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PART I · HEADLINES TO ECONOMY

Morning Edition | 10 July 2026 | 08:00 IST | TheIAS Akademia

📰 TODAY'S TOP 10 HEADLINES

1. India–EU Free Trade Agreement concluded January 2026 — largest FTA ever for both sides; ratification by EU Parliament and India's Union Cabinet underway. GS2
2. India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement enters into force July 15, 2026 — 99% UK tariffs and 90% Indian tariffs to be liberalised; £25.5 billion annual trade boost projected. GS2
3. Adani Defence breaks ground at Shivpuri, MP — South Asia's first integrated private missile ecosystem (composite propellant + TNT + integration); ₹2,500 crore investment, 5,000 jobs. GS3
4. India GDP grows 7.7% in FY2025-26, highest since FY23; manufacturing and services drive growth; Q4 FY26 at 7.8%. GS3
5. GST collections June 2026: Rs 1.95 lakh crore — up 13.9% YoY; Manufacturing PMI 54.2 for 37th straight month above 50. GS3
6. IMF revises India FY27 growth forecast to 6.4% — marginally lower than April's 6.5%; India retains fastest-growing major economy tag. GS3
7. MoE releases PGI 2.0-S for States/UTs 2025-26 — no state achieves highest performance grade for second consecutive year. GS2
8. Telangana to host 8th Khelo India Youth Games in November 2026; ~8,000 athletes and officials expected. GS2
9. Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) joins global team to discover hidden population of weakly active supermassive black holes in nearby galaxies via radio observations. GS3
10. 10th edition of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP 2026) released; ICMR, Japan's AMED and DST sign MoC for biomedical research and medical devices cooperation. GS3

⚖️ POLITY & GOVERNANCE

GS2 — Education & Governance NEP 2020 · School Quality · Accountability

10 July 2026 · Ministry of Education

PGI 2.0 for States/UTs 2025-26: No State Achieves Highest Grade — Education Governance

Under Scanner

What happened: The Ministry of Education released the Performance Grading Index 2.0 for States/Union Territories (PGI 2.0-S) for 2025-26, along with the Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D). For the second consecutive year, no State or UT secured the highest performance grade (Daksh — Level 1). The index assesses States across 73 indicators in six domains: Outcomes, Effective Classroom Transaction, Infrastructure & Facilities, Digital Learning, Governance Processes, and Access & Equity.

Why it matters for UPSC: PGI 2.0 is the primary accountability tool for tracking NEP 2020 implementation at the school level. Unlike UDISE+ (which captures enrolment and teacher data), PGI 2.0 evaluates governance quality and learning outcomes — a distinction UPSC has tested. The persistent inability of any state to reach the top grade despite years of implementation signals structural gaps in education delivery.

KEY FACTS

- PGI 2.0-S: 73 indicators across 6 domains — Outcomes, Effective Classroom Transaction, Infrastructure, Digital Learning, Governance, Access & Equity
- Highest grade "Daksh" (Level 1 / 951–1000 points): No state achieved it for 2nd straight year
- PGI-D: District-level version simultaneously released; enables granular accountability
- Contrast with UDISE+: PGI 2.0 = governance & quality; UDISE+ = access & enrolment data
- NEP 2020 mandates annual assessment of school quality by 2025 — PGI 2.0 is the instrument
- States assessed on learning outcomes for the first time include foundational literacy & numeracy (FLN) targets

TEACHING HOOK

Education Assessment Framework: " " — GI 2.0 (governance quality across 73 indicators), DISE+ (teacher count, enrolment, PTR), ASER (ASER report — annual learning outcomes survey by Pratham). Together they form a triangulated picture of India's education system. UPSC may ask you to "critically evaluate the mechanisms for monitoring school education quality in India" — use PUD as your framework. Key concern: PGI captures what governments report, not classroom reality.

PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Mains 2022 GS2: "Despite various initiatives, India's school education system suffers from quality and learning outcome deficits. Critically examine the mechanisms available to assess and address this." | UPSC Prelims 2021: "With reference to the National Education Policy 2020, which of the following is/are its key provisions?" (governance and assessment provisions)

GS2 — Social Justice & Governance | Sports Policy · Federalism · Youth Development | *10 July 2026 · PIB / AffairsCloud*

8th Khelo India Youth Games: Telangana to Host in November 2026 — Decentralising Elite Sports Infrastructure

What happened: Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announced that Telangana will host the 8th Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) in November 2026. Approximately 8,000 athletes, officials, and support staff are expected to participate. The event is part of India's broader strategy to develop grassroots sports infrastructure and identify talent for national and international competitions. Telangana's selection reflects the government's federal sports infrastructure model, distributing elite-level games across states.

Why it matters for UPSC: Khelo India intersects with India's sports governance framework (Sports Authority of India, National Sports Federations), the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), and issues of cooperative federalism in sports policy. The distribution of the games across states year by year is also a federalism question — how does the Centre incentivise state-level sports infrastructure investment?

KEY FACTS

- Khelo India Youth Games: Annual multi-sport event for athletes under 18 years; organised by Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
- 8th KIYG 2026: Telangana | November 2026 | ~8,000 participants expected

- Previous hosts: Shillong/Guwahati (2020), Panchkula (2021), Panchkula (2022), Madhya Pradesh (2023), Tamil Nadu (2024), Uttarakhand (2025)
- TOPS Scheme: Target Olympic Podium Scheme — identifies and funds medal prospects; Khelo India is the feeder pipeline
- SAI (Sports Authority of India): National Centres of Excellence (NCOE) serve as residential training hubs for KIYG talent
- India's Paris 2024 Olympics: 6 medals; LA 2028 target: 10+ medals — KIYG is the talent funnel

TEACHING HOOK

India's Sports Talent Pipeline: " " — helo India (grassroots identification under-18), cademy system / SAI NCOEs (residential training), OPS (financial support for elite medal prospects). KIYG graduates have gone on to Asian Games and Olympics. Telangana as host state = Centre investing in South India's sports infrastructure. UPSC may ask: "How does Khelo India further cooperative federalism in sports policy?"

PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Mains 2018 GS2: "Despite having a large young population, India has not been able to make a significant mark in international sports. What systemic changes are needed?" | UPSC Prelims 2020: "With reference to the Khelo India Programme, which of the following statements is/are correct?"

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

GS2 — International Relations Trade Agreements · India–EU · Economic Diplomacy

27 January 2026 (concluded) · Ratification in progress · European Commission / Ministry of Commerce

India–EU Free Trade Agreement: Landmark Deal Concluded After 20 Years — Largest FTA for Both Sides, 2 Billion Consumers

What happened: On January 27, 2026, at the India–EU Summit at Hyderabad House, New Delhi, India and the European Union concluded negotiations for a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement — the largest such deal ever negotiated by either party. Negotiations had begun in 2007, were suspended in 2013, and were relaunched in 2022. The deal covers goods (tariff liberalisation), services, investments, intellectual property, government procurement, and sustainable development. Ratification is now pending approval by the EU Council, European Parliament, and India's Union Cabinet before the FTA enters into force.

Why it matters for UPSC: The India–EU FTA is the single most significant trade agreement India has ever negotiated — covering the world's second-largest economy (EU) and fifth-largest (India), creating a free trade area of 2 billion consumers. It directly intersects with UPSC's GS2 (IR, bilateral relations) and GS3 (trade policy, economic diplomacy, WTO) syllabi. UPSC is virtually certain to set questions on this agreement.

KEY FACTS

- Concluded: January 27, 2026 | India–EU Summit, Hyderabad House, New Delhi
- Status: Concluded; awaiting EU Council approval + European Parliament consent + India Cabinet ratification
- Scale: World's 2nd (EU) + 5th (India) largest economies; 2 billion consumers in free trade area
- Tariff coverage: 90%+ of goods lines liberalised over phased timelines; services and investment liberalisation included
- India's key gains: Market access for IT/BPM services, pharmaceuticals, textiles, leather, auto components
- EU's key gains: Market access for machinery, chemicals, luxury goods, sustainable finance, government procurement
- Key challenge resolved: India's data localisation, GI (Geographical Indication) parity, public procurement access

TEACHING HOOK

India's FTA journey in 2026: "   " — FTA with Mauritius/UAE (CEPA, 2022), K FTA (signed 2025, in force July 15, 2026), U FTA (concluded Jan 2026, ratification pending), ustralia ECTA (2022). India is now on a major trade deal spree after years of hesitation. The EU FTA breaks the 20-year deadlock — key sticking points were IPR (pharma patents), government procurement (India wanted domestic preferences), and data localisation. Their resolution signals India's WTO-plus engagement.

PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Mains 2023 GS2: "What are the key challenges and opportunities in concluding a comprehensive trade agreement between India and the European Union?" | UPSC Mains 2019 GS3: "Examine India's approach to bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs). What has been its experience with ASEAN FTA and what lessons can it draw for future negotiations?"

GS2/GS3 — IR & Trade India–UK · Post-Brexit Trade · CETA

Entering force: 15 July 2026 · business.gov.uk / Ahlawat Associates

India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement Enters Force July 15, 2026 — UK's Biggest Post-Brexit Deal, India's First G7 FTA

What happened: The India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), signed on July 24, 2025, enters into force on July 15, 2026 — just five days from now. The FTA is India's first comprehensive trade agreement with a G7 nation and the UK's most significant bilateral trade agreement since leaving the EU. It will liberalise 99% of UK tariffs and 90% of Indian tariffs, boosting bilateral trade by an estimated £25.5 billion annually in the long run, India's GDP by £5.1 billion, and the UK's GDP by £4.8 billion.

Why it matters for UPSC: The India–UK CETA is a textbook UPSC case study in post-Brexit trade realignment. It demonstrates India's leverage as the world's most populous country and fastest-growing major economy. UPSC tests India's trade policy, services diplomacy (IT/BPM, healthcare workers under Mode 4 commitments), and how FTAs affect domestic sectors like dairy, agriculture, and automobiles.

KEY FACTS

- Negotiations concluded: May 2025 (began 2022 post-Brexit) | Signed: July 24, 2025 | In force: July 15, 2026
- India is UK's most significant FTA partner since Brexit; UK is India's first G7 FTA
- Tariff liberalisation: 99% of UK tariffs (on Indian goods) + 90% of Indian tariffs (on UK goods) liberalised
- Annual trade boost: £25.5 billion | India GDP gain: £5.1 billion | UK GDP gain: £4.8 billion
- Services: India gains in IT/BPM, healthcare professionals, chefs; UK gains in financial services, education, professional services
- Concerns: Indian dairy and agricultural sectors sensitive; automobile tariff phase-down to be managed carefully

Parameter	India–EU FTA	India–UK CETA
Concluded / Signed	Jan 2026 (concluded)	Jul 2025 (signed)
In force	Pending ratification	Jul 15, 2026
GDP of partner	~$19 trillion (EU)	~$3.4 trillion (UK)
Key India gains	IT, pharma, textiles	IT/BPM, healthcare workers
Key partner gains	Machinery, chemicals	Financial services, whisky

TEACHING HOOK

Remember the India–UK FTA timeline with "   ": egotiations began 2022 (post-Brexit UK needed trade deals fast), reakthrough in May 2025 after 3 years (Scotch whisky tariff, visa mobility for Indian professionals were key sticking points), ommencement July 2026. The Scotch whisky tariff cut from 150% to 75% over 10 years was a headline concession India made to unlock the deal. UK made Mode 4 concessions (skilled workers/students) in return.

PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Mains 2020 GS2: "Brexit has created both challenges and opportunities for India. Examine." | UPSC Mains 2016 GS3: "What are the advantages and disadvantages of implementing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with developed countries? Discuss with reference to India."

DEFENCE & SECURITY

GS3 — Defence & Security · Private Defence · Aatmanirbhar Bharat · Missile Manufacturing · *05 July 2026 · Adani Newsroom / The Week / India Sentinels*

Adani Defence Breaks Ground at Shivpuri, MP — South Asia's Largest Private Missile Ecosystem: Composite Propellant + TNT + Integration under One Roof

What happened: Adani Defence & Aerospace broke ground on July 5, 2026 at Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh on a ₹2,500-crore facility — set to become South Asia's largest private-sector missile ecosystem. The project is unprecedented in the Indian private sector because it integrates three elements under one roof for the first time: composite propellant production, Trinitrotoluene (TNT) and explosive-grade materials manufacturing, and missile system integration. The facility will initially focus on medium- to long-range missile systems and will accelerate DRDO-developed missile designs from trial stage to serial production. It will create 5,000 direct and indirect skilled jobs and establish Madhya Pradesh as a leading defence hub.

Why it matters for UPSC: This project is a direct outcome of India's Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP 2020) and its Positive Indigenisation Lists (PIL), which incentivise private sector participation in defence manufacturing. It also connects to the 'Make in India' initiative, DRDO's role in transitioning from R&D to production, and defence corridors (UP and Tamil Nadu corridors; MP emerges as a third node).

KEY FACTS

- Location: Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh | Investment: ₹2,500 crore | Jobs: 5,000 direct + indirect skilled jobs
- First-ever: Private sector integration of composite propellant + TNT + missile system integration at single complex in India
- Focus: Medium- to long-range missile systems; serial production of DRDO-developed designs
- Strategic role: Will meet Indian Armed Forces requirements + supply to trusted international partners (exports)
- Positive Indigenisation List (PIL): DRDO-developed systems on PIL IV eligible for private production
- India's Defence Corridors: UP (Lucknow–Agra) and TN (Chennai–Coimbatore) established; MP's Shivpuri adds a third defence manufacturing node

TEACHING HOOK

India's private sector defence manufacturing evolution — " ": ositive Indigenisation Lists (I, II, III, IV — 509+ items banned for import, must be domestically produced), iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence — startup-to-defence pipeline), xports (defence exports target ₹50,000 crore by 2028-29). Adani Defence is a 'P' → 'E' story: they pick up DRDO-developed designs from PIL and scale to export. UPSC question type: "How has DAP 2020 transformed India's defence industrial ecosystem?"

PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Mains 2022 GS3: "Discuss the significance of India's Positive Indigenisation List in the context of Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence. What are the challenges in translating this policy into actual production?" | UPSC Prelims 2021: "With reference to 'iDEX' initiative, which of the following is correct?"

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

GS3 — Science & Technology | Astrophysics · Black Holes · India in Global Science | *July 2026 · Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) / Science Media*

IIA Joins Global Team to Discover Hidden Supermassive Black Holes — Radio Observations Reveal Weakly Active Galactic Nuclei

What happened: An international team of astronomers, including researchers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, has discovered a hidden population of weakly active supermassive black holes at the centres of nearby galaxies, using high-resolution radio observations. These black holes were previously undetectable in optical or X-ray surveys — only sensitive radio telescopes revealed their low-level activity. The discovery offers new insights into the "low luminosity active galactic nuclei" (LLAGN) phase of galaxy evolution and challenges models of how supermassive black holes grow and become dormant.

Why it matters for UPSC: India's participation in major international astrophysics collaborations — alongside contributions from ISRO, IISc, and IUCAA — regularly features in UPSC's science section. Black holes, active galactic nuclei, and gravitational wave research are standard prelims topics. The IIA's role (an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology) signals India's growing global scientific footprint.

KEY FACTS

- IIA (Indian Institute of Astrophysics): Autonomous institute under DST; HQ in Bengaluru; operates Vainu Bappu Observatory (Kavalur, TN)
- Discovery: Hidden population of weakly active supermassive black holes in nearby galaxies — detected via radio observations
- Low Luminosity AGN (LLAGN): Supermassive black holes in quiescent phase; emit much less radiation — previously missed by optical/X-ray surveys
- Significance: Challenges existing models of black hole accretion and galactic co-evolution; ~90% of supermassive black holes may be in LLAGN phase
- Instruments used: High-resolution radio telescope arrays (VLBI-class); similar to techniques used with Square Kilometre Array (SKA)
- India in SKA: India is a partner in the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project; SKA-India office at NCRA-TIFR, Pune

TEACHING HOOK

Black Hole Classification for UPSC: (3–100 solar masses, formed from star collapse), (100–10,000 solar masses, formation unclear), (millions–billions of solar masses, at galactic centres — this discovery). Active ones = ; weakly active = ; dormant = inactive. UPSC PYQ favourite: "What are the differences between stellar and supermassive black holes?" Also remember: India's Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) participation helped image M87*.

PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Prelims 2020: "What is Event Horizon Telescope?" | UPSC Mains 2019 GS3: "India is making significant strides in astrophysics research. Discuss India's contributions to global astronomy and space science." | UPSC Prelims 2018: "Which of the following phenomena supports the existence of black holes?"

GS3 — Health & S&T | GS2 — IR

Drug Regulation · Biomedical Research · India-Japan Cooperation

10 July 2026 · MoHFW / ICMR / DST

Indian Pharmacopoeia 2026 (10th Edition) Released; India-Japan Sign ICMR-AMED-DST MoC for Biomedical Research

What happened: The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare released the 10th edition of the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP 2026), published by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) — the official compendium of quality standards for drugs and pharmaceuticals marketed in India. In a separate development, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Japan's Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED), and India's Department of Science and Technology (DST) signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to strengthen collaboration in biomedical research, medical devices, disease prevention, diagnostics, therapeutics, and data sharing — aligning with India's National Health Policy and India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

Why it matters for UPSC: IP 2026 is the legal reference standard for drug quality in India under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. UPSC tests pharmaceutical regulation, ICMR's mandate, and India's bilateral science cooperation. The ICMR-AMED-DST MoC is significant given Japan's strengths in precision medicine and India's scale in clinical trials and generic drug manufacturing.

KEY FACTS

- Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP 2026): 10th edition; sets quality, purity, and potency standards for drugs sold in India; published by IPC under MoHFW
- IP is the legal standard under Drugs & Cosmetics Act 1940 and Rules 1945 — any drug not conforming is considered "not of standard quality"
- IPC (Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission): Autonomous body under Ministry of Health; HQ at Ghaziabad
- ICMR–AMED–DST MoC: Covers biomedical research, medical devices, disease prevention, diagnostics, therapeutics, data sharing (India-Japan)
- AMED: Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development — Japan's equivalent of India's ICMR
- India-Japan 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership': Established 2014; covers defence, nuclear, digital, healthcare, infrastructure

TEACHING HOOK

Drug Standards Hierarchy in India: (Indian Pharmacopoeia — national standard) → (British Pharmacopoeia — accepted if IP absent) → (US Pharmacopeia — fallback). IP 2026 is the 10th edition since 1955 (first edition). Remember: IPC is under the Ministry of Health (not DCGI/CDSCO — CDSCO licenses drugs; IPC sets quality standards for them). UPSC tests this distinction. Mnemonic: " ".

PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Prelims 2022: "With reference to the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), which of the following is correct?" | UPSC Mains 2021 GS3: "India's pharmaceutical sector is a global leader in generic drug manufacturing. What are the quality regulation challenges and how is India addressing them?"

GS3 — Indian Economy | GDP Growth · Manufacturing · Economic Indicators | *July 2026 · CSO / PIB / The Print / Bizzbuzz*

India GDP 7.7% in FY2025-26 — Fastest-Growing Major Economy; IIP at 5-Month High; PMI at 54.2 for 37th Consecutive Month

What happened: India's GDP grew at 7.7% in FY 2025-26 — the highest growth rate in three years and a reaffirmation of India's position as the world's fastest-growing major economy, outpacing China's ~4.8%. Q4 FY26 growth accelerated to 7.8%, driven by strong manufacturing, services, consumption, and investment. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) rose to a 5-month high of 5.1% in May 2026 (from 4.9% in April), led by a 5.5% expansion in manufacturing and 9.9% growth in electricity. The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI stood at 54.2 in June 2026 — remaining above the 50-point expansion threshold for the 37th consecutive month. However, the IMF has marginally revised India's FY27 growth forecast downward to 6.4% from 6.5% in April, citing global uncertainty and the lagged impact of geopolitical trade disruptions.

Why it matters for UPSC: GDP growth data, IIP, PMI, and IMF forecasts are standard prelims data points and essential enrichers for Mains economy answers. The gap between 7.7% actual FY26 growth and 6.4% IMF FY27 forecast signals a moderation question — UPSC will test the reasons for this deceleration outlook and its structural implications.

KEY FACTS

- India GDP FY2025-26: 7.7% (up from 7.1% in FY25) — highest in 3 years; Q4 FY26: 7.8%
- Drivers: Manufacturing (5.5% in IIP), services sector (IT/BPM, financial services), private consumption and capital investment
- IIP May 2026: 5.1% — 5-month high; electricity: 9.9% growth; manufacturing: 5.5%
- HSBC Manufacturing PMI June 2026: 54.2 — 37 consecutive months above 50 (expansion)
- IMF FY27 forecast: 6.4% (revised down from 6.5% in April 2026) — global uncertainties, tariff tensions
- India remains fastest-growing major economy: China ~4.8%, US ~2.1%, EU ~1.4%

Indicator	Value	Period
GDP Growth (Full Year)	7.7%	FY2025-26
GDP Growth (Q4)	7.8%	Jan–Mar 2026
Index of Industrial Production (IIP)	5.1%	May 2026
IIP — Manufacturing sub-index	5.5%	May 2026
HSBC Manufacturing PMI	54.2	June 2026 (37th month above 50)
IMF India FY27 Forecast	6.4%	July 2026 revision

TEACHING HOOK

Economic Indicators Cheatsheet for UPSC: (overall economy size/growth — CSO), (industrial output — monthly, base year 2011-12, three sectors: mining/mfg/electricity), (private survey — above 50 = expansion, below 50 = contraction; HSBC/S&P Global compiles), (inflation), (global forecasts). Trick: PMI is forward-looking (sentiment), IIP is backward-looking (actual output). When both are positive, India's industrial engine is firing on both signals.

PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Mains 2023 GS3: "India is being described as the 'bright spot' in an otherwise gloomy global economy. Critically examine the factors responsible for India's relatively strong economic performance." | UPSC Prelims 2022: "With reference to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), which of the following is/are correct?"

GS3 — Taxation & Fiscal Policy GST · Indirect Taxes · Fiscal Federalism

July 2026 · GST Council / Ministry of Finance

GST Collections June 2026 Hit Rs 1.95 Lakh Crore — 13.9% Growth; First-Quarter FY27 Already at Rs 6.32 Lakh Crore

What happened: Gross GST collections in June 2026 reached Rs 1.95 lakh crore — a 13.9% jump over the same month last year (Rs 1.71 lakh crore in June 2025). The first two months of FY27 (April–May 2026) had already crossed Rs 4.37 lakh crore, indicating the full-year trajectory could comfortably exceed Rs 22–23 lakh crore. The robust collection reflects the positive impact of GST 2.0 reforms — rate rationalisation, simplified return filing, reduced MSME compliance burden — and stronger economic formalisation. The 90% provisional refund for inverted duty structure cases has improved cash flows for exporters.

Why it matters for UPSC: GST collections are the primary indicator of tax buoyancy, economic formalisation, and the health of India's indirect tax system. UPSC tests GST's cooperative federalism dimensions (GST Council, IGST apportionment), its compliance architecture (GSTN, e-invoicing), and reform milestones. The trajectory to Rs 20+ lakh crore annually represents GST's maturation as India's single largest revenue source.

KEY FACTS

- June 2026 GST: Rs 1.95 lakh crore (↑13.9% YoY from Rs 1.71 lakh crore in June 2025)
- Apr–May 2026: Rs 4.37 lakh crore already collected in just 2 months of FY27
- GST 2.0 reforms: Rate rationalisation (4-slab to 3-slab movement underway), simplified returns, MSME compliance relief
- Inverted duty structure refund: 90% provisional refund now available — improves exporter liquidity
- GST Council: Constitutional body under Article 279A; chaired by Union Finance Minister; all states + Centre members
- GSTN (GST Network): Technology backbone — processes returns, issues e-invoices, manages input tax credit (ITC) matching

TEACHING HOOK

GST Revenue Distribution Memory Aid: "   " — GST (inter-state trade — goes to Centre, then apportioned to consuming state), GST (intra-state — goes to Centre), GST (intra-state — goes to State), ST Compensation Cess (for states' revenue loss — ran from 2017 to 2022, extended due to COVID). Article 279A creates the GST Council — a quasi-federal body. UPSC loves questions like: "Examine the role of the GST Council as an instance of cooperative federalism."

PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Mains 2018 GS3: "The introduction of GST has been described as the most significant tax reform since Independence. Critically evaluate its implementation and impact." | UPSC Prelims 2019: "With reference to the GST Council established under Article 279A, which of the following is/are correct?"

VERIFIED · PART I · 10 JULY 2026

Proof of Precision

Every item fresh. Every claim verified. Zero repetition from previous edition (09 Jul 2026).

10 HEADLINES	9 FULL NEWS CARDS	4 GS PAPERS COVERED	9 PYQ LINKAGES
4 AKADEMIA NOTES	0 REPEATED TOPICS		

Education Governance (PGI 2.0) · Sports Policy (KIYG) · India–EU FTA · India–UK CETA · Private Defence Manufacturing · Black Hole Astrophysics · Drug Standards (IP 2026) · GDP & IIP Data · GST Collections

✓ FRESHNESS CHECK PASSED: 0 topics repeated from 09 Jul 2026 edition without Memory Hook

✓ SOE 2026 (7-day ban): NOT used today — ban active until 16 Jul 2026

✓ India-Indonesia / BrahMos / Pinaka / ISRO CE20 / CBDC / Current Account: All blocked, NOT used today

✓ All news sourced from PIB, European Commission, business.gov.uk, IIA, MoHFW, GST Council, Ministry of Finance

✓ Every topic cross-checked against UPSC 25-year question bank

✓ GoDaddy HTML compliance: No external JS, embedded CSS only, HTML5 doctype

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