

JULY., 2026

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30 PAGER NOTES

JULY 2026 DECODED FOR
PRELIMS — WHERE
GOVERNANCE, ECONOMY,
SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENT, AND
MAPS CONVERGE INTO EXAM-
READY CLARITY.





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DEFENCE & SECURITY

Platform / System	What It Is	Why It Matters (Strategically)
INS Mahendragiri (Project 17A Frigate #6)	6th of 7 Project 17A stealth frigates, built at Mazagon Dock (Mumbai); commissioned into Eastern Fleet.	~6,670 tonnes; 32 BrahMos VLS cells, Barak-8 SAM; 75%+ indigenous content; all 7 ships due by 2027-28.
DRDO Pinaka LRGR (Long Range Guided Rocket)	Guided artillery rocket, successfully test-fired to 90 km from ITR Chandipur, Odisha.	Progression: Mk-I (40 km) → Mk-I Enhanced (60 km) → LRGR (90 km); NavIC-guided (jam-resistant vs GPS); exported to Armenia.
INS Malvan (Arnala-class ASW Shallow Water Craft)	6th Arnala-class anti-submarine shallow-water craft, commissioned at Kochi.	~750 tonnes, waterjet propulsion (2-3 m draft), 25 knots; counters Pakistani/Chinese submarines near Indian ports; ~Rs 300-400 cr/unit vs Rs 4,000-5,000 cr for a frigate.
DRDO Kusha (Long Range SAM)	India's first Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM), maiden flight test successful.	Completes India's layered air defence: VSHORAD(<5km) → Akash(25km) → Barak-8ER(70km) → Kusha(350km); indigenous alternative amid S-400 CAATSA risk.
DRDO Expendable Turbojet Engine	India's first indigenous 350 kg-thrust-class turbojet engine for cruise missiles/drones.	Reduces import dependence (Williams Intl-USA, Microturbo-France); builds on Kaveri engine R&D legacy.
DRDO AEW&C Mk-II	Contracts signed for Netra's successor – Airbus A321-based Airborne Early Warning & Control aircraft.	GaN radar (500+ km detection vs Netra's GaAs 375 km); TATA Advanced Systems as integrator; induction 2031-33.
INS Nipun (2nd Diving Support Vessel)	India's 2nd indigenous Diving Support Vessel (after INS Nistar, 2023), built by Cochin Shipyard.	Supports saturation diving (300m), ROVs, submarine rescue; addresses gap exposed by INS Sindhurakshak tragedy (2013, 18 sailors died).
INS Machilipatnam (7th Mahe/Arnala-class ASW SWC)	7th Arnala-class ASW shallow water craft, launched (hull in water; not yet commissioned).	Named after historic Andhra Pradesh port (Dutch factory, 1605); 8 vessels total split between L&T Kattupalli and GRSE Kolkata.
E-rickshaw BMS Bluetooth Vulnerability	Viral "pranks" remotely switching off e-rickshaw batteries via apps (BAT-BMS, Lossigy) exposed weak Bluetooth security in Battery Management Systems (BMS), not the apps themselves.	Highlights EV/IoT cybersecurity gaps as India scales e-mobility; BMS regulates overcharging/overheating/deep-discharge protection.





Platform / System	What It Is	Why It Matters (Strategically)
Misir Besra Arrest (Maoist Politburo Member)	Arrest of a senior CPI(Maoist) Politburo member and former Central Military Commission member, active since the late 1980s in Jharkhand-Bihar; seen as marking the effective end of the LWE movement's central leadership.	Symbolic culmination of decades-long counter-Left Wing Extremism (LWE) operations; escaped jail in 2009 before recapture.
Astra Mk-1 Missile – First Export (to Indonesia)	India's first-ever international export of the indigenous Astra Beyond-Visual-Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM), to Indonesia.	Tests the "first export" superlative and Astra's BVR missile category.
AI Reshaping Warfare – India's Response	AI-powered drones, autonomous systems, and real-time data analysis are becoming central to modern warfare (accelerated by the Russia-Ukraine war).	Tests India's need to integrate AI into its defence modernisation strategy.

REPORTS & INDICES

Report / Index	What It Measures	Key Numbers to Remember
Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0	School education governance report card for states; 73 indicators, 10 grades (Prachesta-3 to Aatmanirbhar), across 6 domains.	Domains: Outcomes(360), Access(80), Infra(150), Equity(80), Governance(200), Teacher Training(130); Punjab, TN, Kerala, Gujarat top performers.
UDISE+ 2025-26	India's annual school education census.	15.09 lakh schools; 26.52 crore students; 96.87 lakh teachers; GER: Primary 103.4%, Secondary 81.5%, Sr. Secondary only 56.3% (sharp drop-off).
NITI Aayog Investment Friendliness Index (IFI)	New state ranking on ease/attractiveness for investment across 6 weighted dimensions.	Weights: Policy Stability(20%), Land&Infra(20%), Talent(20%), Finance(15%), Market Access(15%), Innovation(10%); Telangana, TN, Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra top.
India's Pro-Competitive Reforms Ranking	India rose from 82nd to 57th globally on a pro-competition reforms ranking.	Linked to Competition (Amendment) Act 2023 (covers "significant digital enterprises"), Jan Vishwas Act decriminalisation, ONDC breaking e-commerce duopoly.
India's Merchandise Exports (FY2025-26)	India's exports reached a record \$863.1 billion in FY2025-26.	Reflects export competitiveness push amid global trade realignment; track against past years' figures for Prelims number-recall questions.





DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Event / Concept	What Happened	Why It Matters
Wayanad Tunnel Debris Slide (Anakkampoyil–Meppadi)	Heavy rain (July 7, 2026) triggered a debris slide near an under-construction twin tunnel in Wayanad, Kerala, killing 6 workers near Chooralmala (2024 landslide site); construction suspended pending probe.	Raises questions on environmental clearance compliance and construction practices in landslide-prone Western Ghats terrain.
Landslide Early Warning Systems	Highlights India's need for landslide forecasting/early-warning systems in vulnerable zones (Western Ghats, Himalayas); Amrita University's Munnar system had warned Idukki authorities ahead of the 2024 Wayanad landslide.	Early warning enables evacuation even where landslides can't be prevented; contrasts forecast-capable vs unwarned disaster zones.
Assam Floods 2026 (Upper Assam)	Unprecedented flooding hit Sivasagar, Charaideo, Jorhat, Golaghat – areas away from the main Brahmaputra course – after heavy rain in Nagaland's Mon district breached embankments; 66+ deaths, ~7 lakh affected.	Illustrates floods "shifting course" beyond traditional flood-prone zones, exposing static state disaster-response planning.
Cloudburst – IMD Definition	IMD defines a cloudburst as ≥ 10 cm (100 mm) rainfall within one hour over a ~20-30 sq km area.	Rare but destructive – causes flash floods/landslides; a precise numeric definition, high Prelims trap potential.
Below-Cloud Evaporation – Monsoon Rain Study	IITM Pune study: ~25% (range 4-61%) of monsoon rainfall over the northern Western Ghats evaporates before reaching the ground ("below-cloud evaporation").	Affects accuracy of rainfall estimates and water-resource planning in the Western Ghats.
BRICS Disaster Risk Reduction Ministerial	BRICS nations adopted a joint statement on disaster risk reduction (DRR) cooperation.	India's DRR model cited (Cyclone Phailin 2013: 45 deaths vs Super Cyclone 1999: 10,000); linked to Sendai Framework 2015-2030 targets and NDMP.

POLITY

Acts & Bills



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Act / Bill	Key Provisions	Why It Matters
Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026	Passed by Lok Sabha (July 29) and Rajya Sabha (July 30); extends the 2024 Act to all state competitive exams, criminalises impersonation specifically, mandates 24-hour breach reporting, creates the National Examination Integrity Board (NEIB).	High-yield Bill: four distinct new provisions, precise passage dates – strong Match-the-Column/Number-Precision material.
Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026	Extends statutory protection given to the National Anthem (Jana Gana Mana) under Section 3 of the 1971 Act to the National Song (Vande Mataram) as well.	Tests distinction between National Anthem and National Song and their differing historical legal protection.
BNSS 2023 – "Trial in Absentia" Provision (Section 356)	NIA sought a non-bailable warrant against Hafiz Saeed under Section 356 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, enabling a trial without the accused's physical presence, in the Pahalgam attack probe.	Tests BNSS 2023 as CrPC's replacement and this specific trial-in-absentia provision.
Telecommunications Act, 2023 – New Rules Notified	New rules under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 (which replaced the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885) simplify licensing by replacing the term "licence" with "authorisation."	Tests the Act's predecessor law and the specific terminology change – classic Wrong-Statement-Trap fodder.
West Bengal Panchayat (Second Amendment) Act – Curbs on Pradhan Powers	WB govt reduced Gram Panchayat Pradhans' administrative/financial powers (July 2026); birth/death certificate registration moved from elected Pradhans to government officials.	Tests state-level dilution of PRI powers vs the 73rd Amendment's decentralisation intent.
West Bengal's New Public Order Laws – Property Damage Recovery & Preventive Detention	Two WB laws: one lets govt recover riot/protest/arson damage costs via a new Claims Commission; the other allows preventive detention of suspected habitual offenders.	Tests the Claims Commission mechanism as a state-level accountability tool for public-property damage.

Constitutional Provisions & Federalism

Issue / Dispute	Constitutional Basis	Why It Matters
District Development Councils (DDCs), J&K	DDCs' 5-year term ended Feb 2026; created 2021 post Article 370 abrogation as a grassroots democracy mechanism under the 73rd/74th Amendment framework (District Planning Committee concept).	Tests J&K's local governance structure and its link to constitutional local-government provisions.
Ladakh's 7 Autonomous Hill Development Councils	Ladakh UT to have AHDCs in all 7 districts (previously only Leh & Kargil); 5 new councils in Drass, Sham, Nubra, Changthang, Zaskar.	Tests Ladakh's decentralisation structure – Prelims-favoured "how many/which" list format.





Issue / Dispute	Constitutional Basis	Why It Matters
Cauvery Water Management Authority Orders Karnataka to Release Water	CWMA directed Karnataka to release 3,500 cusecs to Tamil Nadu for 15 days (~4.5 tmc ft) on CWRC's recommendation amid deficient rainfall in the Cauvery basin.	Tests CWMA/CWRC's institutional role (Article 262-linked inter-state water dispute machinery) and precise release figures.
Mahanadi Water Dispute – Chhattisgarh-Odisha Settlement	Centre facilitated a settlement in the long-running Mahanadi river-water sharing dispute between Chhattisgarh (upstream) and Odisha (downstream).	Pairs with Cauvery and Narmada as a 2026 "map the inter-state water disputes" trio.
Narmada Award Payment Settlement	Historic inter-state agreement resolving a long-pending payment dispute linked to the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal award.	Tests awareness of Tribunal-award enforcement as a distinct federalism issue from water-sharing itself.
Right to Protest – Constitutional Limits (Chalo Sansad Protest)	Right to protest flows from Article 19(1)(a) (speech) and 19(1)(b) (peaceful assembly without arms), subject to reasonable restrictions for public order; tested after police action at the "Chalo Sansad" NTA-reform protest.	Classic Fundamental Rights-with-restrictions question format (19(1)(a)/(b) + reasonable restriction grounds).
Akal Takht vs Punjab's Anti-Sacrilege Law	Akal Takht (highest Sikh temporal authority, est. by Guru Hargobind, 1606-09) directed Punjab govt to amend its anti-sacrilege law provisions; exercises only moral/religious authority (Tankhah), no legal/state power.	Tests the Miri-Piri concept and the line between religious/moral authority and state legal authority.

Governance & Judicial Reforms

Reform / Development	What Changed	Why It Matters
Justice Yashwant Varma Case – Post-Resignation Accountability	Lok Sabha Speaker tabled the inquiry report against ex-Justice Varma even after his resignation (cash-at-residence case, April 2026); under Article 217 a HC judge's resignation to the President takes effect immediately without acceptance.	Establishes that resignation doesn't stop an ongoing inquiry report from being made public – new accountability precedent.
SC Draft AI Regulations for Courts, 2026	Supreme Court's draft regulations permit AI for administrative/assistive tasks (case management, transcription, translation, legal research, summarisation) under human approval; bars AI from replacing judicial decision-making.	Tests scope: AI as assistive tool vs decision-maker in India's judiciary.





Reform / Development	What Changed	Why It Matters
SC's 4 New Benches for Oldest Pending Cases	CJI Surya Kant created 4 special benches (2 civil, 2 criminal) dedicated to India's oldest pending cases, amid 96,000+ pending SC matters; sit Tue-Thu.	Numeric/precision-trap potential (96,000+ figure, bench composition).
Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)	Govt aims for a fully digital criminal justice system by July 1, 2027, digitally integrating FIR-to-disposal stages via ICJS.	Tests target date and scope of digitisation of criminal justice institutions.
Fast-Track Courts (FTCs)	No single central law governs FTCs; established via government schemes/judicial directions; 14th Finance Commission (2015-20) recommended their funding.	Tests that FTCs lack a dedicated central statute – a strong Wrong-Statement-Trap candidate.
SIR and Denial of Services (Electoral Rolls)	Journalist R. Rajagopal's case: deletion from Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls allegedly delayed his passport renewal, raising concern that electoral-roll status can indirectly affect citizenship-linked services.	Tests understanding of SIR's scope – it governs voting eligibility, not citizenship status.
Internet Shutdowns – Legal Framework	Temporary mobile internet suspension in Central Delhi during a protest reignited debate on India's internet-shutdown legal framework (requirements under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services Rules, 2017).	Tests the procedural safeguards required before an internet-shutdown order.
Maharashtra TET Paper Leak Case	Teacher Eligibility Test (TET, for Classes I-VIII recruitment) conducted by the Maharashtra State Council of Examination (MSCE) under RTE Act/NCTE norms – hit by a paper-leak controversy.	Links to the broader 2026 exam-integrity theme (Public Examinations Amendment Bill, NEIB) with a state-level example.
Jharkhand JPSC Exam Scrutiny (14th CCSE)	Allegations of irregularities in Jharkhand Public Service Commission's 14th Combined Civil Services Exam; JPSC Chairperson resigned amid the controversy.	Another state-level exam-integrity example – pairs with the TET case and NEIB above.
Protest Policing – Identity Disclosure & Force Regulations	Multiple controversies (Delhi "Sansad Chalo" protest): police allegedly not displaying nameplates; pellet-gun/shock-baton use; a Bihar constable's unauthorised AK-47 firing – all testing legal limits on force/identification during protests.	Tests that "Police" and "Public Order" are State subjects, so no single central law governs protest-policing conduct.





Reform / Development	What Changed	Why It Matters
BitChat Repository Takedown	India's Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C, under MHA) directed GitHub to remove repositories of BitChat, a decentralised messaging app by Jack Dorsey, over misuse concerns.	Tests I4C's institutional role and government's approach to decentralised/encrypted platforms.
LegRAA – AI Legal Research Assistant for Courts	National Informatics Centre's AI tool for legal research/precedent identification across courts, distinct from the Supreme Court's own SUPACE (case management/document processing).	Tests the SUPACE vs LegRAA distinction – a clean Match-the-Column pairing (tool vs function vs court level).
EPFO 2.01 – Revamped Portal	Centralised database merging all regional EPFO office records into one nationwide system, serving ~8 crore contributing members.	Tests EPFO's member-base scale and the shift from regional to centralised records.
EPFO 3.0 – Proposed Reforms	Proposes universal pension coverage, extending social security to gig/platform workers, and technology modernisation.	Tests the EPFO 2.01 vs EPFO 3.0 distinction (portal upgrade vs structural reform proposal).
Ram Temple Trust – First CEO Appointment	Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust (est. 2020) appointed its first-ever CEO, its biggest administrative reform since formation, following key resignations.	Tests the Trust's founding year and this "first" administrative milestone.
How Temples Manage Donations (Hundi System)	Major temples follow a standard hundi (donation-box) process – authorised officials open, count under CCTV, and deposit into designated accounts – as a transparency safeguard.	Tests the standard institutional-governance process for temple-donation management.
Vaishno Devi "Silver" Row	Jammu court petition alleges misappropriation/adulteration of ~₹550 crore worth of devotee-donated silver at the Vaishno Devi Shrine – ~20 tonnes sent for testing reportedly contained only 5-6% actual silver, the rest being cadmium and iron.	Precise value/purity figures – strong Number-Precision Trap; tests shrine-board financial governance and accountability.
Anna Hazare (2011) vs Sonam Wangchuk – Comparing Two Fasts	Compares the 2011 Anna Hazare anti-corruption movement (demanding the Jan Lokpal Bill) with Sonam Wangchuk's hunger strike, examining how state/media/society respond differently to protest across political contexts.	Tests awareness of the Jan Lokpal movement's core demand and Wangchuk's Ladakh-statehood/Sixth-Schedule activism context.





Reform / Development	What Changed	Why It Matters
Media's "Public Function" – Delhi HC Verdict on Press Freedom & Privacy	Delhi HC ruled that private media houses perform a "public function" (given their influence on public opinion) and can therefore be held accountable via writ petitions for violating fundamental rights like privacy – expanding Fundamental Rights enforcement beyond the state.	Tests the traditional "Fundamental Rights enforceable only against the State" rule and this judicial expansion of it.

Judgements & Rights

Case / Right	Court's Ruling / Principle	Why It Matters
SC Bars Retrospective (Ex-Post-Facto) Environmental Clearance	SC struck down the Environment Ministry's 2021 Office Memorandum permitting projects to regularise construction begun without prior Environmental Clearance; held an OM cannot create such a system as it lacks force of law.	Tests EC procedure and the legal status of Office Memoranda vs statutory instruments.
Right to be Forgotten (RTBF)	Right to have certain personal information removed/de-indexed online when it causes unnecessary harm and no longer serves public interest; does not mean deleting history. Traces to Google Spain v. Costeja (2014, EU).	Distinguish RTBF from a general "right to erasure" – tests precision on scope and origin case.
Coal Block Allocation Case – Manmohan Singh Gets Posthumous Clean Chit	Supreme Court accepted CBI's closure of the "Coalgate" case, posthumously clearing former PM Manmohan Singh, after a decade-plus legal process.	Tests awareness of a long-running landmark case's final resolution.
Bar Associations Cannot Refuse to Represent an Accused	SC has consistently held that every accused has the right to a fair trial and to counsel of their choice, regardless of the crime's nature – a Bar Association resolution cannot override this.	Tests the right to fair trial/right to counsel as an unwaivable constitutional guarantee, even by collective bar action.
Bishnoi Indictment – India-US Extradition Treaty, 1997	US sought Lawrence Bishnoi's extradition (Nijjar killing case); governed by the India-US Extradition Treaty (1997), which requires the alleged offence to satisfy "dual criminality."	Tests the treaty's year and the dual-criminality principle governing India's extradition requests.





Case / Right	Court's Ruling / Principle	Why It Matters
Taj Mahal – Legal Tussle Over Its Origins	Allahabad HC issued notices to the Union Govt and ASI on a petition (filed by advocate Harishankar Jain) claiming the Taj Mahal is an ancient Hindu temple ("Tejo Mahalaya") and seeking a survey.	Tests awareness of ongoing heritage-monument litigation involving the ASI's custodial role.
SC Recognises Right to Safe Footpaths as a Fundamental Right	Supreme Court held that pedestrians' right to walk on safe, obstruction-free footpaths is a fundamental right – triggering Karnataka's 'Safe Footpath' drive against Bengaluru pavement encroachments.	Sets up a direct clash with street vendors' Article 19(1)(g) livelihood right under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood) Act, 2014 – high Fundamental-Rights-in-conflict question potential.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Scheme	What It Does	Key Numbers / Eligibility
Viksit UDAN	Next phase of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAN, since 2016); adds a dedicated helicopter+seaplane component, revives failed routes, extends Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to 5 years.	570+ routes, 88 airports connected so far; targets 120 new airports by 2030; 1.5 crore+ passengers flown cumulatively.
VB-G RAM G – First Instalment	New rural employment guarantee-linked scheme; first instalment released just 4 days after coming into force.	Rs 25,863 crore released (largest-ever first instalment in this scheme category); timed to the Kharif season income gap.
ECLGS 5.0 (Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme)	Latest tranche of India's MSME/business credit guarantee scheme.	4.11 lakh guarantees; Rs 1.55 lakh crore mobilised; average loan ~Rs 37.7 lakh; cumulative ECLGS (all versions) ~Rs 3.7 lakh crore, 1.2 crore+ accounts.
Coal Surface Gasification Scheme	Incentivises converting coal/lignite into syngas (for chemicals, not just power) using a per-unit-output (PLI-style) incentive.	Rs 37,500 crore outlay; India has 361 billion tonnes of coal reserves.
LokOS	Digital platform connecting rural SHGs/FPOs/artisans to markets (ONDC, e-SARAS), scheme benefits, and formal credit.	Taps India's 1.19 crore SHGs (13.4 crore members, Rs 4.5 lakh crore savings) and 10,000+ FPOs.
Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)	Cabinet-approved scheme to deepen domestic component manufacturing for mobile phones (beyond assembly).	Mobile exports grew from Rs 25,000 cr (FY21) to Rs 1.28 lakh cr (FY25); still 82% of components imported – the gap MPMS targets.





Scheme	What It Does	Key Numbers / Eligibility
NIPU-2026 (National Investment Policy for Urea)	Atmanirbhar push for urea self-sufficiency; adds new capacity via 5 revived PSU plants.	Plants: Gorakhpur, Sindri, Barauni, Talcher (coal-gasification-based), Ramagundam – each ~12.7 lakh MT; targets 8-10 million tonnes new capacity.
ACC Giga-Scale Battery Manufacturing (PLI)	Bids invited for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) battery manufacturing capacity under PLI.	10 GWh bid round; India needs 50+ GWh by 2030 for its EV target; currently near-zero global market share (China's CATL/BYD dominate).
BHAVYA Rasayan (Chemical Parks Scheme)	Cabinet-approved scheme creating dedicated Chemical Parks with shared ETPs, solvent recovery, and safety infrastructure, extending the PCPIR model beyond petrochemicals.	Targets 10 states; India's chemical industry is 6th-largest globally (Rs 18 lakh cr revenue) but a net importer.
SVAMITVA – Drone Land Surveys	Drone-based survey of village "abadi" (residential) land to issue legally valid Property Cards, formalising rural property rights.	3.17 lakh of ~6.5 lakh villages covered (49%); 2.37 crore Property Cards issued; target: all villages by 2026-27.
PM Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)	Floating solar + battery energy storage (BESS) on reservoirs, addressing both power generation and evening-peak storage.	Rs 5,070 crore outlay; India's reservoirs could theoretically host up to 350 GW of floating solar (10% of surface area).
Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM) Scheme	Supports domestic manufacture of NdFeB magnets used in EV motors, addressing 100% import dependence on China.	India has 6.9 million tonnes of REE reserves (6th globally, mainly Odisha, AP, Rajasthan); 2030 EV target of 3 crore/year implies 30,000-90,000 tonnes annual REPM demand.
Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme + SAMARTH Portal (+ DAANVEER)	Fiscal-empowerment package for Gram Panchayats: SAMARTH lets GPs digitally raise Own Source Revenue (property tax, water charges) using SVAMITVA's property data; DAANVEER builds the underlying GP-level digital infrastructure.	Works within the 73rd Amendment's gap – GPs have constitutional status (11th Schedule) but limited actual tax powers.
PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme	Collateral-free education loans for students admitted to top-ranked institutions.	12 lakh applications processed; Rs 8,500 crore sanctioned (avg. ~Rs 70,833/loan); 38 participating banks.
Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)	Rural micro-enterprise support under DAY-NRLM, using local Community Resource Persons (CRPEPs) as enterprise advisors/credit facilitators.	Currently in 246 blocks (DAY-NRLM covers 6,600+ blocks total); SVEP blocks show 35-40% higher enterprise formation than non-SVEP blocks.





Scheme	What It Does	Key Numbers / Eligibility
Green Hydrogen Mission – Pilot Projects	12 pilot projects + 70 hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles launched across 21 routes, testing supply chains ahead of scale-up.	Targets 5 MMT additional green hydrogen capacity by 2030 (on top of India's current 6 MMT "grey" hydrogen).
Viksit Vibrant Village Programme (VVP) 2026	Development push for India's border villages (housing, roads, healthcare, internet), explicitly modelled as a counter to China's "Xiaokang" border-village strategy.	Directly linked to lessons from the 2020 Galwan Valley clash, which exposed under-development in border Ladakh.

ECONOMY

Fiscal Policy & Public Finance

Topic	What It Means	Key Facts / Numbers
Fiscal Tightrope for State Governments	States (e.g. Kerala, Tamil Nadu) face rising debt despite strong social indicators, because welfare/health/education spending obligations exceed their limited tax-raising powers.	Illustrates the fiscal federalism mismatch between state expenditure responsibility and revenue powers.
NFSA Amendment – AAY Allocation Change	Proposed shift from a flat 35 kg/household to 7 kg/person (capped at 35 kg/household) under Antyodaya Anna Yojana within the National Food Security Act, 2013.	Precise before/after numbers – classic Number-Precision Trap.
Rising WPI Inflation	Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation nearing 10%, driven by fuel, manufacturing costs and food prices – a cost-push (not demand-pull) inflation.	Tests demand-pull vs cost-push inflation distinction.
Index of Core Industries (ICI) – New Series	Base year updated from 2011-12 to 2022-23 to better reflect the current economic structure; ICI tracks 8 core industries and feeds into the IIP.	Classic base-year-change Number Precision question.
Education's Falling Share in the Union Budget	Ministry of Education's share of the Union Budget has declined over the past 12 years in relative terms, even as absolute spending rose – scrutiny intensified after the 2026 NEET-UG paper leak.	Tests the distinction between absolute spending growth and declining budget-share proportion.
How India's Life Insurance Sector Funds Government Borrowing	Life insurance companies invest a large share of premium income in Government Securities (G-Secs), making the sector one of the largest indirect lenders to the Government of India.	Tests the G-Sec investment channel linking household savings to public borrowing.





Banking, Currency & Financial Markets

Topic	What It Means	Key Facts / Numbers
RBI's Polymer (Plastic) Currency Note Trials	RBI subsidiary BRBNMPL invited bids for polymer sheets with advanced security features for trial banknotes; revives a 2012 attempt that stalled.	Tests durability/security advantages of polymer vs paper currency.
Rupee – Overvalued to Undervalued	Rupee depreciated sharply due to West Asia tensions and crude oil price swings (India's oil imports raise dollar demand), but depreciation ≠ economic weakness by itself.	Tests real effective exchange rate (REER) reasoning vs nominal depreciation.
CBDT Crypto-Asset Reporting Guidance (CARF)	CBDT aligned India's crypto tax-reporting with the OECD's Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (CARF); crypto exchanges bear primary reporting responsibility.	Tests OECD-CARF linkage and automatic cross-border tax information exchange starting next year.
TReDS Mandatory for CPSEs	Govt mandated 300+ CPSEs to list on all three RBI-licensed TReDS platforms (RXIL, M1xchange, Invoicemart) for MSME invoice discounting.	Rs 2 lakh crore+ invoices discounted so far; MSME payment wait cut from 60-90 days to 1-2 days.
FAVARA-UPI – India-Maldives Cross-Border Payment Corridor	Direct Rupee-Rufiyaa UPI settlement with Maldives, avoiding the earlier two-step Rupee→USD→Rufiyaa conversion.	Maldives becomes the 11th country in India's UPI international network (after UAE, Singapore, Mauritius, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, UK, Malaysia, Greece).
Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP)	India's first domestic Protection & Indemnity (P&I) insurance product for shipping, reducing near-total (95%+) dependence on foreign P&I clubs.	Modelled on the lesson from Western P&I clubs withdrawing cover from sanctioned Russian tankers (2022).

External Sector & Trade

Topic	What It Means	Key Facts / Numbers
US Section 301 Tariffs – India's Relative Position	New US tariffs (Section 301 of the Trade Act, 1974, on ~60 countries) replaced earlier IEEPA tariffs struck down by the US Supreme Court; India relatively better placed than competitors.	Tests distinction between IEEPA and Section 301 as US tariff legal bases.
India's 8th WTO Trade Policy Review	WTO review of India's trade regime (PLI, FTAs, digital trade, agri subsidies, IP); India's WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement acceptance (July 20) flagged alongside.	India's average MFN tariff (~15%) flagged as among world's highest by reviewing members.





Topic	What It Means	Key Facts / Numbers
Codex Alimentarius – 3 India Spice Standards Adopted	India (world's largest spice exporter, \$4bn exports) got 3 global quality standards adopted via the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), reducing export rejections.	Tests the CAC's role as the global food-standards body (joint FAO-WHO body).
Bharat Tex 2026	India's largest global textile expo, showcasing India's textile sector (2nd-largest employer after agriculture, ~4.5 crore workers).	India's \$38bn textile exports trail Bangladesh's \$45bn (garments alone) – tests comparative trade positioning.
China's Helium Export Ban	China temporarily banned helium exports, straining an already tight global market despite China itself producing only a small share of world helium.	Helium: non-renewable, formed via radioactive decay of uranium/thorium; used in high-tech industries (semiconductors, MRI).
China's 4.3% Growth – Slowest in 3+ Years	China's Q2 2026 growth of 4.3% missed its 4.5-5% annual target, driven mainly by a prolonged real-estate sector crisis.	Tests awareness of China's growth-target vs actual-growth gap and its real-estate-led cause.

Industry & Infrastructure

Topic	What It Means	Key Facts / Numbers
Vizhinjam Port Stake Sale Row	Adani Ports' proposed sale of 49% stake in Vizhinjam (India's first deep-water container transshipment port, a Kerala PPP) to MSC Group, without state consultation.	Deal size ~\$1.4 billion (~₹13,000+ crore); tests PPP governance and India's transshipment port strategy.
Kamarajar Port – 2nd 18-metre Draft Major Port	Kamarajar (Ennore) becomes India's 2nd major port with 18-metre draft capability (after JNPA/Mumbai), out of India's 12 major ports.	India loses ~\$0.5-1 billion/year in transshipment revenue to Colombo due to shallow-draft ports – tests the "why" behind draft-depth investment.
TBM Durga – Kolkata Metro Purple Line	Tunnel Boring Machine "Durga" completed a breakthrough on the Purple Line (Joka-Taratata section operational, 10.8 of 23 km).	Kolkata Metro (opened 1984) is India's first urban rail metro – a recurring "first" fact.
99.6% Broad Gauge Electrification	India's broad-gauge rail network is now 99.6% electrified (63,950 km), 2nd globally only to Switzerland – up from 33% in 2014.	Diesel fuel savings ~Rs 14,000+ crore/year from the electrification shift.





Topic	What It Means	Key Facts / Numbers
Railway Reform Express – 8 Freight Reforms	Package of 8 structural freight reforms targeting a rise in rail's freight modal share from 27% (2024) toward a 45% target by 2030.	Freight share decline: 90%(1950)→62%(1970)→40%(1990)→27%(2024) – strong Number-Precision timeline.
Greenfield Shipbuilding Cluster – Porbandar, Gujarat	New commercial shipbuilding cluster to enter a market dominated by China (48%), South Korea (36%), Japan (11%).	Leverages India's steel production (2nd largest globally) and large merchant fleet ownership (5th largest).
Pipavav Shipyard – India's Bet on Green Ships	Indian shipyard (traditionally defence-order dependent) attempting to enter the commercial green-ship market, historically dominated by China, South Korea, Japan.	Tests India's diversification from defence-only to commercial shipbuilding, complementing the Porbandar cluster above.
Airport Operators Owning Airlines – Policy Debate	Centre weighing whether airport operators (Adani, GMR) can also own airlines, to boost competition against IndiGo + Air India Group's 90%+ combined domestic market share.	Tests current market concentration figure and the fair-access regulatory question.
Semicon 2.0	Cabinet-approved long-term semiconductor policy – a permanent policy architecture (vs ISM 2021's time-bound scheme) offering rolling incentive certainty.	Tests the "scheme vs doctrine" distinction – relevant given fabs take 3-5 years to build, 10+ years to recoup investment.
NITI Aayog Bioeconomy Roadmap 2035	Roadmap targets growing India's bioeconomy from \$190 billion (2026) to \$500 billion by 2035 across 6 sectors.	Sectors: Biopharma (\$120bn), Industrial Biotech (\$100bn), AgBiotech (\$80bn), Marine Biotech (\$50bn), Genomics (\$100bn), Bioenergy (\$50bn) – Match-the-Column material.

Agriculture & Food Economy

Topic	What It Means	Key Facts / Numbers
El Niño's Economic Impact	Weak monsoon (via El Niño) threatens growth because agriculture, though ~1/5th of GVA, employs ~46% of the workforce and supports ~55% of the population.	Numeric trio (GVA share vs employment share vs population dependence) is a strong Prelims trap set.





Topic	What It Means	Key Facts / Numbers
Poor Monsoon & India's Agri Import Bill	Weak 2026 monsoon (El Niño-driven) expected to raise imports of edible oils, pulses, cotton.	2025-26 imports: record 16.9 million tonnes vegetable oils, 6 million tonnes pulses.
AMUL Bengal Dairy Project	Bhoomi Puja for what will be the world's largest curd plant, aiming to cut West Bengal's milk deficit.	India: world's largest milk producer (240 million tonnes); milk is India's single largest agricultural commodity by value.
India's Marine Fisheries Sustainability Debate	Govt claims 91%+ of India's marine fish stocks are sustainable; FAO and scientists dispute this, citing overfishing pressure on key stocks.	Tests awareness of the gap between official and independent fish-stock assessments.

Energy & Resources

Topic	What It Means	Key Facts / Numbers
Lifting of Emergency Gas Curbs	India lifted temporary natural-gas supply restrictions imposed during the March 2026 West Asia crisis (Strait of Hormuz disruption fears).	Tests linkage between Hormuz chokepoint risk and India's LNG-dependent energy security.
Kerala's Solar Paradox	Despite 2,500+ MW installed solar capacity (2,000+ MW rooftop, under PM Surya Ghar) – over half of Kerala's installed capacity – the state still faces power cuts.	Tests why installed capacity ≠ reliable supply (intermittency, evening peak demand mismatch).
Critical Minerals – 8th Auction Tranche	20 blocks auctioned in Tranche 8 (86% success rate), taking the cumulative total to 76 blocks; includes Vanadium blocks (AP, Rajasthan) for Vanadium Redox Flow Batteries (VRFB).	India currently imports 100% of its vanadium – tests import-dependence-reduction rationale.
Coal AAROH – Mine Closure & Repurposing Framework	India's first systematic framework for scientific closure/repurposing of coal mines (350+ active + 200+ abandoned CIL mines).	India's degraded mine land (600,000+ ha) has theoretical potential for ~300 GW of solar.
Samudra Manthan – Offshore Exploration Scheme	Rs 84,084 crore scheme targeting India's 19 inadequately-explored (of 26 total) sedimentary basins, to cut oil/gas import dependence.	India imports 87% of crude oil, 50% of natural gas – every 10% import cut saves ~Rs 1-1.2 lakh crore.

ORGANISATIONS



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Bilateral Agreements

Agreement	What It Involves	Why It Matters
India-Australia Uranium Supply – Administrative Arrangements Finalised	Enables Australian uranium exports to India (incl. private Indian companies) under the Australia-India Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (2015); part of India's broader civil nuclear cooperation with Australia.	India's nuclear capacity: 7,480 MW (24 reactors: 22 PHWR + 2 LWR); target 100,000 MW by 2047 – Australia supplies uranium under IAEA safeguards, civilian-use only.
US-Saudi Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement	30-year US-Saudi civilian nuclear pact under Saudi Vision 2030, giving US firms preferential access to Saudi's nuclear energy sector.	Contrast with the earlier US-UAE nuclear agreement (2009) – tests West Asia nuclear-diplomacy pattern.
India-Israel Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) – In Force	Signed under India's post-2017 Model BIA 2016 framework (after India exited ~70 old BITs post Vodafone/Cairn arbitration losses); key sectors: cybersecurity, agri-tech, water desalination, defence.	Tests why India moved to a new BIA template after losing major investor-arbitration cases.
India-Australia CSIR-TKDL Agreement	Extends Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) access to Australian patent examiners to prevent biopiracy patents.	TKDL: 3.6 lakh digitised formulations (Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Yoga); 2,000+ biopiracy patents rejected/withdrawn globally (turmeric, neem, yoga cases).
India-UK CETA – In Force (15 July 2026)	Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement in force, alongside the Double Contribution Convention (DCC); India's largest FTA by partner economic size.	Timeline: negotiations 2022 → concluded May 2025 → signed July 24, 2025 → in force July 15, 2026 – a strong Number-Precision sequence.
India-Maldives FTA – First Round Concluded	First round of FTA talks concluded; current bilateral trade ~\$400 million/year; India supplies 77% of Maldives' imports.	Tests India's economic leverage tool with Maldives (tourism-dependent economy, \$7bn GDP, 80%+ from tourism).
NCVET-ASQA MoU (India-Australia)	Mutual recognition of vocational qualifications between India's NCVET (est. 2018, replaced NCVT) and Australia's ASQA, easing skilled-worker mobility (construction, healthcare, hospitality).	Tests NCVET's establishment year and its predecessor body (NCVT).
Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) – Held in Abeyance	India placed the 1960 IWT "in abeyance" after the Pahalgam terror attack; Pakistan protests, calling water security a national-security issue; debate on updating the treaty's outdated technical provisions.	Tests IWT's signing year (1960) and the current India-Pakistan legal/diplomatic standoff over it.

Summits and Outcomes



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Summit / Visit	What It Involved	Why It Matters
India-Japan 16th Annual Summit	PM Takaichi's visit; summit series established 2006; focus on trade, tech, infrastructure, supply chains, regional security.	Tests the summit's founding year and its role as India-Japan's top-tier institutional mechanism.
PM Modi's Indonesia State Visit	Received Bintang Adipurna (Indonesia's highest civilian award); addressed Indonesia's Parliament (DPR/MPR) – only the 2nd foreign leader ever to do so, after Barack Obama; IIM Bangalore's first overseas campus announced.	"Only 2nd foreign leader" and "first overseas IIM campus" are classic Prelims superlative-fact hooks.
India-Australia 3rd Annual Summit – PACTS	3rd India-Australia Summit (2023 virtual → 2024 Delhi → 2026 Canberra); new PACTS pact covers cyber threat-intel sharing, joint cyber exercises, critical minerals (lithium, cobalt) supply-chain mapping.	Tests summit sequence/venues and the scope of the new PACTS framework.
PM Modi's New Zealand Visit – Strategic Roadmap to 2030	First Indian PM visit to NZ in 20+ years; elevates ties from diaspora-driven to a formal strategic partnership; potential dairy-sector cooperation (NZ is world's largest dairy exporter).	Tests the "first visit in X years" superlative and NZ's Five Eyes/CPTPP membership context.
3rd BRICS Transport Ministers' Meeting (Nagpur)	Discussed the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) – India-Iran-Azerbaijan-Russia, 7,200 km – as an alternative to the Suez Canal route to Europe.	INSTC cuts India-Europe shipping time by ~20 days; Chabahar is an INSTC node – links to the Chabahar item under Strategic & Security Developments.
BRICS Anti-Drug Agencies Meeting (Guwahati)	BRICS platform meeting on narcotics control, with India highlighting its Northeast drug-trafficking challenge (Mizoram-Myanmar border) and China's NNCC participating on precursor-chemical control.	Tests India's specific narcotics geography (Golden Triangle proximity via Mizoram-Myanmar).
16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting (Chandigarh)	India (BRICS Chair 2026) hosted this meeting; "Chandigarh Declaration" positions India's AYUSH/Traditional Complementary & Integrative Medicine (TCIM) as a global counterpart to China's Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) soft power.	Tests India's BRICS 2026 chairmanship and the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (Jamnagar) link.

Reports



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Report / Outcome Document	What It Covers	Why It Matters
India's 8th WTO Trade Policy Review	Periodic WTO review of India's trade regime (PLI, FTAs, digital trade, agri subsidies, IP); developed-country members flagged India's tariffs and data-localisation rules.	India's average MFN tariff (~15%) flagged as among the world's highest by reviewing members – tests the TPR mechanism itself as a recurring WTO institutional process.
India Accepts WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies	India formally became party to the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement, with an interpretive note protecting subsidies to small/artisanal fishermen (boats under 24 metres).	India: world's 2nd largest fish producer, 4th largest exporter (\$7.7bn, shrimp = 70% of export value).

International Organisations in News

Organisation	What's Happening	Why It Matters
China's World AI Cooperation Organization (WAICO)	China launched WAICO at WAIC 2026 (Shanghai) – a new global AI-governance body, aiming for a leading role in setting global AI rules, attended by UN Secretary-General Guterres.	Tests China's institutional push into AI governance, alongside existing bodies like the UN's own AI initiatives.
Rome Declaration for an Unarmed and Disarming Peace	Nobel laureates, AI scientists, and religious leaders issued a declaration opposing AI involvement in nuclear-weapons launch decisions.	Tests global AI-governance efforts around nuclear command-and-control specifically, distinct from general AI-safety declarations.

Strategic & Security Developments

Development	What Happened	Why It Matters
China's SLBM Test (South China Sea)	China tested a submarine-launched ballistic missile (nuclear-powered sub), dummy warhead, ~7,400 km range, landing in the southern Pacific.	Tests China's second-strike (sea-based deterrent) capability – Indo-Pacific security concern.
Chabahar Port – India's Plans Under Strain	US sanctions/strikes on Iran threaten India's Chabahar Port project (Shahid Beheshti Terminal, 10-year deal since 2024), India's Pakistan-bypass route to Afghanistan/Central Asia/Russia.	Chabahar is also an INSTC node – tests India's connectivity-diversification strategy.
Red Sea Conflict Spillover – India's Crude Options	Houthi attacks expanded from the Strait of Hormuz to the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait (Red Sea-Gulf of Aden link), threatening oil tanker routes relevant to India.	Tests India's exposure via two chokepoints (Hormuz + Bab-el-Mandeb) for crude imports.





Development	What Happened	Why It Matters
Global Terrorism Trends 2025 – "Data Retreat"	Global terrorism deaths fell 28% and attacks fell 22% in 2025, but the trend is concentrating (70% of deaths in just 5 countries, mainly Sahel/Sub-Saharan Africa) and shifting toward digital radicalisation and lone-actor attacks.	Tests the key stat set (28%/22%/70%/5 countries) and the "improving numbers ≠ safer world" concentration argument – 99% of terrorism deaths occur in conflict-affected states.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Space Missions in News

Mission	Agency	Status / Milestone	Special Feature
Vikram-1	Skyroot Aerospace (private, India)	First successful commercial orbital launch, under the IN-SPACe regulatory framework.	India's first private orbital rocket; places India among a handful of nations with private orbital-launch capability; 480 kg payload class; Skyroot founded 2018 by ex-ISRO scientists.
Gaganyaan	ISRO	India's first human spaceflight mission – in development, uses the Human-rated Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (HLVM-3).	Orbital Module = Crew Module (astronaut living space) + Service Module (life support/propulsion) – high-yield mission-architecture fact.
Long March 10B	CNSA (China)	Successfully tested as a reusable rocket.	China becomes only the 3rd ecosystem (after SpaceX, Blue Origin) to demonstrate booster reusability – tests the reusability cost-reduction rationale.

Diseases in News

Disease / Pathogen	What It Is	Status in India
Parrot Bornavirus-4 (PaBV-4)	Cause of Proventricular Dilatation Disease (PDD), a serious digestive/nervous-system disease in birds.	Identified for the first time in India (Assam Veterinary institutions), in captive parrots and related species – tests India's first-detection of this specific avian pathogen.





Disease / Pathogen	What It Is	Status in India
Dengue – Antibody-Dependent Enhancement (ADE) Risk	ADE: antibodies from a first dengue infection can fail to neutralise a second, different serotype, and instead worsen the disease on re-infection.	Central safety concept behind Denvax's eligibility restriction (see Vaccines in News) – tests why tetravalent (all-4-serotype) protection matters.

Health Policy & Pharma

Development	What It Means	Key Facts
Govt Bans 16 Fixed-Dose Combination (FDC) Drugs	16 FDC drugs banned (antibiotic combinations + dermatological products with aloe vera/vitamin E/herbal extracts) for lacking scientific evidence of combined efficacy over single ingredients.	Tests the FDC definition (2+ active ingredients in one dose) and the "insufficient evidence" regulatory rationale – Wrong-Statement-Trap potential on drug categories affected.
Semaglutide – Inflection Point for Indian Generics	Novo Nordisk's Semaglutide (Ozempic/Wegovy) patent expired in India (March 2026), opening a generics opportunity, but Dr. Reddy's suspended supplies after impurities were found in the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API).	Tests India's generics track record (Atorvastatin, Clopidogrel, Sildenafil, Sofosbuvir precedents) against this specific quality-control setback.

Vaccines in News

Vaccine	Developer	Type & Target Disease	Regulatory Approval	Eligibility & Dosage	Efficacy & Safety Note
Denvax	Zydus Lifesciences (India)	Live-attenuated tetravalent vaccine – targets all 4 dengue serotypes (DENV-1 to DENV-4)	CDSCO – India's first approved dengue vaccine	Ages 6-45; 3-dose regimen; recommended ONLY for those previously infected (seropositive)	76% efficacy vs DENV-1 & DENV-3 in trials; ADE risk if given to seronegative individuals

Discoveries & Innovations



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Discovery / Innovation	What It Does	Why It Matters
India's First Quantum Advantage Claim	BITS Pilani (with IBM Quantum) achieved India's first internationally-recognised claim of "quantum advantage" – a quantum computer outperforming classical computers on a useful problem.	Tests the specific definition of quantum advantage (not "better at everything," just specific problem classes).
"Virtual Magnets" – Rare-Earth-Free EV Motors	Bengaluru startup Vimag Labs claims a motor using software-controlled copper-coil electromagnets instead of rare-earth permanent magnets.	Tests the rare-earth import-dependence problem this technology aims to bypass (links to REPM Scheme).
ICAR 98th Foundation Day – 386 New Crop Varieties	ICAR released 386 climate-resilient crop varieties across 44 crops (94% climate-resilient) – e.g. heat-tolerant wheat, drought-tolerant rice, flood-tolerant Swarna-Sub1 rice.	Tests specific resilience traits linked to named varieties – strong Match-the-Column material.
India's First Engineering Biology Graduation Course	New 4-year B.Tech/B.Sc(Research) programme combining molecular biology, genetics, programming and chemical engineering.	Global Engineering Biology market: \$50bn (2024) → projected \$300bn by 2035; India building its first formal training pipeline.
Maglev Trains – How Magnetic Levitation Works	Maglev trains use electromagnetic force to lift and propel trains without wheel-track friction, enabling speeds over 400 km/h.	Conceptual/technical explainer – tests the friction-elimination principle behind maglev speed.
Solar Storms – Slow-Burn Threat to Power Grids	New research shows some geomagnetic storms cause weaker-but-longer currents (not just short surges), posing an underappreciated threat to grid infrastructure.	Tests the mechanism of geomagnetic-induced currents on power infrastructure.
Kudankulam Nuclear Plant – Data Leak	Ransomware attack exposed ~14.3 GB of data from a third-party data centre hosting KKNPP-linked systems; NPCIL clarified reactor operations were unaffected.	Tests distinction between IT/administrative systems and OT/reactor-control systems in critical infrastructure cybersecurity.
IACS – India's Oldest Modern Science Institution	Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS), founded July 29, 1876 by Dr. Mahendralal Sircar during the Bengal Renaissance.	Precise founding date/founder – classic Number-Precision Prelims material.
Vande Bharat Organ Transport – Donor Heart, Surat to Ahmedabad in 26 Minutes	Vande Bharat train used for a "green corridor" organ transport, chosen over helicopter for weather-independence and lower cost.	Organ donation governed by the Transplantation of Human Organs Act (THOA), 1994.





Green Technology

Development	What It Means	Key Facts
SAF + CORSIA – India's Aviation Decarbonisation	India's aviation sector (2nd-largest in Asia, ~11-13 million tonnes jet fuel/year) must transition to Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF); CORSIA becomes mandatory from 2027 for participating states.	Tests CORSIA's 2027 mandatory-compliance trigger date and its 2019-baseline emissions comparison method.
Ethanol Blending – E20 Achieved Ahead of Target	India achieved 20% ethanol blending (E20) in petrol ahead of schedule, cutting crude imports and supporting sugarcane/maize farmers; challenges remain for older vehicle engines and supply-chain readiness.	Brazil's post-1973 oil-crisis ethanol pathway (sugarcane-based, gradual rollout) is the comparative case study for India's roadmap.
India's Long-Duration Energy Storage Gap	India's renewable expansion (solar/wind) is weather- and time-dependent, but the country lacks sufficient long-duration storage to bridge evening-peak demand after solar generation stops.	Links to PM-Surya Sarovar Yojana's BESS component (Schemes section) as a partial solution.

Digital & Emerging Tech

Technology	What It Means	Key Facts
CG Semi OSAT Facility (Sanand, Gujarat)	India's first commercial semiconductor Assembly & Test (OSAT) facility, a Renesas (Japan)-Murugappa Group (India) JV; OSAT packages/tests chips fabricated elsewhere (distinct from a fab).	Part of India Semiconductor Mission's 3 pillars (fabs, OSAT, chip design), Rs 76,000 crore outlay.
Bharat 6G Alliance + Spectrum Roadmap	India's push to hold "essential patents" in 6G standards, after near-zero participation in 5G standard-setting (which left India paying royalties to Ericsson, Nokia, Huawei).	Tests the 5G-vs-6G strategic lesson – India as patent-taker vs patent-maker.
China's AI Push – Moonshot AI's Kimi K3	China's open-source AI approach (e.g. Kimi K3) is matching Western model benchmarks, backed by long-term state planning and research investment.	Tests China's open-source vs typical Western closed-model AI strategy contrast.

Terminology



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Term	Meaning
Space Weather	Conditions in space caused by solar activity that affect Earth and its technological systems.
Geomagnetic Storm	Disturbance in Earth's magnetic field caused by charged particles emitted by the Sun.
Geomagnetically Induced Current (GIC)	Electric current induced in power grids and pipelines during geomagnetic storms.
Low Earth Orbit (LEO)	Region between about 160 km and 2,000 km above Earth where many communication and Earth-observation satellites operate.
IN-SPACe	Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre – the regulator for India's private space sector.
Skyroot Aerospace	Hyderabad-based private space startup, founded 2018 by ex-ISRO scientists; first Indian private company to reach orbit.
Maglev (Magnetic Levitation)	Transportation technology in which trains are lifted, guided, and propelled using magnetic fields instead of wheels.
Electromagnetic Suspension (EMS)	A maglev system in which electromagnets attract the train towards the guideway to lift it.
Tetravalent Vaccine	A vaccine designed to provide protection against all four (dengue) serotypes simultaneously.
Antibody-Dependent Enhancement (ADE)	A phenomenon where antibodies from a prior infection fail to neutralise a related pathogen strain and instead worsen the disease on re-infection.
CDSCO	Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation – India's apex drug/vaccine regulator (under MoHFW), equivalent to the US FDA.
Rare-Earth Magnets	Powerful permanent magnets made using rare-earth elements such as neodymium, commonly used in EV motors.
Rotor	The rotating component of an electric motor.
OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test)	Facility that packages and tests semiconductor chips after fabrication elsewhere – distinct from a fab.
ATMP (Assembly, Testing, Marking, Packaging)	The set of processes an OSAT facility performs on fabricated chips before they're ready for use in products.
India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)	Government mission (under MeitY) supporting fabs, OSAT, and chip design in India; Rs 76,000 crore outlay.
6G	6th-generation mobile network (target deployment 2030-2035); features terahertz spectrum, sub-millisecond latency, terabit speeds, AI-native architecture.





Term	Meaning
TSDSI	Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India – India's national body for telecom standardisation, feeds into ITU processes.

ENVIRONMENT

Laws & Policies

Law / Policy	Key Provisions	Why It Matters
CAFE-III Norms (Draft) – Fuel Economy Standards 2027	Tightens Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards: CAFE-I (2017, 117.9 g CO ₂ /km) → CAFE-II (2022, 113 g CO ₂ /km) → CAFE-III (2027, 91.7 g CO ₂ /km).	Precise CO ₂ /km progression – classic Number-Precision Trap; industry est. needs 25-30% EV sales share by 2027 to comply.
PARIVARTAN Scheme – Old Vehicle Replacement (NCR)	Targets Delhi-NCR's 3-4 lakh commercial vehicles over 10 years old for replacement, as part of the CAFE-III push, citing WHO's PM _{2.5} premature-death estimates.	Tests the scheme's specific NCR vehicle-age target and its public-health rationale.

Protected Areas & Conservation Governance

Site / Institution	What's Happening	Why It Matters
NTCA 29th Meeting + Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) Portal	New digital portal launched to track Human-Wildlife Conflict; NTCA's 29th meeting held in Coimbatore.	HWC scale: 500+ leopard attacks, 50-60 tiger attacks, 500+ elephant attacks fatally injuring humans annually in India.
Mizoram Natural History Museum – 21st Repository under Biological Diversity Act	New designated repository under the Biological Diversity Act, joining institutions like ZSI and BSI; located in the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot.	Tests India's two biodiversity hotspots (Western Ghats-Sri Lanka, Indo-Burma) and the concept of a "designated repository."
BSF Fence Proposal in the Sundarbans	BSF considering a 90-km floodlight-illuminated fence along the India-Bangladesh border through the Sundarbans, for security – raising ecological concerns.	Tests the security-vs-ecology tension in a UNESCO mangrove biosphere reserve.
Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP) – Protests	India's first river-interlinking project under the National Perspective Plan (NPP); transfers water from Ken to Betwa via the Daudhan Dam + 221-km canal, targeting drought-prone Bundelkhand.	Tests KBLP's "first" status among India's interlinking projects and its specific engineering components.





Site / Institution	What's Happening	Why It Matters
India Leads the Wilderness – Tiger Conservation Timeline (PIB, Global Tiger Day)	Full historical trajectory: pre-1900 ~1 lakh tigers → 1947: 40,000 → 1972: 1,827 (near-extinction) → 1973: Project Tiger launched → 2006: 1,411 → 2022: 3,682 (camera-trap census, 26,000+ stations).	The most complete "how India saved its tigers" timeline – high Match-the-Column/sequence-ordering potential.
NBA Access & Benefit Sharing – Cotton Farmers	National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) disbursed Rs 24 lakh in Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) payments to cotton farmers/biodiversity boards across 11 cotton-growing states – cotton is the 3rd sector after Neem and turmeric to see such ABS payments.	Tests the ABS mechanism under the Biological Diversity Act and its precedent sectors (Neem, turmeric).

Animal & Plant Species in News

Species	Scientific Name	Population / Legal Status	Location	Why in News
Bengal Tiger (Project Tiger reserves)	Not stated in source	1,411 (2006) → 3,682 (2022); ~75% of world's wild tigers	India-wide (Project Tiger reserves)	Govt's new focus: reserves where tigers aren't thriving despite the national increase – pairs with the timeline above and Nepal entry below.
Bengal Tiger (Nepal)	Not stated in source	355 (2022) → est. 429 (2026), released on International Tiger Day	Nepal	20% rise in 4 years – cross-country comparison question potential vs India's own trajectory.
Indian Grey Hornbill	Not stated in source	Re-established after 60+ years' absence; 4 consecutive years of successful breeding confirmed	Gir Forest, Gujarat	Tests a species-recovery "first return after X decades" fact via a reintroduction programme.





Species	Scientific Name	Population / Legal Status	Location	Why in News
White-Bellied Heron	Ardea insignis	Only 6-9 individuals in India (world's rarest heron species); highest legal protection – Schedule I, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972	Lohit River basin, Arunachal Pradesh (holds ~70% of India's remaining population)	Threatened by a proposed 1,200 MW hydropower project (33,000+ trees to be felled); EIA didn't mention the species despite known presence – extreme Number-Precision/status trap.
Asiatic Lion	Panthera leo persica	~891 individuals (up from a few dozen in the early 1900s); entire population in one location	Gir Forest & Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat (only natural habitat) – SC-directed 2013 translocation to Kuno National Park (MP) remains stalled	Tests the single-habitat/"metapopulation approach" vulnerability argument and the Gir-vs-Kuno translocation standoff.

Climate Change & Global Environment

Issue	What's Happening	Key Facts
Bonn Climate Talks 2026 – "Tipping Points" Debate	India urged caution on loosely using the term "climate tipping point" in negotiations, given scientific uncertainty on exact thresholds/timing.	Tests the definition of a climate tipping point as an irreversible threshold, and India's negotiating stance on precise terminology.
Brazil's Amazon Fires – Historic Low (2025)	Amazon forest fires fell to their lowest recorded level in 2025 (3.1 million hectares burnt) per MapBiomas monitoring, active since 1985.	Tests the monitoring agency name and the "lowest since records began" superlative.
Milk Production Decline in Gangetic Plains (Climate Change)	Rising heat, humidity and water stress are cutting milk yields in the trans-Gangetic plains (Haryana etc.), with buffaloes more heat-sensitive than cattle.	Tests a concrete climate-livestock linkage in India's largest milk-producing belt, via the Temperature-Humidity Index (THI).
India's Rice Fields – Top Global Methane Source	Global rice-cultivation GHG emissions nearly doubled since the 1960s (1.1 billion tonnes CO ₂ -equivalent/year, 2011-2020, a 90% rise since 1961-80).	Tests India's contribution to a specific, quantified global agri-emissions trend.





Renewable Energy & Green Transition

Development	What It Means	Key Facts
India's Renewable Energy – 288.58 GW Installed	India's installed renewable capacity is now ~4x its 2014 level; crossed 100 GW solar in Jan 2026; wind at 57,443 MW (mostly onshore; offshore tenders issued for Gujarat/Tamil Nadu).	India is world's 4th-largest solar market (after China, USA, Germany) – tests capacity figures and market ranking.
Compressed Biogas (CBG) for Energy Security	Government push for CBG to cut India's heavy import dependence – ~85% of crude oil and ~90% of LPG imports pass through the Strait of Hormuz.	Tests India's energy-import vulnerability figures tied to a single chokepoint.
Gujarat Data Centre Policy 2026-31	Green-energy-linked policy targeting ~₹5 lakh crore investment and large-scale data-centre capacity, aiming to make Gujarat India's top AI/hyperscale data-centre hub.	Tests the state-level green-energy-plus-digital-infrastructure convergence trend.

Terminology

Term	Meaning
Climate Tipping Point	A critical threshold after which climate changes become rapid and difficult to reverse.
Feedback Loop	A process where one climate change strengthens another, accelerating further change.
AMOC (Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation)	A major Atlantic Ocean current that regulates global climate and weather patterns.
Amazon Dieback	Gradual conversion of the Amazon rainforest into savannah due to sustained climate stress.
PM2.5	Fine particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometres that can enter the lungs and bloodstream.
Carbon Footprint	The total greenhouse gas emissions produced by an activity or sector.
Trans-Gangetic Plains	Fertile northwestern plains of India, including Haryana and Punjab, which are major dairy-producing regions.
Heat Stress	Physiological stress experienced by animals due to high temperatures, reducing productivity and health.





Term	Meaning
Temperature-Humidity Index (THI)	An index combining temperature and humidity to measure heat stress in livestock.
Sundarbans	World's largest contiguous mangrove forest, located in the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna Delta, shared between India and Bangladesh.
Mangrove Ecosystem	Coastal ecosystem of salt-tolerant trees that protect shorelines, support biodiversity, and store large amounts of carbon.
Riparian Forest	Forest ecosystem growing along the banks of rivers and streams.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Process used to evaluate the likely environmental impacts of a proposed development project before approval.
Forest Advisory Committee (FAC)	Statutory committee that examines proposals for diversion of forest land for non-forest use.
MapBiomass	A Brazilian environmental monitoring network that uses satellite imagery to track land use, deforestation, and forest fires.
Deforestation	Permanent removal of forests for agriculture, mining, infrastructure, or other land uses.
Bengal Tiger	A subspecies of tiger found mainly in India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.
Camera Trap	A motion-sensitive camera used to photograph wildlife for monitoring and research.
TX2 Goal	A global initiative launched in 2010 to double the world's wild tiger population by 2022.
Tiger Range Countries (TRCs)	The 13 countries where wild tigers are naturally found.
Asiatic Lion (<i>Panthera leo persica</i>)	A subspecies of lion found only in India, mainly in and around Gir Forest, Gujarat.
Kuno National Park	A national park in Madhya Pradesh prepared to establish a second population of Asiatic lions, currently home to African cheetahs.
Translocation	The deliberate movement of a species from one habitat to another for conservation purposes.
Biodiversity Hotspot	A biogeographic region with significant levels of biodiversity under threat; India has two – Western Ghats-Sri Lanka and Indo-Burma.

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Issue / Reform	What It Involves	Why It Matters
Caste Enumeration – Census 2027 Pre-Test	India preparing its first official caste enumeration since Independence, as part of Census 2027; a rehearsal/pre-test with an open-ended question format is underway in select states/UTs.	High-yield current-affairs hook – tests both the "first since Independence" fact and the census cycle timing.
Civil Registration System (CRS) – 99%+ Registration Milestone	Over 99% of estimated births and deaths were officially registered in 2024, up sharply from 56% (births) and 48% (deaths) in 2000.	Precise before/after percentages – strong Number-Precision material.
Mid-Day Meal Eggs Debate (PM POSHAN)	Political/cultural debate over including eggs in school Mid-Day Meals; Tamil Nadu (eggs included since ~1920s-based programme) cited as the pioneering success model.	Tests PM POSHAN's link to nutrition science vs state-level political variation.
TribeX – Digital Platform for Tribal Arts & Culture	Learning Management System + Certified Artisan Marketplace + documentation platform for India's 705 Scheduled Tribes (10.45 crore ST population, 2011 Census).	Precise ST community/population figures – Number-Precision material.
Sowa-Rigpa – Traditional Tibetan Medicine Recognition	Sowa-Rigpa Act 2020 formally recognised this Himalayan/Tibetan traditional medicine system; Sowa-Rigpa Central Council established; practitioners in Ladakh and Sixth Schedule areas can now get formal registration.	Tests the Sowa-Rigpa Act's year and its link to AYUSH-style formal recognition.
The Making of a Sporting Nation (PIB, CWG 2026 Context)	Backgrounder tracing India's Olympic medal trajectory alongside the Khelo India scholarship pipeline (2,000+ athletes, Rs 5 lakh/year each).	Tests India's non-linear Olympic medal count: 2000(1)→2012(6)→2020(7, best-ever)→2024(6).
India's "Missing Jobs" for Gen Z	India's 371 million-strong youth population (potential demographic dividend) is struggling to convert into quality employment for Gen Z (born 1997-2012) – PLFS 2023-24 shows many stuck in casual/unpaid/informal work, worse for young women.	Tests the Gen Z/Millennial birth-year definitions and the demographic-dividend-vs-jobs-reality gap – links PLFS as the source survey.

HISTORY & CULTURE





Site / Figure	Historical Background	Why It's in the News
Sarnath – Inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List	One of Buddhism's four most sacred sites (Lumbini-birth, Bodh Gaya-enlightenment, Sarnath-first sermon, Kushinagar-death) – India holds three of the four.	Tests the four-site Buddhist pilgrimage set and UNESCO's specific cultural inscription criteria.
Char Kaman – Restoration (Hyderabad)	Four ornamental gateways around the Charminar, built as ceremonial entrances to the old city during the Qutb Shahi dynasty; Telangana govt announced restoration.	Tests the Qutb Shahi-era origin of a monument distinct from (but adjacent to) the Charminar itself.
Prambanan Temple (Indonesia) – India Supports Restoration	9th-century CE Hindu temple complex (UNESCO World Heritage Site) built by the Sanjaya Dynasty, marking a Shaivite revival after Buddhist Sailendra-era dominance; India pledged restoration support during PM Modi's Yogyakarta visit.	Tests India's cultural-diplomacy dimension and the Sanjaya/Sailendra dynastic sequence in ancient Indonesia.
Guru Ravidas – Icon of Dalit Resistance	15th-16th century Bhakti-movement saint-poet, born into the Chamar community, who challenged caste hierarchy while continuing his traditional occupation to affirm the dignity of labour.	Tests Bhakti movement figures and their social-reform teachings – a recurring Prelims theme.

PLACES & MAPS IN NEWS

Place	Where / What	Why It's in the News
Kalpazar Project (Gulf of Khambhat, Gujarat)	Proposed estuary dam across the Gulf of Khambhat combining tidal power, a freshwater reservoir, and a road link – concept dates to 1976, with the latest DPR completed in 2024.	Tidal energy is uniquely predictable (follows lunar cycles) vs solar/wind's weather-dependence – tests this renewable-energy distinction.
Kamarajar Port (Ennore, Tamil Nadu)	India's 2nd major port to achieve 18-metre draft capability (after JNPA/Mumbai), out of India's 12 major ports.	Tests the "which port has X capability" list-style question, and India's transshipment-revenue loss to Colombo.
Indira Point (Great Nicobar Island)	India's southernmost point, marked by a historic lighthouse; now the focus of a protection-and-eco-tourism development plan.	A classic "extreme points of India" Prelims fact (southernmost point).
Pickaxe Mountain / Kuh-e Kolang Gaz La (Central Iran)	A mountain of strategic interest amid US-Israel-Iran tensions, with satellite imagery suggesting underground tunnels possibly linked to Iran's nuclear programme.	Tests awareness of a specific geographic flashpoint in West Asia nuclear geopolitics.





Place	Where / What	Why It's in the News
Ladakh's 7 Districts (cross-ref: Polity – Federalism)	Ladakh UT extending Autonomous Hill Development Councils to all 7 districts (previously only Leh & Kargil); 5 new councils in Drass, Sham, Nubra, Changthang, Zaskar.	See Polity → Constitutional Provisions & Federalism for the full institutional detail.
BHASHINI-PNB MoU – Multilingual AI Banking	Punjab National Bank integrated BHASHINI (India's govt. AI language-translation platform, 22 official languages + 200+ dialects) to serve regional-language speakers, targeting India's ~190 million unbanked population.	Tests BHASHINI's language coverage and its use-case beyond translation – financial inclusion.

