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PART I • HEADLINES TO ECONOMY

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§1 · Top Headlines

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10. India's Services PMI edges up to 54.1 in August 2026, even as new-business growth nears a four-year low **GS3**

THEIAS AKADEMIA Ten cards today span two Supreme Court doctrines, two live diplomatic tracks (Belgium and France), a defence-indigenisation tender, a border-security static deep-dive, a biotech-investment platform, an energy-policy backgrounder and two macro data releases — exactly the paper-spanning breadth **Sahyog Mentorship** students are trained to map before reading a single card. Tag each one to its GS paper as you go.

§2 · Polity & Governance

GS2

Judicial Review · Criminal Procedure

2 September 2026 · Source: Supreme Court of India / Live Law reportage

Supreme Court: High Courts Retain Power to Recall a Judgment Despite CrPC Section 362

Why in News: The Supreme Court set aside a 21-year-old criminal conviction of a man who was a juvenile on the date of the offence, holding that Section 362 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 — which generally bars a criminal court from altering or reviewing its own signed judgment — does not extinguish a High Court's inherent jurisdiction under Section 482 CrPC to recall an order when allowing it to stand would cause a miscarriage of justice. The ruling, delivered 2 September 2026, turned on the fact that the convict's juvenility claim had never been properly examined at trial.

Background: Section 362 CrPC embodies the general finality principle: once signed, a criminal court's judgment cannot be altered except to correct clerical or arithmetical errors. Section 482 CrPC, however, preserves the High Court's inherent powers to secure the ends of justice — a tension the Court has revisited periodically since the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act framework was progressively strengthened in 2000 and 2015 to keep genuine minors out of the adult criminal track.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Section 362 CrPC bars courts from altering a signed judgment except for clerical/arithmetical corrections
- Section 482 CrPC preserves the High Court's inherent power to prevent abuse of process or secure the ends of justice
- The conviction being set aside was over two decades old; the convict was a juvenile on the date of the offence
- The Court held recall is permissible where a standing judgment would otherwise cause a miscarriage of justice
- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (succeeding the 2000 Act) governs present-day juvenility determination
- The ruling is confined to genuine miscarriage-of-justice claims, not a general route to re-litigate settled convictions

📌 MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Balances the doctrine of finality of judgments against the Article 21 guarantee of substantive justice
- Reinforces Section 482 CrPC's inherent powers as a safety valve that procedural bars like Section 362 cannot close
- Treats juvenility as a jurisdictional fact — if wrongly determined, the conviction's very foundation is undermined
- Raises a systemic question on why the juvenility claim went unexamined at trial, pointing to gaps in age-verification practice
- Feeds the wider rehabilitative-versus-retributive debate for offenders who were minors when the offence occurred

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"Signed, but not sealed" — Section 362 signs the judgment shut, but Section 482 keeps a door open when the person inside the judgment was, in law, still a child.

📄 PYQ Linkage

GS2 (recurring theme): Constitutional and statutory safeguards for juveniles in the criminal justice system; inherent powers of High Courts under the CrPC.

GS2

CrPC Section 362/482

Juvenile Justice Act

Inherent Jurisdiction

GS2 Education Governance · Regulatory Bodies

3 September 2026 · Source: Supreme Court of India / Live Law reportage

Supreme Court Upholds NCTE's Power to Call Annual Performance Reports from Teacher-Training Institutes

Why in News: The Supreme Court, on 3 September 2026, upheld the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and its Executive Committee's statutory power to call for annual Performance Appraisal Reports (PARs) from Teacher Education Institutes (TEIs), rejecting a challenge that the requirement exceeded NCTE's regulatory mandate under its founding Act.

Background: NCTE was established under the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993, to achieve planned and coordinated development of the teacher-education system and to regulate and maintain norms and standards. Recognition of

TEIs (B.Ed, D.El.Ed and similar programmes) is contingent on continued compliance with NCTE norms, and PARs function as the Council's principal post-recognition, ongoing quality-assurance tool.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- NCTE established under the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993
- The Executive Committee processes recognition, renewal and derecognition of TEIs
- Performance Appraisal Reports (PARs) are an annual compliance-monitoring tool, distinct from one-time recognition inspections
- The Court held this power flows squarely from NCTE's statutory mandate to maintain norms and standards — not an ultra vires overreach
- Poor teacher-education quality has repeatedly been flagged (NCTE and other official reviews) as a driver of weak foundational-learning outcomes
- The ruling strengthens NCTE's post-recognition enforcement teeth against defaulting private TEIs

📊 MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Reinforces India's shift in education regulation from one-time gatekeeping (recognition) to continuous, performance-based oversight
- Tests the ultra vires doctrine — whether a regulator's specific tool (PARs) is a legitimate exercise of its general statutory mandate
- Connects to the National Education Policy 2020's emphasis on teacher-quality reform and phasing out substandard TEIs
- Highlights the accountability gap in India's rapidly expanded private teacher-training sector

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"No report card, no relief" — just as students submit performance reports to teachers, NCTE now firmly holds the power to demand the same discipline from the institutes that train those teachers.

📄 PYQ Linkage

GS2 (recurring theme): Statutory regulatory bodies' powers and the ultra vires doctrine — a recurring administrative-law theme across NCTE/UGC/AICTE contexts.

GS2

NCTE

Teacher Education

Ultra Vires Doctrine

§3 · International Relations

GS2/GS3

Bilateral Relations · Defence Diplomacy

2-4 September 2026 · Source: PIB / MEA / Ministry of Defence

India-Belgium Ties Deepen as PM Bart De Wever Makes First Visit in Two Decades

Why in News: Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever arrived in New Delhi on 2 September 2026 for a three-day official visit — the first by a Belgian Prime Minister to India in about two decades — and held talks with PM Modi at Hyderabad House on 3 September. The two sides agreed to deepen cooperation across trade, defence, clean energy, critical minerals, semiconductors, fintech, and research and talent mobility, and established a new investment framework. On the sidelines, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held bilateral talks with Belgium's Minister of Defence and Foreign Trade, Theo Francken, with both sides signing multiple MoUs and contracts on defence-industrial cooperation.

Background: India-Belgium relations have historically centred on the Antwerp-Surat diamond trade and ports/logistics, with defence and advanced-technology cooperation comparatively underdeveloped until this visit. It comes as India pursues wider

EU engagement — including the still-unconcluded India-EU Free Trade Agreement — with De Wever also addressing a CII event on that FTA before travelling to Mumbai on 4 September to meet diamond, ports and logistics stakeholders.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Bart De Wever's visit (2-4 September 2026) is the first by a Belgian PM to India in roughly 20 years; he took office in February 2025
- Areas of agreed cooperation: trade, defence, clean energy, critical minerals, semiconductors, fintech, research and talent mobility
- Rajnath Singh-Theo Francken talks (3 September) produced multiple signed MoUs/contracts on defence-industrial cooperation; around 15 Belgian defence companies joined the accompanying business delegation
- The Belgian Defence College will hold its World Study Trip in India in 2027
- Discussions also covered intelligence-sharing and Indo-Pacific maritime-security cooperation
- De Wever addressed a CII event on the India-EU FTA before travelling to Mumbai (4 September) for diamond, ports and logistics engagements

📄 MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Illustrates India's strategy of deepening bilateral ties with individual EU member states even as the broader India-EU FTA remains unconcluded
- Defence-industrial co-development with a smaller European defence-tech power diversifies India's supplier base beyond its traditional partners
- Critical-minerals and semiconductor cooperation ties into India's Atmanirbhar Bharat supply-chain-diversification goals
- Tests whether head-of-government-level momentum converts into concrete FTA-track progress, given the EU's own internal consensus challenges on trade

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"Diamonds first, drones now" — the historic India-Belgium relationship, built on diamonds, is being reset around defence, semiconductors and critical minerals.

📄 PYQ Linkage

GS2 (recurring theme): India's engagement with European Union member states and the state of the India-EU FTA negotiations.

GS2

GS3

India-EU Relations

Defence Diplomacy

Critical Minerals

GS2/GS3

Space Diplomacy · S&T Cooperation

~4 September 2026 · Source: PIB / DD News (Ministry of Science and Technology)

India and France Expand Science, Space and AI Cooperation Ahead of the Paris Space Summit

Why in News: Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh held a virtual bilateral meeting with French Minister for Higher Education, Research and Space, Prof. Philippe Baptiste, reviewing the expanding canvas of India-France cooperation in science, technology and space. Both sides explored new opportunities in artificial intelligence, applied mathematics, advanced materials, ocean sciences and space technologies, with France inviting India to the International Space Summit in Paris (9-10 September 2026) and offering to expand human-spaceflight cooperation, including training and microgravity experiments.

Background: India and France have a decades-long strategic space partnership dating to early ISRO-CNES cooperation, encompassing joint satellite missions such as SARAL and Megha-Tropiques, and more recently human-spaceflight-adjacent support for India's Gaganyaan programme. 2026 has been declared the Indo-French Year of Innovation, providing an institutional umbrella for this expanded engagement.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Virtual bilateral meeting between Dr Jitendra Singh and Prof. Philippe Baptiste, reported around 4 September 2026
- 2026 declared the Indo-French Year of Innovation
- Cooperation areas: AI, applied mathematics, advanced materials, ocean sciences, space technologies, human spaceflight
- France to host the International Space Summit, Paris, 9-10 September 2026; India invited to participate
- Bengaluru Space Expo scheduled for 7-9 September 2026, running in a parallel domestic context
- Builds on the long-standing ISRO-CNES relationship, including joint missions such as SARAL and Megha-Tropiques

📌 MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Reflects India's use of bilateral "innovation years" as an institutional vehicle to deepen S&T diplomacy beyond one-off MoUs
- Human-spaceflight cooperation (training, microgravity experiments) has direct relevance to Gaganyaan and India's future space-station ambitions
- Tests India's ability to balance simultaneous strategic-technology partnerships (the US, Russia, France) in the space domain without exclusivity constraints
- AI and advanced-materials cooperation with France sits within India's broader critical-and-emerging-technology diplomacy

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"Same launch pad, new payload" — the long-standing ISRO-CNES satellite partnership is now being reloaded with AI, materials science and human spaceflight.

📄 PYQ Linkage

GS3 (recurring theme): India's satellite launch programmes and international collaboration in space technology.

GS2

GS3

India-France Relations

Space Diplomacy

Gaganyaan

THEIAS AKADEMIA

Two simultaneous diplomatic tracks — Belgium's first prime-ministerial visit in twenty years and a fast-deepening France partnership ahead of the Paris Space Summit — are exactly the kind of live, comparative IR material **ANTIM 2027** aspirants are trained to hold side by side rather than read in isolation.

§4 · Defence & Security

GS3

Defence Indigenisation · Aerospace Technology

Tender issued 2 September 2026, bids till 20 October 2026 · Source: DRDO / Ministry of Defence

DRDO Invites Bids for an Indigenous Air-to-Air Refuelling Pod, Targeting Import Substitution

Why in News: DRDO has formally invited bids from domestic industry and research organisations, under its Technology Development Fund (TDF), for the indigenous design and manufacture of an Air-to-Air Refuelling Pod (ARP) — a homegrown aerial-refuelling system able to service multiple receiver fighter jets simultaneously. The tender was published on 2 September 2026, with submissions open until 20 October 2026.

Background: India currently depends on imported flight-refuelling aircraft (its IL-78 tanker fleet) and lacks an indigenous podded "buddy-refuelling" capability that would let fighters such as the Su-30MKI refuel one another mid-air without a dedicated tanker. The Technology Development Fund, administered by DRDO, is designed to draw MSMEs and start-ups into critical defence technologies that larger public-sector units may not prioritise.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Tender published 2 September 2026 under DRDO's Technology Development Fund (TDF); submissions open till 20 October 2026
- Goal: a homegrown Air-to-Air Refuelling Pod, cutting reliance on foreign suppliers for sensitive aviation technology
- A standard "buddy tanker" configuration would carry up to three pods — two wing-mounted, one optional fuselage-mounted
- Distinct from India's separate, larger Multi-Role Tanker Transport aircraft acquisition track
- The TDF framework specifically targets MSME and start-up participation in niche defence technologies
- Builds on an earlier Request for Information (RFI) process for the same capability

📄 MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Reduces India's strategic dependence on imported buddy-refuelling and tanker technology, a long-standing IAF capability gap
- Illustrates the Technology Development Fund's role in widening the defence-industrial base beyond DPSUs to MSMEs and start-ups
- Extended-range refuelling capability strengthens the IAF's ability to project air power across a two-front contingency
- Tests whether India's private defence-industrial ecosystem can deliver genuinely complex aerospace systems within the TDF's typical funding and timeline constraints

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"No tanker, no problem" — a fighter jet fitted with a refuelling pod becomes a flying fuel station for its own wingman.

📄 PYQ Linkage

GS3 (recurring theme): Indigenisation of defence production and Make in India in the defence sector.

GS3

DRDO

Technology Development Fund

Defence Indigenisation

GS3

Internal Security · Border Management

Static Topic — not tied to a single current event · Source: MHA / respective force annual reports

Static Deep-Dive: India's Border-Guarding Forces — BSF, ITBP, SSB and Assam Rifles

Why in News: With no second fresh, verified Defence & Security development clearing today's Substance Test beyond the DRDO refuelling-pod tender, this edition uses its pre-approved static-fallback slot to consolidate India's border-guarding-force architecture — a perennial high-yield GS3 static topic that repays a properly structured revision.

Background: India's roughly 15,000 km land border spans sharply different terrain and threat profiles across sectors, which is why India raised specialised, sector-dedicated Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) instead of a single unified border guard — each under the Ministry of Home Affairs, with the Assam Rifles alone retaining a dual Army-operational-control structure.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Border Security Force (BSF, raised 1965): guards the India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders; also deployed in anti-Naxal and internal-security roles
- Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP, raised 1962): guards the India-China border along the LAC, from the Karakoram Pass to Jachep La; specialises in high-altitude operations
- Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB, raised 1963): guards the India-Nepal and India-Bhutan borders, both "open" borders without physical fencing
- Assam Rifles: guards the India-Myanmar border; uniquely administered by the MHA but operationally controlled by the Indian Army — called the "Sentinels of the North-East"

- All four are Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, distinct from the Army's own Line of Control deployment
- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) provides strategic infrastructure support (roads, bridges, tunnels) across these forces' operational areas

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Illustrates India's sector-specific border-force doctrine — matching the force to the terrain and adversary rather than raising one unified border guard
- The Assam Rifles' dual-control structure has repeatedly been debated for unified command-and-control reform
- Border-force modernisation (surveillance technology, smart fencing) ties into the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS)
- Coordination gaps between CAPFs and the Army during border stand-offs have driven renewed calls for integrated border-management reform

LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"P-B-N-M" — Pakistan→BSF, Bhutan/Nepal→SSB, (C)hina→ITBP, Myanmar→Assam Rifles: match the neighbour to the guard.

PYQ Linkage

GS3 (recurring theme): Internal security threats and border-management challenges; the mandates of India's Central Armed Police Forces.

GS3

BSF

ITBP

SSB

Assam Rifles

CIBMS

THEIAS AKADEMIA

An indigenisation tender today and a border-force static profile together model exactly the institutional-versus-conceptual balance **EMP** (Ethics & Moral Philosophy) students are asked to bring to GS3 answers — capability-building on one side, governance architecture on the other.

§5 · Science & Technology

GS3

Biotechnology · Science Policy

3 September 2026 · Source: PIB / Department of Biotechnology

Department of Biotechnology Launches 'BIO-NIVESH' to Channel Private Capital into Biotech Innovation

Why in News: The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, launched BIO-NIVESH on 3 September 2026 — a structured, recurring engagement platform bringing biotechnology innovators and private investors into ongoing dialogue, aimed at mobilising private capital into India's biotechnology sector. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh held a joint roundtable with startups and investors to mark the launch.

Background: India's biotechnology sector has grown rapidly under initiatives such as the BioE3 Policy and the National Biotechnology Development Strategy, but has struggled to convert research-stage innovation into commercially scaled products, with private investment historically concentrated in pharma/biosimilars rather than deep-tech biomanufacturing, agri-biotech or industrial biotechnology.

KEY FACTS

- Launched by DBT on 3 September 2026, unveiled via a startup-investor roundtable led by Dr Jitendra Singh
- Positioned as a "structured, recurring" engagement platform, not a one-time investor-matching event

- Aims to build the bridge from research/entrepreneurship-stage ideas to industrial scale and market commercialisation
- Complements the BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy
- Targets private capital mobilisation specifically, distinct from purely grant-based DBT funding schemes
- Framed by the government as central to India's "next industrial leap"

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Addresses the classic "valley of death" problem in Indian deep-tech — a strong research base but weak translation into scaled commercial products
- Complements BioE3's three-pronged focus (economy, environment, employment) with a dedicated investor-engagement layer
- Tests whether a government-convened platform can meaningfully shift private capital allocation compared with organic venture-capital forces
- Relevant to India's ambition of becoming a leading global biomanufacturing/bioeconomy hub

LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"Nivesh" means investment — BIO-NIVESH is simply DBT's standing invitation for private money to meet publicly-funded biotech ideas, on a recurring basis, not just once.

PYQ Linkage

GS3 (recurring theme): Biotechnology applications and the challenge of commercialising research; the BioE3 Policy is a fresh, related dimension.

GS3

Department of Biotechnology

BioE3 Policy

Biomanufacturing

GS3

Renewable Energy · Energy Security

Backgrounder ~4-5 September 2026; wells commissioned July 2026; policy notified September 2025 · Source: PIB

India's Geothermal Push: Puga Valley's First Wells and the National Policy on Geothermal Energy

Why in News: PIB released a backgrounder on India's geothermal-energy trajectory following the commissioning of the country's first two geothermal wells at Puga Valley, Ladakh, in July 2026, and the National Policy on Geothermal Energy, 2025, notified by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in September 2025 — together framed as the building blocks toward India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project.

Background: Geothermal energy remains a negligible share of India's renewable mix despite significant untapped potential, with the Geological Survey of India having identified 381 hot springs across the country. Puga and the neighbouring Chumathang area in Ladakh, sitting in a geologically active zone at over 14,000 feet altitude, have long been identified as India's most promising geothermal sites, in a region already strategically significant as a border area.

KEY FACTS

- India's first geothermal wells commissioned at Puga Valley, Ladakh, July 2026; both drilled to about 1,000 metres depth at over 14,000 feet altitude
- Paves the way for India's first demonstration-scale geothermal power project, targeted at 1 MW
- National Policy on Geothermal Energy, 2025, notified by MNRE on 15 September 2025 — India's first dedicated geothermal policy
- India's estimated geothermal potential: about 10,600 MW, concentrated in Puga and Chumathang (Ladakh)
- The Geological Survey of India has identified 381 hot springs nationally, with surface temperatures of roughly 35-89°C

- Policy goals: diversify the renewable mix, support the Net Zero 2070 target and strengthen energy security

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Geothermal is a dispatchable (baseload-capable) renewable, unlike intermittent solar/wind — a distinct systemic advantage for grid stability
- Ladakh's dual identity as a strategic border region and an emerging renewable-energy frontier raises both opportunity and infrastructure-security considerations
- Tests India's capacity to commercially scale a nascent renewable technology beyond the pilot/demonstration stage
- Complements India's broader energy-security diversification strategy — alongside green hydrogen and nuclear SMRs — toward Net Zero 2070

LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"Ladakh's other resource" — a region famous for its cold desert is quietly becoming India's hot-energy frontier.

PYQ Linkage

GS3 (recurring theme): Non-conventional energy sources and their potential in India; geothermal is an emerging, less-tested angle.

GS3

Geothermal Energy

MNRE

Net Zero 2070

Ladakh

THEIAS AKADEMIA

A biotech-investment platform and a geothermal-energy backgrounder, read together, show how **LAKSHYAM AIR1** students are trained to spot the common thread across seemingly unrelated S&T cards — India converting research capacity into commercially and strategically scaled outcomes.

§6 · Economy

GS3

Indian Economy · Industrial Growth

Data for July 2026, released 28 August 2026 · Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

India's Industrial Output Grows 6.7% in July 2026, Led by Manufacturing and Electricity

Why in News: MoSPI data released on 28 August 2026 showed India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew 6.7% year-on-year in July 2026, with manufacturing expanding 7.3% and electricity/gas supply rising 8.7%, even as mining and quarrying contracted 0.9%.

Background: The IIP is a monthly indicator tracking output across mining, manufacturing and electricity, using 2011-12 as its base year, and is released with roughly a six-week lag by MoSPI — a release schedule distinct from the CPI/WPI inflation releases with which it is sometimes conflated.

KEY FACTS

- IIP grew 6.7% year-on-year in July 2026; index level 124.8 versus 117.0 in July 2025
- Manufacturing (roughly 77% weight in IIP) grew 7.3%; electricity and gas supply grew 8.7%; water supply/sewerage grew 7.4%
- Mining and quarrying contracted 0.9%
- 19 of 23 industry groups (two-digit NIC classification) recorded positive growth
- Use-based classification: capital goods +16.1%, consumer durables +10.5%, intermediate goods +10.0%, infrastructure/construction goods +6.9%, primary goods +4.1%, consumer non-durables -1.0%

- Figures are provisional "quick estimates," subject to revision as more source-agency data arrives

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- The divergence between strong capital-goods growth and contracting consumer non-durables signals an uneven investment-versus-consumption recovery
- Mining's contraction alongside manufacturing's expansion raises upstream-raw-material-versus-downstream-value-addition questions
- IIP feeds into GDP's industry-of-origin estimates and is a key high-frequency indicator for RBI's monetary-policy assessment
- Tests whether industrial momentum can be sustained amid global trade uncertainty and tariff-related headwinds

LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"Twenty-eighth of the month, not with CPI" — IIP is released around the 28th, roughly two weeks after CPI/WPI — a classic fact-trap examiners like to test.

PYQ Linkage

GS3 (recurring theme): The Index of Industrial Production — components, base year and significance as a Prelims fact-cluster.

GS3

IIP

MoSPI

Industrial Growth

GS3

Indian Economy · Services Sector

Data for August 2026, released 3 September 2026 · Source: S&P Global / HSBC

India's Services PMI Edges Up to 54.1 in August 2026, but New-Business Growth Nears a Four-Year Low

Why in News: The HSBC India Services PMI, compiled by S&P Global, rose to 54.1 in August 2026 from July's 53.3 — still comfortably in expansion territory but below the flash estimate of 54.5 — even as new business, the survey's primary demand indicator, grew at its second-slowest pace in over four years; employment, however, rose at its fastest rate in 15 months.

Background: The Purchasing Managers' Index is a survey-based indicator in which a reading above 50 signals expansion and below 50 signals contraction. India's services PMI has stayed in expansion territory for an extended stretch through 2026 even as underlying growth momentum has moderated.

KEY FACTS

- Services PMI: 54.1 in August 2026, up from 53.3 in July, but below the flash estimate of 54.5
- New business grew at its second-slowest pace in over four years
- New export orders expanded at a broadly similar pace to July — limited additional support from international demand
- Employment among services firms grew at its fastest rate in 15 months
- A PMI reading above 50 signals expansion; it is a survey-based indicator, released monthly, distinct from official government statistics
- The composite (services + manufacturing) reading reflects continued but slowing overall private-sector expansion

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Fast hiring alongside slowing new business is a potential early signal of labour-hoarding or delayed capacity adjustment
- Services PMI's divergence from a weaker manufacturing PMI points to an uneven, two-speed private-sector economy
- Services' large share of India's Gross Value Added makes its momentum a key determinant of overall growth trajectory
- Tests the resilience of India's services-led growth model amid slowing global demand and domestic consumption headwinds

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"Hiring today, ordering less tomorrow?" — fastest hiring in 15 months alongside near-4-year-low order growth is a divergence worth flagging, not just a headline number.

📄 PYQ Linkage

GS3 (recurring theme): Indicators of economic growth — PMI, IIP, GDP — and how to read composite economic indicators together.

GS3

Services PMI

S&P Global

Indian Economy

THEIAS AKADEMIA

Two economic releases in one week — industrial output and services activity — are a ready-made comparative-answer-writing exercise; **NEEB 300+ Live PYQ Writing** students should practise weaving both into a single "state of the economy" paragraph rather than treating them as separate facts.

→ Continue to Part II: Environment · Places in News · Ethics · MCQs · Mains Questions · Direct Hit Tracker

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UPSC CSE Prelims 2026 Results

In what critics called the most unpredictable Prelims paper in a decade —

48

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10

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International Relations

Defence

Science & Tech

Economy

✓ All news sourced from PIB / Ministry releases / Supreme Court judgments / primary government and international sources

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