March 2025: 6,327** dolphins; Uttar Pradesh highest, about **2,397**.
- **Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*): IUCN Critically Endangered**, **WLP Schedule I**.
- Ganga length about **2,525 km**, from **Gaumukh** at the Gangotri glacier; formed at **Devprayag** by the confluence of the **Bhagirathi** and **Alaknanda**.
- **Wildlife Institute of India**: established **1982, Dehradun**, autonomous body under the MoEFCC.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK The **National Aquatic Animal** is the **Ganges river dolphin**. Do not confuse it with the **National Animal** (tiger), the **National Heritage Animal** (Indian...

SYLLABUS GS3 · Conservation

How to Make a Solar-Heavy Grid Stable and Affordable

The Indian Express argues India solved renewable deployment but now faces frequency-stability risk, and shifting demand beats buying costly storage.

- **Non-fossil capacity: 283 GW**, comprising about 275 GW renewable plus about 9 GW nuclear.
- The **50 per cent non-fossil capacity** commitment was met **five years early**.
- **UPPCL** four-hour **BESS** tender, **375 MW and 1,500 MWh** under VGF Tranche II, cleared at about **₹6.45 per unit**.
- Comparators as cited by the column: coal average power purchase cost about **₹4.67 per kWh**, solar about **₹3.65 per kWh**.
- India's updated **NDC (2022)**: about 50 per cent cumulative installed capacity from non-fossil sources by **2030**.
- The NDC carries a **500 GW** non-fossil capacity target.
- ★ **Electricity Act, 2003** governs the sector; **CEA** handles technical planning; **CERC** and **SERCs** regulate tariffs; **Grid-India** operates the grid.
- **PM-KUSUM** solarises agricultural pumps.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK The **50 per cent non-fossil target** refers to installed capacity, not to generation. Because solar and wind have lower capacity utilisation factors...

SYLLABUS GS3 · Infrastructure, energy

Warmer Oceans Are Sounding a Warning

The Indian Express argues the ocean buffer that absorbed over 90 per cent of global warming heat is failing, and adaptation must be strengthened.

- Oceans have absorbed **over 90 per cent** of the excess heat trapped by greenhouse gases.
- Sea-level rise cited: **11 cm since 1993**, the satellite altimetry era.
- ★ **IPCC** established **1988** by the **WMO** and **UNEP**; **UNFCCC** 1992; **Paris Agreement** 2015.
- **Loss and Damage Fund**: agreed at **COP27 (2022)**, operationalised at **COP28 (2023)**.
- **NAPCC** (2008) has **eight** national missions.
- **Coastal Regulation Zone** notifications are issued under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- India's traditionally cited coastline is **7,516.6 km**; remeasured to **11,098.81 km**.
- The remeasured coastline was promulgated as background by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways in 2025, on 29 April**.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK The **IPCC** does not conduct original research; it assesses published literature. Also distinguish **mitigation** (reducing emissions), **adaptation** (managing...)

SYLLABUS GS3 · Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

India on E-Wheels: Gujarat Needs More Buses, Not Just More EVs

Down To Earth argues Gujarat leans on vehicle electrification while public transport starves, with Ahmedabad's bus fleet stagnant at about 1,100.

- ★ Ahmedabad operates about **1,100 buses** across AMTS and BRTS combined, well short of assessed requirement.
- Down To Earth reports the Ahmedabad bus fleet has stagnated.
- Electric vehicles are about **1.36 per cent** of Gujarat's total vehicle fleet, per Down To Earth's August 2026 electric-mobility index.
- **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** was launched in **2019** for non-attainment cities.
- **Bharat Stage VI** norms have applied nationwide since **April 2020**; India skipped BS-V.
- **PM e-Bus Sewa** supports electric bus deployment in cities.
- Ahmedabad's **Janmarg** was among India's earliest bus rapid transit systems.
- **Transit-oriented development** concentrates high-density mixed-use development around mass transit nodes.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK Electric vehicles are **zero-emission at the tailpipe**, not zero-emission overall. Their lifecycle emissions depend on the generation mix charging them...

SYLLABUS GS3 · Environment and pollution

Nepal, Rishiganga and Dharali Are Signals of a Himalayan Crisis

Down To Earth argues these disasters share one mechanism: floods triggered by collapsing rock-ice masses rather than rainfall, which warnings miss.

- **GLOF**: Glacial Lake Outburst Flood. **LLOF**: Landslide Lake Outburst Flood. A **rock-ice avalanche** is a direct collapse of mixed rock and ice.
- **ICIMOD** is headquartered in **Kathmandu** and covers the Hindu Kush Himalaya.
- ★ **NDMA** was created under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005** and is chaired by the **Prime Minister**.
- The **Central Water Commission** handles flood forecasting; the **IMD** handles rainfall forecasting.
- **Two Nepali rivers are called Bhote Koshi; do not conflate them.** The one that flooded on 26 August 2026 is the upper **Trishuli** in **Rasuwa**.
- **ICIMOD did not classify the 26 August event as a GLOF**, attributing it to a suspected **ice-rock avalanche** into the Lhende Khola.
- **Rishiganga**: about **27 million cubic metres** of rock and ice detached.
- **Dharali**: nearby **Harsil** recorded only about **8 mm of rain**.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK A **GLOF** and a **rock-ice avalanche flood** are not the same event. A GLOF involves the breach of a glacial lake; a rock-ice avalanche need involve no lake...

SYLLABUS GS1 · Important geophysical phenomena

Danger From Above: What the Nepal Flood Says About Himalayan Risk

The Hindu argues satellite evidence points to a glacier collapse rather than rainfall behind Nepal's flash flood, and that India must monitor glacier health as development policy.

- Nepal flash flood, **26 August 2026**: The Hindu reported at **least 389 dead** and **at least 300 Indians missing** as of 27 August.
- The Nepal flood damage ran along the **Bhote Koshi and Trishuli** corridors.
- Attributed by satellite analysis, **including by ISRO**, to a **glacier collapse or ice-rock avalanche in Tibet**.
- Infrastructure lost: **35 motorable bridges, 45 suspension bridges, about 40 km of roads**.
- India has about **15,000 glaciers** and nearly **7,500 glacial lakes**; field assessment is feasible mainly **July to September**.
- **South Lhonak Lake GLOF, October 2023**, Sikkim: destroyed the **Teesta-III project at Chungthang**, Sikkim's largest hydropower project.
- A **Western Disturbance** is an **extratropical** storm system originating over the Mediterranean region and travelling east.
- ★ India's disaster framework: **Disaster Management Act, 2005**; **NDMA** chaired by the Prime Minister; **NDRF** as the specialist response force.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK two different Nepali rivers are called Bhote Koshi. The one in Rasuwa district, near the Rasuwagadhi border crossing, flows into the Trishuli and...

SYLLABUS GS1 · Important geophysical phenomena

The Mountains Are Warning Us: Shyam Saran on Himalayan Fragility

Writing in the Indian Express, former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran argues the Nepal flood is the latest symptom of Himalayan degradation, and that India, Nepal, Bhutan and China need shared hydrological data.

- **26 August 2026**: avalanche about **20 km east of Rasuwagadhi**, down the **Lhende river**; flood spread from **Rasuwa** into **Dhading, Gorkha and Nuwakot**.
- **Rasuwigadhi** connects Nepal's **Rasuwa district** with **Gyirong county**, Tibet. It is a major India-Nepal-China trade and pilgrimage route.
- The author reports a possible trigger of a **magnitude 4.4 earthquake** minutes earlier; other assessments do not support a seismic trigger.
- ★ **India-Nepal treaties: Koshi Agreement 1954, Gandak Agreement 1959, Mahakali Treaty 1996**.
- **ICIMOD**, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, is headquartered in **Kathmandu**.
- ICIMOD's eight regional member countries: **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan**.
- India's Prime Minister spoke to Balendra Shah on **26 August 2026** to convey condolences and offer humanitarian assistance.
- **GSLEP**, the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme, covers **12 range countries** across the same mountain zone.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK the Gandaki and Koshi are different basins. The Trishuli and the Rasuwa Bhote Koshi belong to the **Gandaki** system and reach India as the **Gandak**. The...

SYLLABUS GS1 · Salient features of the world's physical geography

The Dark Forest of Ktlekan: Why the Western Ghats Still Matter

An Indian Express column on North Kanara's Ktlekan rainforest argues India's remaining primary forest is qualitatively different from plantation cover, and the Western Ghats need protection as an ecological system.

- The **Western Ghats** run about **1,600 km** across **six states**: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu.
- The Ghats harbour nearly **half of India's flowering plants**, about **a third of its vertebrate fauna**, and over **300 globally threatened species**.
- ★ **UNESCO World Heritage Site** since **2012**, inscribed as a **serial property of 39 component sites**.
- **Gadgil Committee (Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel), 2011**: chaired by **Madhav Gadgil**.
- **Kasturirangan Committee (High Level Working Group), 2013**: chaired by **K. Kasturirangan**.
- The Kasturirangan panel recommended ecologically sensitive status for about **37 per cent** of the Ghats, roughly **60,000 sq km**.
- **Anamudi (2,695 m)** in Kerala is the highest peak in the Western Ghats and the highest in peninsular India.
- **Forest cover** in the ISFR: land over **one hectare with tree canopy density above 10 per cent**.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK "forest cover" is a canopy-density measure, not an ecological one. It counts plantations, orchards and even tea and coffee estates above the density...

SYLLABUS GS1 · Salient features of India's physical geography

When a Glacier Bursts: Reframing Himalayan Floods as a Health Emergency

After the Nepal disaster, the Indian Express argues glacial floods must be treated as a climate-health syndemic, not a hydrology problem that ends when the water recedes.

- Glacial lakes in the Indian Himalaya: **well over 7,500**
- **Kedarnath, June 2013**: Chorabari lake breach compounding extreme rainfall
- **Chamoli, February 2021**: rock and ice avalanche, Rishiganga catchment
- **Sikkim, 3 October 2023** (historical): **South Lhonak Lake** burst; flood propagated **385 km** along the **Teesta** into Bangladesh
- The Teesta's river length is **414 km**; **Chungthang dam** (Teesta Stage III) destroyed; toll **55 dead, 74 missing**
- ★ **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**: chaired by the **Prime Minister**, established under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**
- **National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH)**: launched **2019** under the National Health Mission
- **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**: launched by India in **2019**



Full article

SYLLABUS GS1 · Important geophysical phenomena

ECONOMIC TIMES

SOCIAL ISSUES

24 Aug · 103

Invest Dignity-First for Anganwadis

The Economic Times argues the ICDS revamp after fifty years will succeed only if Anganwadi worker pay and working conditions are fixed alongside the infrastructure.

- **ICDS was launched in 1975**; it is being restructured after about **five decades**.
- ICDS delivers **six services**; the first three: supplementary nutrition, pre-school non-formal education, nutrition and health education.
- **The last three services are delivered in convergence with the health system**, not by the Anganwadi worker alone.
- ★ The scheme now sits under **Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0**, which merged ICDS, the Scheme for Adolescent Girls and **Poshan Abhiyaan**.
- **Poshan Abhiyaan** was launched in **2018**, targeting stunting, undernutrition, anaemia and low birth weight.
- The workforce is overwhelmingly **women**, as is the case for **ASHA** workers under the National Health Mission.
- **NFHS-5 (2019-21)** recorded stunting in children under five at about **35.5 per cent** and wasting at about **19.3 per cent**.
- The NFHS-5 figures are the outcome baseline the system is judged against.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK an **Anganwadi worker**, an **ASHA** and an **ANM** are three different roles. The ANM (Auxiliary Nurse Midwife) is a salaried health worker; the ASHA is an...

SYLLABUS GS2 · Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections

THE HINDU

SOCIAL ISSUES

24 Aug · 104

Not Delulu: An AI Tutor for Every Child in India

The Hindu argues India's \$14.8 billion coaching market prices out most students, and a free AI tutor built as digital public infrastructure is the answer.

- ★ India's test-prep market: about **\$14.8 billion in FY26**, projected to **\$23-26 billion by FY30** at **12-15 per cent CAGR**, per Redseer.
- Around **200,000 coaching centres** operate in India, per Redseer.
- **65 million students in classes 9-12**; about **27 million** in government schools.
- **NSO survey, 2025**: **27 per cent** of students taking or having taken private coaching; **30.7 per cent urban**, **25.5 per cent rural**.
- The NSO coaching figures imply **17-20 million** students in classes 9-12.
- **PhysicsWallah**: about **4.9 million** paid online users.
- **NEP 2020** links coaching dependence to assessment design and recommends competency-based assessment.
- The **Right to Education Act, 2009** covers ages 6 to 14, which is below the stage at which coaching demand concentrates.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK "public rail, private engines" is a **governance model**, not a technology choice. The state's role in UPI was to mandate interoperability and cap rent...

SYLLABUS GS2 · Education, government policies and interventions, issues relating to development and management of social sector...

INDIAN EXPRESS

SOCIAL ISSUES

24 Aug · 105

To Build Delhi's Future, Learn From Past Missteps

The Indian Express welcomes Delhi's fourth Master Plan for prioritising public transport and land use over outward expansion, but warns implementation is the test.

- Delhi's **fourth Master Plan** was notified in **August 2026**; the **third** came into effect about **25 years** earlier.
- Delhi's population at the third plan: about **14 million**; roughly **10 million more** have since arrived.
- The **CNG policy** for public transport was introduced as a pollution-control measure.
- The CNG policy drove air quality gains through the 2000s and early 2010s.
- ★ The plan is prepared by the **Delhi Development Authority** under the **Delhi Development Act, 1957**.
- Delhi is a **Union Territory with a legislature** under **Article 239AA**, inserted by the **69th Constitutional Amendment, 1991**.
- The NCR Planning Board works under the NCR Planning Board Act, 1985; the NCR covers districts of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- The CAQM was given statutory footing in **2021**.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK the **NCT of Delhi** and the **National Capital Region** are different jurisdictions with different planning authorities. A Delhi Master Plan governs the...

SYLLABUS GS1 · Urbanisation, their problems and their remedies

BUSINESS STANDARD

SOCIAL ISSUES

25 Aug · 106

Fixing the Foundations: India's School System Has a Capacity Crisis

Business Standard argues that with 56 per cent of NCERT posts vacant and higher-secondary enrolment lagging, India faces a school capacity crisis beyond classrooms.

- Vacancies cited: **56 per cent** of sanctioned NCERT posts, **44 per cent** of CBSE posts.
- **58.6 per cent** of government schools had internet in **2024-25**.
- Higher-secondary **GER below 50 per cent** in several regions.
- ★ **Article 21A** inserted by the **86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002**; **RTE Act, 2009** covers ages **6 to 14**.
- RTE pupil-teacher ratio norms: **30:1** primary, **35:1** upper primary.
- Education is in the **Concurrent List, Entry 25**, moved from the State List by the **42nd Amendment Act, 1976**.
- **NCERT** established **1961**. **Samagra Shiksha** launched **2018**; **NIPUN Bharat 2021**; **PM SHRI 2022**.
- **NEP 2020** replaced 10+2 with the **5+3+3+4** structure and targets **100 per cent GER up to secondary level by 2030**.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK Gross Enrolment Ratio counts enrolment regardless of age and can therefore exceed 100 per cent where there are over-age or under-age students. It is...

SYLLABUS GS2 · Issues relating to development and management of social sectors involving education

The Question Behind the Delhi Master Plan 2047: Who Can Afford to Stay?

The Indian Express argues that MPD-2047 promises 40 lakh homes but its redevelopment-led, private-investment model risks pricing out the residents it claims to house.

- **MPD-2047** unveiled **20 August 2026** by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister **Manohar Lal**.
- Target population by 2047: **32 million**. Affordable housing sought: approximately **40 lakh units**.
- Of the 40 lakh units, about **18 lakh** in TOD zones and about **7 lakh** through redevelopment; over **17 lakh** JJ cluster residents to be housed.
- TOD zone: within **500 metres** either side of Metro corridors and within a **500-metre radius** of RRTS and railway stations.
- **Delhi Development Authority** constituted under the **Delhi Development Act, 1957**.
- Master plan sequence: **MPD-1962, MPD-2001, MPD-2021**, draft MPD-2041.
- ★ Delhi is an NCT under **Article 239AA**, inserted by the **69th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1991**.
- Urban planning is a municipal function under the **74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992** and the **Twelfth Schedule**.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK Do not confuse the **69th Amendment (1991)**, which gave Delhi its Legislative Assembly and Article 239AA, with the **74th Amendment (1992)**, which deals...

SYLLABUS GS1 · Urbanisation, their problems and remedies

Will the Caste Census Inflate OBC Numbers? The Evidence Says No

The Indian Express argues fears of false OBC self-declaration in the caste census are unsupported, since NSS data show a broadly stable 41 to 44 per cent share.

- **Census Act, 1948; Section 15** makes individual returns confidential and inadmissible in evidence.
- The last full caste enumeration in the decennial Census was **1931**.
- **Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011**: caste data never fully released in usable form.
- **Mandal Commission**: constituted **1979** under B. P. Mandal, reported **1980**; 27 per cent OBC reservation implemented **1990**.
- **Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992)**: upheld 27 per cent OBC reservation, capped total reservation at **50 per cent**.
- ★ **Article 340** (commission on backward classes); **Article 338B** (NCBC, constitutional status via the **102nd Amendment, 2018**); **Article 342A**.
- The **105th Amendment, 2021** restored States' power to identify SEBCs.
- NSS rounds 1999-2000 to 2017-18: OBC share broadly stable at roughly **41 to 44 per cent**.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK The **Census** and the **SECC** are different exercises under different legal authority. The Census is conducted under the **Census Act, 1948** with statutory...

SYLLABUS GS1 · Salient features of Indian society

Mask Up: The H1N1 Surge Is a Hygiene Problem With a Climate Multiplier

Business Standard argues the influenza surge in Delhi and Karnataka reflects weak hygiene standards now compounded by climate, and calls for discipline not panic.

- ★ Reported cases: Delhi over **2,300 influenza-A**, of which about **1,780 confirmed H1N1**; Karnataka over **4,200 lab-confirmed influenza** cases.
- **Bengaluru** is a hotspot. These are influenza totals, not H1N1-only counts.
- **ICMR** confirmed this is **not a new strain**; the annual vaccine protects.
- **H1N1** is a subtype of **influenza A**, named for **haemagglutinin** and **neuraminidase** surface proteins.
- **Antigenic drift** causes seasonal epidemics and requires annual vaccine reformulation.
- The **2009 H1N1 pandemic** strain subsequently became a seasonal circulating virus.
- **NCDC** hosts India's **National Influenza Centre**; **IDSP** has evolved into the **Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP)**.
- **WHO GISRS** guides twice-yearly influenza vaccine strain selection.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK Do not conflate **antigenic drift** with **antigenic shift**. Drift is gradual mutation causing seasonal epidemics; shift is abrupt reassortment causing...

SYLLABUS GS2 · Issues relating to development and management of health

Root Causes: The Jobs Deficit Behind India's Youth Crisis

The Hindu argues that coaching reform answers the visible trigger of the youth agitation while leaving the structural jobs deficit untouched.

- ★ Roughly **26 of every 100 graduates aged 15 to 29** are in regular salaried work, on an analysis of **PLFS unit-level data**.
- Of those 26 salaried graduates, only about **four** hold a contract with paid leave and social security.
- **NITI Aayog (August 25, 2026): 8.7 crore** NEET youth aged 15 to 29, based on the NSS 78th Round of FY 2020-21.
- NITI Aayog also: about **8.25 per cent** of graduates in qualification-aligned roles; over **7.67 crore** trained since 2014-15.
- **ILO-IHD India Employment Report 2024**: youth were about **83 per cent** of the unemployed workforce.
- **PLFS** launched **2017-18**, conducted by the **NSO** under **MoSPI**; monthly from **January 2025**.
- Unemployment Rate is a share of the **labour force**; LFPR and WPR are shares of **population**.
- **NEET** in labour statistics means **Not in Education, Employment or Training**, and is broader than the unemployment rate.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK A falling unemployment rate alongside a falling **Labour Force Participation Rate** can mean people have **stopped looking** rather than found work. This is...

SYLLABUS GS2 · Issues relating to development and management of human resources

A Victim-Centric Shift: The Prajwala Judgment on Sex Trafficking

Writing in The Hindu, Sunitha Krishnan argues the Supreme Court's May 2026 Prajwala judgment makes rehabilitation a right rather than charity, and its Victim Protection Plan operates as law until Parliament legislates.

- **Prajwala vs Union of India**, decided **May 2026** by **Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice R. Mahadevan**; petition filed in **2004**, a span of **22 years**.
- **Article 32** is the right to constitutional remedies, itself a Fundamental Right.
- Article 32 was called the "heart and soul of the Constitution" by **Dr B.R. Ambedkar**.
- **Article 142** empowers the Supreme Court to pass any decree or order necessary for **complete justice**.
- **Article 23** prohibits **traffic in human beings and forced labour**, and is enforceable against private persons as well as the state.
- The principal statute is the **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956**.
- ★ Trafficking is also an offence under **Section 143 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023**, which replaced Section 370 of the IPC.
- **NALSA**, the National Legal Services Authority, is constituted under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK the **Ujjwala scheme for trafficking victims** under the Ministry of Women and Child Development is entirely distinct from **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**...

SYLLABUS GS2 · Mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of vulnerable sections

New-Age Fires: Why ICU Blazes Need a Category of Their Own

The Hindu argues India's fire-safety failures have migrated from factories to hospitals and homes, and that ICU fires need treating as a distinct category with their own protocols.

- ★ **August 2026**: NICU fires at **Amravati (Maharashtra)** and **Chhindwara District Hospital (Madhya Pradesh)**.
- **Three deaths** at Amravati, **three infants burned** at Chhindwara.
- **Jhansi NICU fire, 2024: 18 newborns died**.
- The Amravati fire was **extinguished in 30 minutes**; the deaths were caused by **smoke**.
- The **National Building Code of India, 2016**, published by the **Bureau of Indian Standards**, contains fire and life-safety provisions in **Part 4**.
- The NBC is a **recommendatory** document that acquires force only when a state or local body adopts it into its building bye-laws.
- **Health is also a State subject** (Entry 6, State List); public health and hospitals are administered by states.
- Hospital accreditation in India is through **NABH**, under the **Quality Council of India**. It is **voluntary** for most facilities.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK the **National Building Code is not law by itself**. It is a BIS standard, and it binds only where a state or municipal body has adopted it into its own...

SYLLABUS GS2 · Issues relating to development and management of social sector services relating to health

THE HINDU POLITY & GOVERNANCE

24 Aug · 113

Triple Test, Adrift: On the Ruling on the Definition of Industry

The Hindu argues the nine-judge Bench should not have moved away from the Bangalore Water Supply triple test, since privatisation makes an expansive definition more necessary.

- **Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board v. A. Rajappa (1978)**, Justice **V. R. Krishna Iyer**, laid down the **Triple Test**.
- ★ The Triple Test defines "industry" under **Section 2(j) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947**.
- The three conditions: **systematic activity; employer-employee cooperation; production or distribution of goods and services**.
- **State of U.P. v. Jai Bir Singh (2005)**: a five-judge Bench doubted the definition; a seven-judge Bench referred it onward.
- A **nine-judge Bench led by CJI Surya Kant** decided the reference on **August 20, 2026**.
- The Bench left the **Triple Test standing for all pending disputes under the repealed Industrial Disputes Act**.
- Going forward the governing provision is **Section 2(p) of the Industrial Relations Code**.
- The **Industrial Relations Code, 2020** is one of the **four labour codes**; together they consolidate 29 central labour laws.



PRELIMS HOOK the nine-judge Bench did **not** abolish the triple test. It preserved it for **pending disputes under the old Act** and shifted future determinations to...

SYLLABUS GS2 · Judiciary, landmark judgments, statutory interpretation

THE HINDU POLITY & GOVERNANCE

25 Aug · 115

Labour Rights Beyond the Shadow of BWSSB

The Hindu argues the nine-judge bench freeing the Industrial Relations Code from the 1978 BWSSB triple test signals a narrowing of labour law coverage.

- ★ **State of Uttar Pradesh v. Jai Bir Singh, 2026 INSC 897**, decided **20 August 2026** by a **nine-judge Constitution Bench**.
- Plurality opinion by **Chief Justice Surya Kant**, for himself and Justices Satish Chandra Sharma, Alok Aradhe and Vipul M. Pancholi.
- Separate opinions by Justices **Nagarathna, Narasimha, Datta and Bagchi**.
- The Court divided **6:3** overall but was unanimous that the triple test governs pending 1947 Act disputes.
- **Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board v. A. Rajappa (1978)** interpreted **Section 2(j) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947**.
- The new definition sits at **Section 2(p) of the Industrial Relations Code, 2020**.
- The four labour codes: **Code on Wages, 2019; Industrial Relations Code, 2020; Code on Social Security, 2020**.
- The fourth code: **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020**.



PRELIMS HOOK Do not write that the nine-judge bench "overruled" or "struck down" the BWSSB triple test. It did neither. It **preserved** the test for disputes pending...

SYLLABUS GS2 · Structure and functioning of the judiciary

THE HINDU POLITY & GOVERNANCE

25 Aug · 114

Invisible Actors: Anonymous Objections and the Right to Vote

The Hindu argues that anonymous bulk Form 7 deletion objections during the Special Intensive Revision leave voters exposed to wrongful disenfranchisement.

- **Article 324**: superintendence, direction and control of elections vests in the Election Commission of India.
- **Article 326**: elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies on the basis of adult suffrage.
- **Representation of the People Act, 1950**: preparation of electoral rolls and qualifications of electors.
- ★ **RP Act, 1951**: conduct of elections, offences and disqualifications.
- **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960**: the procedural rules.
- **Electoral Registration Officer**: appointed under **Section 13B, RP Act, 1950**.
- **Section 24** first appeal: to the magistrate, additional district magistrate, executive magistrate or district collector.
- BLA filing limits as cited in the editorial: **ten Form 7 filings per day, thirty in total**.



PRELIMS HOOK Do not confuse the two Representation of the People Acts. The **1950 Act** deals with electoral rolls and elector qualification; the **1951 Act** deals with...

SYLLABUS GS2 · Election Commission of India

THE HINDU POLITY & GOVERNANCE

26 Aug · 116

End the Culture of Secrecy in Judicial Appointments

The Hindu argues the collegium's retreat from disclosure since 2024 erodes public confidence in merit-based selection.

- ★ **Article 124**: Supreme Court appointments. **Article 217**: High Court appointments. Both use "consultation" with the CJI.
- **Judges Cases: 1981** (First, executive primacy), **1993** (Second, judicial primacy via collegium).
- Judges Cases continued: **1998** (Third, procedure elaborated), **2015** (Fourth, NJAC struck down).
- The **99th Constitutional Amendment Act** and the **NJAC Act** were struck down in **2015** as violating the basic structure.
- The **Memorandum of Procedure** has been in **impasse since 2015**: the Supreme Court treats it as finalised, the Government treats it as pending.
- The Supreme Court collegium for appointments to the Supreme Court comprises the **CJI and the four senior-most judges**.
- Per the editorial, collegium resolutions have not named participating judges or given reasons **since 2024**.
- The change dates from **28 November 2024**.



PRELIMS HOOK The collegium is **not mentioned in the Constitution**. Do not write that it was "established under Article 124". It is a judicially evolved convention...

SYLLABUS GS2 · Structure, organisation and functioning of the judiciary

Do States Lose From the New Mining Law? The MMDR Amendment, 2026

A Hindustan Times op-ed argues the MMDR Amendment Act 2026 preserves state mining revenue while ending unpredictable levies, as Karnataka, Kerala and Telangana prepare to challenge it in the Supreme Court.

- ★ **MMDR Amendment Act, 2026**, legislative background: introduced **10 August 2026**, passed by Lok Sabha **12 August**, Rajya Sabha **13 August**.
- The MMDR Amendment Act, 2026 was **assented 17 August 2026**.  Full article
- The 2026 Act bars states from levying **any tax, cess or other levy on mineral rights or mineral bearing lands**.
- The 2026 Act **invalidates unpaid pre-amendment levies** without requiring refund of amounts already collected.
- The 2024 nine-judge ruling held states may tax **mineral rights (Entry 50, List II)** and **mineral-bearing land (Entry 49, List II)**.
- Parent statute: **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957**.
- District Mineral Foundation (DMF)**, created by the **2015 MMDR amendment**, is funded by contributions from leaseholders.
- The **MMDR Amendment Act, 2023** introduced **exploration licences** and opened **critical and atomic minerals** to private-sector auction.

PRELIMS HOOK **royalty is not a tax**. This is the holding of the 2024 nine-judge Bench and it overruled the earlier position in *India Cement vs State of Tamil Nadu...*

SYLLABUS GS2 · Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States

Luxury Litigation and the Unequal Cost of Delay

The Economic Times welcomes the Supreme Court's warning against luxury litigation but argues costs alone cannot fix a backlog whose burden falls hardest on the poor.

- Bench: **Justice Vikram Nath, Justice Sandeep Mehta and Justice Vijay Bishnoi**; judgment by **Justice Vikram Nath**; citation **2026 INSC 907**  Full article
- Pending more than **twenty years: 11,73,509** cases (Government of India, NJDG data placed before Parliament)
- Article 14**: equality before the law and equal protection of the laws
- Article 21**: right to life and personal liberty, from which the **right to a speedy trial** is derived
- Article 39A**: equal justice and free legal aid, a Directive Principle inserted by the **42nd Amendment, 1976**
- Article 142**: power to do complete justice, the source of the costs jurisdiction in practice
- Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar (1979)**: speedy trial is part of the right to life under Article 21; the foundational undertrial case
- ★ **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987: NALSA, State and District Legal Services Authorities, and Lok Adalats**

SYLLABUS GS2 · Structure, organisation and functioning of the Judiciary

Why 543 Should Remain 543: Delimitation Without Enlargement

A Hindu lead article argues delimitation need not mean a bigger Lok Sabha, because constitutional design is not arithmetic alone and the House size is a separate question from seat redistribution.

- ★ Present Lok Sabha strength: **543 elected members**. **Article 81** caps elected members at **530 from states and 20 from Union Territories**.  Full article
- Historical note: the **nominated Anglo-Indian seats were abolished** by the **104th Amendment, 2019**, with effect from 25 January 2020.
- 42nd Amendment, 1976**: froze state-wise allocation on the **1971 Census** until after 2001.
- 84th Amendment, 2001**: extended the freeze until after the **first Census taken after 2026**.
- 87th Amendment, 2003**: permitted readjustment of boundaries **within states** on the **2001 Census**, without changing state totals.
- Article 82**: readjustment after each Census, by an **Act of Parliament**.
- Article 170**: parallel provision and parallel freeze for **State Legislative Assemblies**.
- 106th Amendment, 2023 (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam)**: one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

PRELIMS HOOK **adjournment sine die is not prorogation**. The presiding officer adjourns; only the **President** prorogues. A House adjourned sine die can be **reconvened...**

SYLLABUS GS2 · Parliament and State legislatures, structure and functioning

Unkind Cuts: The SIR and the Vanishing Voter in Telangana and Karnataka

The Hindu argues the Special Intensive Revision has deleted a fifth of electors in Telangana and Karnataka, and that ECI opacity makes the scale impossible to audit.

- ★ **Article 324**: superintendence, direction and control of elections and of the preparation of electoral rolls, vested in the ECI  Full article
- Article 325**: no person to be excluded from the roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex
- Article 326**: adult suffrage as the basis of elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies
- Article 324(5)**: the CEC may be removed only in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court
- Representation of the People Act, 1950**: Part III on preparation of rolls; **Section 13B** (Electoral Registration Officer)
- RP Act, 1950: **Section 21** (preparation and revision); **Section 22** (correction); **Section 23** (inclusion); **Section 24** (appeals to DM and CEO)
- Representation of the People Act, 1951: Section 62**: only a person whose name is on the roll may vote
- Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India (2023)**: Supreme Court prescribed an appointment committee for the ECI; Parliament then legislated

SYLLABUS GS2 · Constitutional bodies, their powers, functions and responsibilities

When Doing the Job Becomes Heroism: The Mundhe Crackdown and the Lowered Bar

The Indian Express asks why India celebrates civil servants for ordinary enforcement, and argues the answer indicts the system rather than the officer.

- **Tukaram Mundhe**, Commissioner, **Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration**, in charge **since 2026**, from **25 May**
- **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**: consolidated the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and other laws
- ★ The FSS Act, 2006 created the **FSSAI** under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- **Article 311**: protection against dismissal, removal or reduction in rank without inquiry; note that it does **not** protect against transfer
- **Article 310**: doctrine of pleasure
- **Article 312**: All India Services
- **All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968; Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964**
- **Right to Information Act, 2005; Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014** (passed, but its operationalisation remains incomplete)



SYLLABUS GS2 · Role of civil services in a democracy

INDIAN EXPRESS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

26 Aug · 122

Repairing Ties With Nepal: A Strategy of Two Hands

The Indian Express argues Nepal's LDC graduation threatens its exports, and India should offer a strategy that widens Nepal's economic choices.

- LDC graduation is determined by the **Committee for Development Policy (CDP)**, a subsidiary body of **ECOSOC**, through a **triennial review**.
- The three criteria: **per capita income**, the **Human Assets Index**, and the **Economic and Environmental Vulnerability Index**.
- Nepal's graduation date: **24 November 2026**; a deferral to **2029** is sought.
- The roughly **9 percentage point** rise applies to **apparel** where duty-free access lapses.
- The trade-weighted average increase across all Nepali exports is much smaller. Overall export loss about **4.3 per cent**.
- ★ Nepal's remittances about **USD 15 billion**; reserves covering about **18.2 months** of imports.
- India-Nepal **Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1950**; the **Eminent Persons Group** report remains unsubmitted.
- Nepal is **landlocked** and dependent on Indian transit.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK LDC status is a **United Nations** category determined by the CDP under ECOSOC, not a **World Trade Organization** classification, although WTO agreements...

SYLLABUS GS2 · India and its neighbourhood relations

THE HINDU

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

27 Aug · 124

The Boundary Talks Produced a Consensus. The Public Was Not Told What Is in It

The Hindu welcomes the eight-point consensus from the 25th Special Representatives talks but objects that delimitation lacks disclosure of scope.

- **Special Representatives mechanism** created **2003**; first SRs **Brajesh Mishra** and **Dai Bingguo**.
- India's SR is the **NSA**, China's the **Foreign Minister**.
- **2005 Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles**: three stages, political parameters, framework, delineation and demarcation.
- **Article VII** safeguards settled populations in border areas.
- 25th round: **Beijing, 25 August 2026**, Doval and Wang Yi; an **eight-point consensus**.
- ★ CBM architecture: **1993** Peace and Tranquillity Agreement; **1996** Military CBMs; **2005** Protocol on Modalities.
- CBM architecture continued: **2012** WMCC; **2013** Border Defence Cooperation Agreement.
- **LAC** as cited by India: about **3,488 km**, in three sectors, Western, Middle and Eastern.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK **Delimitation** and **demarcation** are not synonyms. Delimitation fixes the line by agreement, usually on a map; demarcation physically marks it on the...

SYLLABUS GS2 · India and its neighbourhood

BUSINESS STANDARD

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

26 Aug · 123

The Limits of an Economic D-Day

Business Standard argues US secondary sanctions on Iran cannot work while China buys nearly 90 per cent of Iranian crude exports.

- **Primary sanctions** bind the sanctioning state's own persons; **secondary sanctions** penalise third-country entities dealing with the target.
- Secondary sanctions derive force from **US dollar centrality** and access to dollar clearing.
- Measures cited: roughly **60 entities** under **sectoral determinations** covering **five sectors**, announced **24 August 2026**.
- The five sectors: digital assets, technology, gold, aviation and shipping.
- **China purchases nearly 90 per cent** of Iran's crude exports, per the editorial.
- ★ **JCPOA** agreed **2015** between Iran and the **P5+1**; the United States withdrew in **2018**.
- The **Strait of Hormuz** connects the **Persian Gulf** to the **Gulf of Oman**; a large share of seaborne traded crude transits it.
- India's stakes include **Chabahar port** and the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK Do not confuse the **Strait of Hormuz** (Persian Gulf to Gulf of Oman, bordered by Iran and Oman) with the **Bab-el-Mandeb** (Red Sea to Gulf of Aden) or the...

SYLLABUS GS2 · Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests

THE HINDU

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

29 Aug · 125

Five Years of the Islamic Emirate: Afghanistan Still at a Fork in the Road

The Hindu assesses five years of Taliban rule as a binary of security gains and social regression, and asks what a durable transition would require.

- **April 1978**: Saur Revolution; **December 1979**: Soviet intervention
- **1989**: Soviet withdrawal; civil war follows
- ★ **1996 to 2001**: first Islamic Emirate (IEA 1.0), recognised by only three states
- **11 September 2001**: al-Qaeda attacks; US intervention follows
- **15 August 2021** (historical): Taliban enter Kabul; IEA 2.0 begins
- **United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)**
- **UN Security Council Resolution 2593 (2021)**: demanded Afghan territory not be used to threaten or attack any country or shelter terrorists
- **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**: Afghanistan has held observer status since 2012



SYLLABUS GS2 · India and its neighbourhood

Renew, Do Not Renegotiate: The Refugee Convention at 75 and India's Place in It

At the 1951 Convention's 75th anniversary, Hindustan Times argues reopening the treaty would weaken protection, and that India's non-treaty practice gives it standing to shape reform.

- **Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees**, adopted **28 July 1951**, in force **1954**; **75th anniversary in 2026**
- **Article 1A(2)**: refugee definition: well-founded fear of persecution
- Persecution grounds under Article 1A(2): **race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion**
- **Article 33: non-refoulement**
- **Article 31**: non-penalisation for illegal entry
- ★ **OUA Convention, 1969** (Africa): extends the definition to external aggression, occupation and foreign domination
- **India has been a member of the UNHCR Executive Committee since 1995** despite not acceding to the Convention
- **Climate displacement**: largely outside the Convention; note the UN Human Rights Committee's **Teitiota v. New Zealand (2020)** views



Full article

SYLLABUS GS2 : Important international institutions, agencies and fora, their structure and mandate

Why the SCO Now Matters More to India Than It Once Did

Ahead of the Bishkek summit, the Indian Express argues India must move from defensive point-scoring at the SCO to a proactive Eurasian agenda.

- ★ **Shanghai Five** formed **1996**; **SCO** formalised **2001** with Uzbekistan's accession
- **India and Pakistan** admitted as full members **2017**; **Iran 2023**; **Belarus 2024**
- **SCO Development Strategy 2035** adopted at the preceding summit
- **26th SCO Summit: Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, 31 August to 1 September 2026**, theme **peace, development and prosperity**
- **2012: Connect Central Asia** policy, 12 points
- **2015**: Prime Minister visits **all five Central Asian republics**
- **2017**: India becomes a **full SCO member**
- **Bishkek, 31 August to 1 September 2026**: 26th SCO Summit at the invitation of President **Sadyr Zhaparov**



Full article

SYLLABUS GS2 : Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India or affecting India's interests

DOWN TO EARTH

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

25 Aug · 128

Ebola and the Politics of Vaccines

Down To Earth argues that COVID-19 drew rapid vaccine funding for rich countries while African outbreaks like Ebola face neglect, slow research and profit-driven delay.

- Ebola virus disease first identified in **1976**, near the **Ebola River** in what was then **Zaire** (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo).
- The WHO notes only **Zaire, Sudan and Bundibugyo** cause large outbreaks.
- ★ **rVSV-ZEBOV (Ervebo)**, approved **2019**, protects against the **Zaire** strain only. **No licensed vaccine exists for the Sudan or Bundibugyo strains.**
- **West Africa epidemic, 2014-16**: over **11,000 deaths** across Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.
- **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance**: founded **2000**, headquartered in **Geneva**.
- **CEPI**: founded **2017**, announced at **Davos**.
- **Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)** is declared by the WHO Director-General.
- A PHEIC is declared under the **International Health Regulations, 2005**.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK Do not write that "a vaccine for Ebola exists" without qualification. Licensure covers the **Zaire** strain only. Also distinguish **Gavi** (financing and...

SYLLABUS GS2 · Important international institutions and fora

THE HINDU

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

26 Aug · 130

Escape Velocity: India's Space Sector Needs Cadence, Not Aura

The Hindu argues India's high launch cost reflects low launch frequency rather than a technology gap, so cadence is the real constraint.

- ★ Cost per kilogram to orbit cited by the editorial: approximately **USD 13,302**.
- The USD 13,302 figure is an **academic estimate from a Cambridge study**, not an ISRO or Government of India figure.
- Comparators in the same Cambridge study: Europe about USD 9,897, Russia 6,682, China 5,809, Japan 5,287, the United States 3,225.
- **ISRO** established **1969**, under the **Department of Space**.
- **Antrix Corporation** (1992) was the earlier commercial arm; **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)** was incorporated in **2019**.
- **IN-SPACE**, the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre, was created in **2020** as the single-window authorisation body.
- The **Indian Space Policy 2023** opened end-to-end space activity to non-governmental entities.
- Launch vehicles: **PSLV, GSLV, LVM3, SSLV**. Launches are conducted from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK Distinguish **mission cost** from **cost per kilogram to orbit**. India's reputation for cheap missions concerns the former. Also distinguish **IN-SPACE**...

SYLLABUS GS3 · Awareness in the field of space

THE HINDU

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

25 Aug · 129

Smart Glasses and the Bystander the Privacy Law Forgot

The Hindu argues AI smart glasses enable covert capture of bystanders whom the DPDP Act 2023 notice-and-consent architecture cannot protect.

- **Justice K. S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)**: nine-judge bench; privacy a fundamental right under **Article 21**.
- ★ **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023**, enacted August 2023; **DPDP Rules notified 2025**.
- The DPDP Act was preceded by the **Justice B. N. Srikrishna Committee** (constituted 2017, reported 2018).
- Also preceding it: the **Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019**, withdrawn in **August 2022**.
- Key roles: **Data Principal, Data Fiduciary, Significant Data Fiduciary, Consent Manager**.
- Adjudicatory body: **Data Protection Board of India**. Maximum penalty: **₹250 crore**.
- The Act does **not** apply to personal data processed by an individual for a **purely personal or domestic purpose**.
- ⚠ **Watch the trap**: The DPDP Act, 2023 applies to **digital** personal data, and to non-digital data only once digitised. It is not a general privacy statute: it...



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK The DPDP Act, 2023 applies to **digital** personal data, and to non-digital data only once digitised. It is not a general privacy statute: it does not...

SYLLABUS GS2 · Fundamental Rights

THE HINDU

SECURITY & DEFENCE

26 Aug · 131

The Limits of Air Power and What They Mean for Theatre-isation

The Hindu argues Ukraine and the Iran strikes show air superiority alone is not decisive, reframing India's theatre-isation debate.

- **Kargil Review Committee: 1999; Group of Ministers report: 2001; Integrated Defence Staff created 2001.**
- ★ **Chief of Defence Staff** created **December 2019**; **General Bipin Rawat** was the first CDS, taking office **January 2020**.
- The **Department of Military Affairs** was created alongside the CDS post.
- **Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Act, 2023.**
- The 2023 Act empowered joint-organisation commanders over personnel of other services.
- India's two existing tri-service commands: **Andaman and Nicobar Command (2001)**, geographic, and **Strategic Forces Command (2003)**, functional.
- Later review bodies: **Naresh Chandra Task Force (2011)**, **Shekatkar Committee (2016)**.
- The **Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC)** heads the Integrated Defence Staff.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK Do not confuse **jointness** with **integration**. Jointness is services cooperating while retaining separate command structures; integration fuses them...

SYLLABUS GS3 · Security challenges and their management

ECONOMIC TIMES

SECURITY & DEFENCE

28 Aug · 132

Off With Offset Training Wheels: The End of India's Defence Offset Era

The Economic Times argues draft DAP 2026 ends defence offsets, and the real question is whether India's private defence industry can keep exporting without the pipeline offsets created.

- India's **defence offset policy** dates to **2005**; the standard obligation is **30 per cent** of contract value.
- ★ **PAC report, tabled July 2026**: as of **December 2025**, about **45 per cent** of offset obligations remain unfulfilled.
- The unfulfilled offsets are roughly **4.5 of 9.9 billion dollars**.
- **2007 to March 2018: 90 per cent of offset value** was to be discharged through **direct purchases**.
- **First offset contract: 2007 with Elta Systems (Israel)**; **56 contracts** since, worth **13.2 billion dollars** to Indian industry.
- **Offset thresholds raised nearly 7x in 2016**; **G2G and single-vendor deals exempted in 2020**; **no offset contract in the past five years**.
- **Draft DAP 2026** removes offsets and mandates **indigenous content of up to 30 per cent** on global buys.
- **DPSU exports rose 151 per cent** in 2025–26.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK an **offset** and an **indigenous content requirement** are different instruments. An offset obliges the **foreign vendor** to put value back into India by any...

SYLLABUS GS3 · Defence industry and indigenisation

INDIAN EXPRESS

SECURITY & DEFENCE

29 Aug · 133

Breaking Manipur's Cycle of Reprisal: A New Fault Line Opens

The Indian Express argues Manipur's conflict has widened from Meitei-Kuki to a Kuki-Naga fault line, and that political representation without social contact cannot stop reprisal killings.

- **February 2025**: President's Rule imposed under **Article 356**
- Lifeline highways: **NH-2** (Imphal to Dimapur), **NH-37** (Imphal to Jiribam)
- **Article 355**: duty of the Union to protect States against external aggression and internal disturbance
- **Article 356**: President's Rule; imposed February 2025, revoked February 2026
- **Article 371C**: special provision for Manipur; the **Hill Areas Committee** of the Legislative Assembly
- ★ **Article 342**: specification of Scheduled Tribes; the Meitei ST demand runs through this route
- **Manipur (Hill Areas) District Councils Act, 1971**: Manipur's hill areas are **not** under the Sixth Schedule
- **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958**: in force in parts of the State



Full article

SYLLABUS GS2 · Federalism

MINT HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

29 Aug · 134

The Chemist Who Refused to Stay in the Lab: Prafulla Chandra Ray and Swadeshi Science

Mint revisits Prafulla Chandra Ray, who held that scientific freedom meant manufacturing what science made possible, and built Bengal Chemical to prove Indians could.

- Born **2 August 1861**, Raruli-Katipara, Jessore district, undivided Bengal (now in Bangladesh)
- Died **16 June 1944**, Calcutta
- Educated at **Presidency College**, Calcutta; **Gilchrist Prize Scholarship, 1882**
- **University of Edinburgh: BSc 1885, DSc 1887**
- ★ Honours: **Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire (CIE), 1912; Knight Bachelor, 1919**
- **1902 and 1909: A History of Hindu Chemistry**, volumes I and II
- **Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS)**, founded **1876** by **Mahendra Lal Sircar**, where **C. V. Raman** later worked
- **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), 1942**, with **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar** as first Director



Full article

SYLLABUS GS1 · Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century

TEST YOURSELF ON THE WEEK

Mark the circles in pencil, all 10 before you check. The key is printed upside-down.

Q1–Q10

Q1 India's third National Space Day, observed August 23, 2026, commemorates the Chandrayaan-3 Vikram lander's touchdown at which named site?

- ☐ a Tranquility Base
- ☐ b Statio Tranquillitatis
- ☐ c Sea of Serenity
- ☐ d Shiv Shakti Point

Q2 Following the AK-203 "Sher" rifle's successful test-fire on August 23, 2026, Indian Army field trials for the fully indigenised prototype are slated for which month?

- ☐ a December 2026
- ☐ b March 2027
- ☐ c June 2027
- ☐ d September 2026

Q3 India's target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 was announced as part of which set of commitments?

- ☐ a The Panchamrit commitments at COP26, Glasgow
- ☐ b The Paris Agreement commitments at COP21
- ☐ c The Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero
- ☐ d The National Action Plan on Climate Change, 2008

Q4 The BRICS Sports Ministers' Meeting 2026, which adopted a joint declaration, was held at which venue?

- ☐ a Udaipur, Rajasthan
- ☐ b Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- ☐ c Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- ☐ d Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Q5 Under which statutory provision are Eco-Sensitive Zones around protected areas notified in India?

- ☐ a Section 18 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972
- ☐ b Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- ☐ c Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- ☐ d Section 24 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Q6 Under which statute are the Central Insecticides Board and the Registration Committee constituted?

- ☐ a The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- ☐ b The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006
- ☐ c The Insecticides Act, 1968
- ☐ d The Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Q7 Graduation of a country from the United Nations category of Least Developed Countries is determined by a review conducted by which body?

- (a) The United Nations Security Council, on the recommendation of the Secretary-General
- (b) The Committee for Development Policy, through its triennial review
- (c) The World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference
- (d) The International Monetary Fund, through Article IV consultations

Q8 The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), created in 2023, subsumed which existing body?

- (a) The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
- (b) The Indian Council of Medical Research
- (c) The Department of Science and Technology
- (d) The Science and Engineering Research Board

Q9 Under the Mediation Act, 2023, what is the status of a mediated settlement agreement?

- (a) A contract enforceable only through a fresh civil suit for specific performance
- (b) An arbitral award, enforceable under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996
- (c) A recommendation with persuasive value, requiring court confirmation before it binds
- (d) A judgment or decree of a court, enforceable in the same manner

Q10 The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is headquartered at which city?

- (a) Beijing
- (b) Bishkek
- (c) Tashkent
- (d) Astana

ANSWER KEY Q-01 · P-6 · P-8 · Q-7 · Q-9 · Q-5 · Q-4 · E-3 · P-2 · P-1

Drawn from the week's daily quizzes, 100 questions with explanations, at ujiyari.com/daily/<date>/quiz/



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