

PART I · HEADLINES TO ECONOMY

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"The Topper's Last Read. Every Morning."

PART I — SECTION INDEX

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§ 01

Top 10 Headlines

1. **Bharat Tex 2026** inaugurated July 14, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi — 5,500+ exhibitors, 7,000 buyers, 130+ countries; PM Modi's 5F Vision (Farm→Fibre→Factory→Fashion→Foreign) [GS3]
2. **3rd NAMASTE Day** observed July 14 in Kolkata; scheme eliminates hazardous manual sanitation; 84,902 sewer workers profiled; 45,871 PPE kits distributed [GS2]
3. **India launches UNSC 2028-29 candidacy** at UN HQ, New York; EAM Jaishankar unveils 'SHANTI' vision; India's 9th bid for non-permanent seat [GS2]
4. **EAM Jaishankar completes Gulf tour** (Qatar-Bahrain-Kuwait-Oman, July 5-10); reviews India-GCC Strategic Partnership; Indian diaspora welfare, energy security discussed [GS2]
5. **NGT: No construction** along Gomti River, Lucknow; LDA issued notice for violating Ganga Authorities Order 2016; NMCG had flagged violation in Jan 2026 [GS3]
6. **₹5,000 crore Defence Package** set for approval: MP-ATGM (DRDO+BDL), 600 Hammer PGMs (Safran+BEL), ASTRA MK-2 private sector production framework [GS3]
7. **3rd India-EU Trade & Technology Council** begins Brussels (July 14-15); focus: semiconductor supply chains, AI governance, clean energy, digital standards [GS2]
8. **ESIC: 7 healthcare projects** inaugurated nationwide on July 14 by Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya; organized sector workers covered under ESI Act 1948 [GS2]
9. **WPI June 2026 data** released today (July 14) by DPIIT/OEA; May 2026 WPI was 9.68% (Fuel & Power +30.33%, Primary Articles +4.99%) — new base 2022-23 [GS3]
10. **Ganges River Dolphin census** (March 2025): 6,327 individuals across India; 2nd rangewide estimation launched January 2026; IUCN Endangered; National Aquatic Animal [GS3]

THEIAS AKADEMIA Today's edition is dense with data-heavy stories across GS2 and GS3. If you struggle to retain multi-topic days, **Sahyog Mentorship** at theiasakademia.com offers personalised daily reading plans that map each news item to your exam-readiness gaps.

§ 02

3rd NAMASTE Day: Honouring Sanitation Workers, Eliminating Hazardous Manual Sanitation

Why in News: The Government of India observed the 3rd NAMASTE Day on 14 July 2026 in Kolkata, West Bengal, marking three years of the National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme; Union Minister Virendra Kumar led the main event at Rabindra Sadan with parallel programmes across all 4,800+ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) nationwide.

Background: NAMASTE was launched in July 2023 as a ₹349.70 crore scheme jointly implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), aiming to abolish hazardous manual sewer and septic tank cleaning and ensure safety, dignity, and social security for Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs).

⚡ KEY FACTS

- 84,902 SSWs profiled/validated across India; 37,980 Waste Pickers validated under NAMASTE
- 54,140 health insurance covers rolled out (Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY or equivalent state schemes)
- 45,871 PPE kits delivered; 354 Safety Device Kits to Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs)
- Goal: Zero fatalities in sanitation work + zero direct human contact with faecal matter; all operations via mechanised safety devices

💡 TEACHING HOOK

NAMASTE = National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem — jointly run by two ministries (Social Justice + Housing). SSWs are predominantly from Scheduled Castes; NAMASTE connects to Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers Act 2013 (GS2 landmark legislation).

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2022: Manual scavenging legislation and rehabilitation measures (Prohibition Act 2013 + NAMASTE).

GS2

Social Justice

NAMASTE

SSW

MoHUA

PYQ: GS2 2022

ESIC: 7 Healthcare Projects Inaugurated — Organized Sector Worker Social Security

Why in News: Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated 7 new ESI (Employees' State Insurance) healthcare projects across India on July 14, 2026, from ESI Hospital Sanathnagar, Telangana, expanding healthcare access for organized-sector workers and their families under the ESI Act 1948.

Background: ESIC (Employees' State Insurance Corporation) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Labour & Employment; it implements the ESI scheme providing medical, sickness, maternity, disablement, and dependant benefits to workers in factories and establishments with 10+ employees earning up to ₹21,000/month.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- ESI Act 1948: Landmark social security legislation; Article 43 DPSP (State duty to ensure living wages + social security)
- ESIC covers 14+ crore insured persons and dependants; funded by employer (3.25%) + employee (0.75%) contributions

- Benefits include: free medical care (unlimited), 70% wage sickness benefit (91 days), maternity benefit (26 weeks), disability pension
- ESIC runs 159 hospitals, 1,500+ dispensaries and clinics across India — today's 7 projects expand this network

💡 TEACHING HOOK

ESI vs EPFO: Both are social security institutions under Labour Ministry — ESI for healthcare/sickness; EPFO for provident fund/pension. Remember: **ESI = medical protection; EPF = retirement security** for organized sector workers.

📖 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2020: Social security provisions for workers in India — ESI, EPFO, PM Shram Yogi Maan-dhan scheme.

GS2

ESIC

ESI Act 1948

Labour Welfare

Art 43 DPSP

PYQ: GS2 2020

§ 03

International Relations

GS2

UN System · Multilateralism

13–14 July 2026 · Source: ANI / MEA / DD News

India Launches UNSC 2028–29 Campaign: 'SHANTI' Vision and India's 9th Candidacy

Why in News: EAM S. Jaishankar officially launched India's campaign for election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for the 2028-29 term at UN Headquarters, New York, unveiling the 'SHANTI' vision — holistic advancement through norms, trust, and integrity.

Background: The UNSC has 15 members — 5 permanent (P5: US, UK, France, Russia, China) with veto power, and 10 non-permanent members elected by the UNGA for 2-year terms; India has previously served 8 times (most recently 2021-22) and is candidating from the Asia-Pacific group.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- India's peacekeeping record: ~3,00,000 personnel deployed across ~50 UN peacekeeping missions since 1948; currently 4,300 troops in 10 of 11 active missions
- India's development partnership: Indian-funded projects running in 79 countries (Global South leadership)
- Previous UNSC terms: 1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, 1991-92, 2011-12, 2021-22 — 9th candidacy bid now
- 'SHANTI' vision: SHANTI = "Holistic advancement through norms, trust and integrity" — India's UNSC reform message

💡 TEACHING HOOK

UNSC non-permanent elections: UNGA votes by 2/3 majority (129 votes needed); Asia-Pacific gets 2 seats; term is 2 years; same country CANNOT serve two consecutive terms. India 2021-22 → must wait → 2028-29 is 6 years later.

📖 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2021: India's case for permanent membership in the UNSC — structural reforms and India's role.

EAM Jaishankar's Gulf Quad Tour: India-GCC Strategic Partnership and Diaspora Welfare

Why in News: EAM S. Jaishankar completed a six-nation tour (Qatar-Bahrain-Kuwait-Oman, July 5-10, 2026) reviewing India's bilateral partnerships across the GCC region, discussing the ongoing Gulf conflict's impact on energy and diaspora, and expanding cooperation in digital payments (UPI-linkages) and renewable energy.

Background: The Gulf region hosts approximately 9 million Indian diaspora workers — the world's largest bilateral labour corridor — who remit ~\$45-50 billion annually; India imports 80%+ of its crude oil from the Gulf, making GCC the cornerstone of India's energy security and economic strategy.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- India-Oman: India-Oman CEPA signed by PM Modi (Dec 2025); bilateral trade target \$15B by 2030; Oman is India's 2nd-largest Gulf trading partner
- India-Qatar: Qatar is India's top LNG supplier; Indian diaspora 800,000+; India-Qatar Strategic Partnership
- India-GCC FTA: Negotiations ongoing; GCC is a 6-member bloc (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain); India-GCC trade ~\$180B annually
- India-Kuwait: Gulf conflict discussions; Kuwait hosts 1 million+ Indian diaspora; PM Modi visited Kuwait December 2024

💡 TEACHING HOOK

GCC UPSC angle: Remember the 3 E's of India-Gulf relations — **Energy** (crude oil imports), **Employment** (diaspora + remittances), (India's manufactured goods, pharma, IT). Gulf is NOT just about oil — it's India's largest collective trade partner.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2019: India's West Asia policy — energy security, diaspora, counter-terrorism; role of remittances.

India's multilateral diplomacy — UNSC, GCC, EU — is a core GS2 theme for UPSC Mains 2026. **ANTIM 2027** at theiasakademia.com provides dedicated IR modules with structured answer writing for all bilateral and multilateral frameworks.

Defence & Security

₹5,000 Crore Defence Package: MP-ATGM, Hammer PGMs and ASTRA MK-2 Private

Production

Why in News: India is set to approve a ₹5,000 crore multi-platform defence procurement package covering three major weapons systems: the DRDO-developed Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MP-ATGM), 600 Hammer precision-guided munitions to be manufactured by BEL under Make in India, and the first-ever private sector production framework for ASTRA MK-2 Beyond Visual Range air-to-air missiles.

Background: Under India's Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 (DAP 2020) and the Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy (DPEPP), India has progressively shifted from full imports to Buy Indian (IDDM), indigenisation, and now private sector weapons manufacturing — this package marks a watershed in private sector missile production.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- MP-ATGM: DRDO-developed man-portable anti-tank missile; BDL (Bharat Dynamics Ltd) to produce; Army order — 100 launchers + 2,300 missiles + 5 simulators
- Hammer PGMs: Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range; originally Safran (France); 600 munitions; BEL manufactures in India — technology transfer route
- ASTRA MK-2: BVR air-to-air missile; range 180-200 km; integration with Su-30MKI, MiG-29, Tejas MK-1A/MK-2, Rafale; FIRST private sector missile production in India
- FY26 defence production record: ₹1.78 lakh crore (covered 13 Jul); private sector now at 24%; exports ₹38,424 crore — package builds on this momentum

💡 TEACHING HOOK

Remember 3 types of missiles in UPSC context: **ATGM** = anti-tank (ground); **BVR** = beyond visual range air-to-air; **PGM** = precision-guided munition (air-to-ground). ASTRA is India's BVR missile; Nag is India's ATGM — today's MP-ATGM is the man-portable (shoulder-fired) variant.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2023: Indigenisation of defence production and private sector role in India's strategic autonomy.

GS3

MP-ATGM

Hammer PGM

ASTRA MK-2

BDL

Make in India

PYQ: GS3 2023

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Defence indigenisation weaves through both GS3 (economy) and GS3 (internal security). **EMP (Ethics & Moral Philosophy)** at theiasakademia.com prepares you for GS4 case studies involving defence procurement integrity — a frequent exam scenario.

5 05

Science & Technology

GS2

India-EU Relations · Tech Governance

14–15 July 2026 · Source: MEA / EU Commission

3rd India-EU Trade & Technology Council: Semiconductors, AI Governance and Clean Energy

Why in News: The 3rd India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) convened in Brussels on July 14-15, 2026, with EAM Jaishankar and Commerce Minister attending alongside EU counterparts; discussions centred on semiconductor supply chain resilience, AI

regulatory equivalence (India DPDP Act vs EU AI Act/GDPR), clean energy technology transfer, and digital standards harmonisation.

Background: The India-EU TTC was established in 2022 at the India-EU Summit to provide a strategic platform for coordinating on technology governance and trade frameworks — it is separate from the India-EU FTA (concluded Jan 27, 2026, awaiting EU Parliament ratification) and specifically addresses technology-intensive sectors.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- India-EU bilateral trade: €120+ billion annually (FY26); EU is India's largest trading partner bloc; India is EU's 10th largest trade partner
- TTC structure: Three working groups — Trade, Technology, Clean Energy; 1st TTC (2022, Porto); 2nd TTC (2023, Brussels); 3rd TTC (today)
- Semiconductor focus: EU CHIPS Act 2023 + India Semiconductor Mission alignment; joint supply chain mapping to reduce China dependence
- DPDP Act equivalency: India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 aligned with GDPR principles — TTC seeks EU 'adequacy decision' for India (enables seamless data flows)

💡 TEACHING HOOK

TTC vs FTA: TTC = technology governance forum (AI, chips, data flows); FTA = tariff reduction agreement (goods/services). India has signed TTC with EU and also with USA (ICET — Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies) — multilateral tech governance is a key UPSC IR theme for 2026.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2022: India-EU relations — convergence and divergence, technology partnerships and digital governance.

GS2

India-EU TTC

Semiconductors

AI Governance

DPDP Act

Clean Energy

PYQ: GS2 2022

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India's technology diplomacy (EU TTC, US ICET, India Semiconductor Mission) is a rising theme in UPSC Mains. **LAKSHYAM AIR1** at theiasakademia.com offers India's most comprehensive prelims + mains coverage of S&T policy integration.

§ 06

Economy

GS3

Industry · Trade · PLI Schemes

14 July 2026 · Source: PIB / Ministry of Textiles / Bharat Tex 2026

Bharat Tex 2026: PM's 5F Vision, PLI Textiles and India's \$100B Export Target

Why in News: India's largest integrated global textile trade fair — Bharat Tex 2026 — was inaugurated on July 14, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, running through July 17; the event brings together 5,500+ exhibitors, 7,000 international buyers from 130+ countries and 1.3 lakh trade visitors under PM Modi's 5F Vision.

Background: The Indian textile sector contributes ~7% of India's industrial output, ~12% of export earnings and employs 45+ million people; PLI Scheme for Textiles (₹31,687 crore investment commitments catalysed) and 7 PM MITRA (Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) Parks are the government's twin pillars for scaling up textile manufacturing.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- 5F Vision: Farm→Fibre→Factory→Fashion→Foreign — complete value chain from cotton farm to global fashion export
- PM MITRA Parks: 7 integrated textile parks across 7 states; plug-and-play infrastructure for textile MSMEs and large units
- Technical Textiles: India's sunrise sub-sector (medical textiles, agro-textiles, geotextiles, smart fabrics); PLI for technical textiles launched 2021
- Export target: India's textile exports at ~\$44B currently; government target \$100B by 2030; Bharat Tex facilitates 4,000+ B2B meetings

💡 TEACHING HOOK

Textile policy UPSC memory: **TUPS** (Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme) for modernisation → **SITP** (Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks, now replaced by PM MITRA) → **PLI Textiles** → **Bharat Tex** for global branding. Each generation of policy built on the previous one.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2021: India's textile sector — challenges and government initiatives for enhancing exports and employment.

GS3

Bharat Tex 2026

5F Vision

PLI Textiles

PM MITRA

Technical Textiles

PYQ: GS3 2021

THEIAS AKADEMIA Economy topics like PLI, PM MITRA, and export policy demand structured Mains answers. **NEEB 300+ Live PYQ Writing** at theiasakademia.com gives you daily practice writing economy answers — the fastest track to 140+ in GS3.

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7

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