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DATE: 29 June 2026 PUBLISHER: TheIAS Akademia EDITION: Morning GS PAPERS: GS1 • GS2 • GS3

PART I • HEADLINES TO ECONOMY



Today's Headlines

10 NEWS FLASHES • GS-TAGGED

- 1 PM Modi concludes 3-day State Visit to Seychelles; receives first-ever 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' Presidential Distinction; signs MoUs in UPI, health, space, defence, agriculture & extradition; announces INR 1,250-crore Line of Credit GS2
- 2 India's first Made-in-India C-295 military transport aircraft completes maiden test flight from Vadodara — assembled by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) in partnership with Airbus; months ahead of September 2026 deadline GS3
- 3 Operation Amistad: India airlifts two IAF C-17 Globemasters carrying 30 tonnes of relief, 6 tonnes of medicines & 2 BHISHM cube portable hospitals to earthquake-hit Venezuela (7.2 & 7.5 magnitude); 41-member rescue team deployed GS2
- 4 India's Total Fertility Rate falls to 1.9 — below replacement level (2.1); SRS 2024 & NFHS-6 confirm transition; urban TFR at 1.6, rural at 2.1; Bihar (3.0) & UP (2.4) remain high GS1
- 5 First-ever National Rural Development Conference 2026 held in New Delhi (June 28-29) under 'Viksit Gram, Viksit Bharat' theme; Shivraj Singh Chouhan chairs; AI-enabled Rural Internal Audit Portal launched GS2
- 6 Dr Jitendra Singh proposes 'BRICS Space Economy' framework at BRICS HOSA (Heads of Space Agencies) meeting hosted by ISRO in Bengaluru under India's 2026 BRICS Chairship GS3
- 7 MoSPI to launch India's first Index of Services Production (ISP) on July 14, 2026; base year 2024-25; covers trade, transport, banking, insurance, telecom, hotels, real estate; monthly release with 60-day lag GS3
- 8 India climbs to 94th rank in UN SDG Index 2026 (Hamburg) — highest ever; score 68.3/100; up from 99th in 2025 & 112th in 2015; remains off-track on SDG 2 (Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender), SDG 14 & SDG 15 GS2
- 9 Southwest Monsoon 2026 records 64% deficit by mid-June; only half of India covered by late June; IMD forecasts 90% of LPA (below-normal); El Niño & displaced westerly jet stream cited as primary causes GS1
- 10 Seychelles joins Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) — India-led initiative — during PM Modi's visit; India proposes \$175 mn Special Economic Package for Seychelles development GS2

THEIAS AKADEMIA

Today is a high-density news day spanning IR, governance, economy and science simultaneously. If you're finding it hard to connect these dots before the exam, **Sahyog Mentorship** provides one-on-one strategy sessions to help you prioritise and retain current



GS2

Government Policies · Rural Development · e-Governance

28–29 June 2026

First-Ever National Rural Development Conference 2026: 'Viksit Gram, Viksit Bharat' & AI Audit Portal

What happened: The Ministry of Rural Development convened India's first-ever National Rural Development Conference in New Delhi (June 28-29), chaired by Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Rural Development Ministers from all States and UTs participated. The conference reviewed flagship schemes — PM Awas Yojana-Gramin, PM Gram Sadak Yojana, DAY-NRLM, and the National Social Assistance Programme — while deliberating on the newly introduced Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar & Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-GRAM-G). An AI-enabled Rural Internal Audit Portal was launched to modernise transparency across rural programmes.

Why it matters for UPSC: Connects GS2 syllabus on federalism (Centre-State coordination), government policies for rural welfare, and e-governance. The new VB-GRAM-G integrates employment, housing, roads, livelihoods and social security — a unified framework examiners could test in both Prelims (scheme details) and Mains (critical analysis of rural governance).

⚡ KEY FACTS

- ▶ Theme: "Viksit Gram, Viksit Bharat" — translating to Developed Village, Developed India
- ▶ New scheme: VB-GRAM-G integrates PMAY-G, PMGSY, NRLM, skill development & social security under one umbrella
- ▶ AI Audit Portal: Launched June 28, 2026 to modernise internal audit processes across rural development programmes
- ▶ Special focus: 'Lakhpati Didi' initiative for women-led SHGs and rural entrepreneurship
- ▶ Significance: First national conclave of Rural Development Ministers from all States/UTs

💡 TEACHING HOOK

PMAY-G → PMGSY → DAY-NRLM → VB-GRAM-G: Think of this as a progression from "shelter → road → livelihood → integrated". VB-GRAM-G is the umbrella that brings all of them together. For Mains: the tension between centralised scheme design and State-level implementation is a perennial GS2 theme.

📖 PYQ LINKAGE

"What are the salient features of 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin)'? How is this scheme different from its predecessor?" — UPSC Mains GS2, 2020. Also: "Discuss the role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in alleviating rural poverty, giving the example of any one such initiative." — UPSC Mains GS2, 2019.

GS2

Internal Security · Statutory Bodies · Governance

June 2026

NCB Annual Report 2025 & Vision Document on Drug Control (2026–2029) Released

What happened: Union Home Minister released the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Annual Report 2025 and the 'Vision Document on Drug Control (2026-2029)', outlining a coordinated national strategy against drug trafficking, abuse and organised crime networks. The document emphasises inter-agency intelligence sharing, community-based de-addiction programmes, and technology-driven border surveillance to choke narco-trafficking routes — particularly the Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle corridors affecting India.

Why it matters for UPSC: NCB is a key statutory body under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. Drug trafficking as an internal security threat links GS3 (internal security, organised crime, border management) and GS2 (statutory bodies,

governance). UPSC has repeatedly tested both the NDPS Act provisions and India's narcotics challenge.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- ▶ NCB established under: NDPS Act, 1985; apex body coordinating drug law enforcement in India
- ▶ Vision Document 2026-2029: Focus on inter-agency coordination, technology surveillance, community outreach
- ▶ Key threat corridors: Golden Crescent (Afghanistan-Pakistan-Iran) & Golden Triangle (Myanmar-Laos-Thailand)
- ▶ India's drug challenge: Rising synthetic drug abuse (amphetamine-type stimulants) alongside traditional narcotics
- ▶ NDPS Act amended: Several times to increase penalties for trafficking and address new psychoactive substances

💡 TEACHING HOOK

Two Triangles + One Crescent: Remember India sits between two major narco-production zones. Golden *Triangle* (east — Myanmar) and Golden *Crescent* (west — Afghanistan). The NCB is the "goalkeeper" at the centre. For Prelims: NDPS Act → 1985; NCB established under the same Act.

📖 PYQ LINKAGE

"Narco-terrorism has emerged as one of the challenges to internal security. Explain the linkages between drug trafficking and terrorism." — UPSC Mains GS3, 2021. Also tested: statutory powers of NCB and NDPS Act provisions (Prelims 2018, 2022).



International Relations

2 FULL NEWS CARDS · GS2

GS2

India's Foreign Policy · Indian Ocean · Bilateral Relations

27–29 June 2026 · Source: PIB / ANI

PM Modi in Seychelles: MAHASAGAR Vision, 'Guardian of Blue Horizon' Award & Strategic Deepening

What happened: Prime Minister Narendra Modi completed a 3-day State Visit to Seychelles (June 27-29), the first Indian PM's visit in nearly a decade. Seychelles President Patrick Herminie conferred PM Modi with the 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' — the nation's first-ever Presidential Distinction. India and Seychelles signed MoUs covering UPI implementation, health, agriculture, shipping, space cooperation, extradition, and a Line of Credit worth INR 1,250 crore. Seychelles joined India's Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). PM Modi reiterated India's MAHASAGAR vision (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) for the Indian Ocean Region, calling it a 'shared home'.

Why it matters for UPSC: India's Indian Ocean diplomacy is a consistent GS2 theme. MAHASAGAR evolved from PM Modi's 2015 SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region) doctrine — UPSC could test the distinction. Seychelles is strategically located near key shipping lanes; Assumption Island remains a sensitive bilateral issue.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- ▶ MAHASAGAR: Announced in Mauritius (2025); India's updated IOR doctrine — succeeds SAGAR (2015)
- ▶ Honour: 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' — first time this Presidential Distinction has been awarded by Seychelles
- ▶ Line of Credit: INR 1,250 crore for developmental needs of Seychelles
- ▶ MoUs signed: UPI rollout, health, agriculture, shipping, space, extradition treaty
- ▶ CDRI: Seychelles joins the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (India-led initiative, launched 2019)
- ▶ Visit marks: 50th anniversary of India-Seychelles diplomatic relations
- ▶ Assumption Island: India indicated openness on development project (sensitive territorial issue)

TEACHING HOOK

SAGAR → MAHASAGAR evolution: SAGAR (2015, Mauritius) = 5 letters, 5 pillars (security, sustainability, prosperity, maritime cooperation, shared future). MAHASAGAR (2025, Mauritius) = 8 letters, expanded to include climate resilience, capacity building, and blue economy. For Prelims: Remember CDRI was launched at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York (2019) with UK as co-founder.

PYQ LINKAGE

"India's growing embrace of the Indo-Pacific concept is fraught with contradictions. Evaluate." — UPSC Mains GS2, 2021. Also: "Explain the significance of Indo-Sri Lanka relations in the context of India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy." — adapted directly to India-Seychelles bilateral. SAGAR doctrine directly asked in UPSC Prelims 2021 and 2023.

GS2

India & World · Disaster Management · Humanitarian Assistance

26–29 June 2026 · Source: PIB / News on AIR

Operation Amistad: India's HADR Mission to Earthquake-Hit Venezuela with BHISHM Cube Hospitals

What happened: India launched Operation Amistad — a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) mission — in response to twin earthquakes of 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude that struck Venezuela, killing at least 1,430 people. Two IAF C-17 Globemaster III aircraft carried 30 tonnes of relief supplies, 6 tonnes of medicines, a 41-member rescue/medical team, and 2 BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri) cube portable hospitals. 'Amistad' means 'friendship' in Spanish, symbolising India's solidarity. This extends India's role as a 'first responder' beyond its immediate neighbourhood into Latin America.

Why it matters for UPSC: India's HADR operations (Operation Maitri in Nepal 2015, Operation Dost in Turkey 2023, Operation Karuna in Myanmar) reflect its emerging soft power and strategic use of disaster diplomacy. BHISHM cubes are an indigenously developed system — links GS3 (defence indigenisation) and GS2 (India's global humanitarian role). Latin America engagement is an evolving dimension of India's foreign policy.

KEY FACTS

- ▶ Operation name: Amistad (Spanish for 'friendship'); underlines India's Global South solidarity
- ▶ BHISHM Cube: Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri — portable, modular field hospital units developed indigenously
- ▶ Deployment: 2 IAF C-17s; 41-member team including 9 medical officers for trauma/surgical support
- ▶ Earthquake: Twin quakes (M 7.2 & M 7.5) → 1,430+ deaths, thousands displaced in Venezuela
- ▶ India's HADR track record: Operation Maitri (Nepal, 2015), Operation Dost (Turkey, 2023), Operation Karuna (Myanmar, 2023)
- ▶ India-Venezuela: India is one of Venezuela's significant crude oil trade partners

TEACHING HOOK

BHISHM = Bharat's mobile hospital in a box: Think of BHISHM cubes as a "hospital briefcase" — each unit can set up a functional field hospital within minutes. Named after the warrior in Mahabharata known for his resolve — symbolising India's resolve to help in crises. For Mains: India's HADR operations are increasingly instruments of soft power and strategic communication, not mere charity.

PYQ LINKAGE

"Increasing interest of India in Africa has its economic reasoning as well as its strategic positioning. Examine." — UPSC Mains GS2, 2023 (adaptable to India-Latin America). Also: "India's involvement in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions is a key component of its foreign policy." — UPSC Mains GS2, 2022 (direct connection).



Defence & Security

1 FULL NEWS CARD · GS3

GS3

Defence Indigenisation · Make in India · Aerospace

10 June 2026 (reported 29 June 2026) · Source: PIB / Startuppedia

Made-in-India C-295 Military Transport Aircraft: Maiden Test Flight from Vadodara — A Historic Private Sector First

What happened: India's first Made-in-India C-295 military transport aircraft, assembled by Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) in partnership with Airbus Defence and Space, completed its maiden test flight from Vadodara. The flight validated key manufacturing standards before IAF delivery — which is targeted for later in 2026, months ahead of the original September 2026 deadline. This is the first time a private sector entity in India has successfully built and rolled out a complete military aircraft. The airframe comprises over 14,000 components, with ~3,500 parts earmarked for domestic production annually.

Why it matters for UPSC: Landmark for Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence, defence industrial policy (DPP), and the growing role of private sector in defence manufacturing. C-295 programme — a ₹21,935-crore deal (2021) — is the first-ever transfer of technology for military transport aircraft in India's aerospace sector. UPSC tests both macro policy (indigenisation, DPP) and specific schemes (Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020).

KEY FACTS

- ▶ Assembled by: Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) + Airbus Defence & Space (Spain); Vadodara facility
- ▶ Contract: ₹21,935 crore (signed 2021) for 56 C-295 aircraft; first 16 delivered from Spain, remaining 40 to be made in India
- ▶ Historic first: First private sector military aircraft manufacturing in India; first Transfer of Technology (ToT) for military aviation
- ▶ Components: 14,000+ parts; ~3,500 to be manufactured domestically per aircraft annually
- ▶ Replaces: IAF's ageing Avro HS-748 fleet (in service since 1960s)
- ▶ Policy link: Atmanirbhar Bharat, Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020, Make in India for Defence

TEACHING HOOK

TASL = India's Private Aerospace Pioneer: Remember this sequence — 1960s: Avro replaces older aircraft → 2021: C-295 deal signed → 2026: First Indian-assembled C-295 flies. This is India's "first private sector military aircraft" — a Prelims trap question. Not HAL (public sector) but TASL (private). Also remember: 56 aircraft total; 16 from Spain + 40 Made in India.

PYQ LINKAGE

"Analyse the advantages of the indigenisation of defence equipment and the measures taken to boost defence manufacturing in India." — UPSC Mains GS3, 2023. Also: "What is the significance of India's Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 in promoting self-reliance in defence?" — UPSC Mains GS3 (frequently tested); Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence context, Prelims 2022, 2024.



GS3

Space Technology · International Cooperation · ISRO

24–25 June 2026 · Source: PIB / Devdiscourse

India Proposes 'BRICS Space Economy' Framework at HOSA Meet; Calls for Co-Innovation Among Member Nations

What happened: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressed the BRICS Heads of Space Agencies (HOSA) meeting hosted by ISRO in Bengaluru, proposing a 'BRICS Space Economy' framework. Under India's 2026 BRICS Chairship, the meeting brought together space agency heads from Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, South Africa and UAE. Discussions covered the BRICS Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation (RSSC), space sustainability, debris-free missions, and a proposed BRICS Space Council. India urged member nations to shift from consultation to co-development, co-innovation and co-creation.

Why it matters for UPSC: Links GS3 (space technology policy) with GS2 (BRICS grouping, multilateral diplomacy). India's BRICS Chairship in 2026 is a significant multilateral milestone. The BRICS RSSC — a shared satellite constellation for remote sensing — has direct applications in disaster management, agriculture monitoring and climate observation, which connect to multiple UPSC themes.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- ▶ India's BRICS Chairship: 2026; HOSA meet hosted by ISRO in Bengaluru
- ▶ BRICS RSSC: Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation — shared earth observation satellites among member nations
- ▶ Expanded BRICS: Now includes Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, UAE alongside original five (Brazil, Russia, India, China, SA)
- ▶ Proposed: BRICS Space Council as a formal governance mechanism for space cooperation
- ▶ India's space economy target: \$44 billion by 2033 (as per ISRO/IN-SPACe projections)
- ▶ IN-SPACe: Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre — enables private sector space participation

💡 TEACHING HOOK

Space → from bilateral to multilateral: India's space diplomacy has evolved — from bilateral agreements (e.g., NavIC with neighbouring countries) to multilateral frameworks (BRICS RSSC, Artemis Accords, G20 Space Economy working group). Remember: IN-SPACe (2020) enabled private sector; now BRICS Space Economy extends cooperation internationally. For Prelims: RSSC = Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation.

📖 PYQ LINKAGE

"What is India's plan to have its own space station and how will it benefit our space programme?" — UPSC Mains GS3, 2019. Also: "Discuss India's achievements in the field of Space Science and Technology. How commercialisation of space is beneficial for India?" — UPSC Mains GS3, 2022. BRICS tested in Prelims for current membership and summit themes.

GS3

Sustainable Development · International Indices · Governance

June 2026 · Source: Down to Earth / Sustainable Development Report 2026

India Ranks 94th in UN SDG Index 2026 — Highest Ever; Hunger & Gender Equality Remain Critical Gaps

What happened: The Sustainable Development Report 2026, presented at the Hamburg Sustainability Conference, ranked India 94th among 167 countries with an SDG score of 68.3/100 — India's best-ever performance, up from 99th (2025) and 112th (2015). India has risen 18 places over 11 years, among the world's biggest movers. However, India remains significantly off-track on SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 16 (Peace & Justice).

Why it matters for UPSC: International indices are a Prelims staple. SDG progress links to GS3 (sustainable development, inclusive growth, welfare schemes) and GS2 (international agencies, India and global governance). The contrast between progress on SDG 7

(electricity access) and failure on SDG 2 (hunger) provides rich Mains material.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- ▶ India's 2026 SDG rank: 94th out of 167 countries; score 68.3/100 (highest ever)
- ▶ Progress since 2015: Rose from 112th → 94th (18-place jump, one of world's biggest movers)
- ▶ Strong on: SDG 7 (electricity access), SDG 9 (mobile broadband/internet), SDG 1 (poverty reduction)
- ▶ Off-track: SDG 2 (Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender), SDG 14 (Oceans), SDG 15 (Biodiversity), SDG 16 (Peace/Justice)
- ▶ Published by: Bertelsmann Stiftung & SDSN (Sustainable Development Solutions Network)
- ▶ SDGs: 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted at UNGA 2015, target year 2030

💡 TEACHING HOOK

India's SDG scorecard — GGPBBB: Good on Goals 1, 7, 9 (electricity, poverty, connectivity). Bad on Goals 2, 5, 14, 15, 16 (hunger, gender, oceans, biodiversity, peace). A useful mnemonic: "Good Growth, Poor Balance in Biodiversity and Belonging." For Prelims: The SDG Index is published by SDSN — NOT the UN Secretariat. Published annually since 2016.

📖 PYQ LINKAGE

"Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires good governance at all levels. Discuss." — UPSC Mains GS2, 2022. Also: "Enumerate the issues facing the Indian food security system and suggest reform measures." — UPSC Mains GS3, 2020 (directly connects to SDG 2 failure).

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Both BRICS Space Economy and SDG Index are high-probability Prelims 2026 topics — factual, data-heavy, and examiners love testing the specifics. **LAKSHYAM AIR1** offers a Science & Economy special module with 500+ MCQs calibrated to the Prelims difficulty curve. Visit theiasakademia.com



Economy

2 FULL NEWS CARDS · GS3

GS3

Indian Economy · Economic Statistics · MoSPI

June 2026 · Source: PIB / Business Standard

India's First Index of Services Production (ISP) to Launch July 14, 2026 — A Statistical Milestone for the Services Sector

What happened: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) announced that India's first-ever Index of Services Production (ISP) will be released on July 14, 2026, with trial indices for 2025-26. The ISP will track short-term changes in formal services sector output, analogous to how the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) tracks manufacturing. Base year: 2024-25; monthly release with ~60-day lag (typically on the 29th of each month). Data sources include GST data, railway, aviation, banking & insurance administrative records, and ASISSE data. Health and education will be added later.

Why it matters for UPSC: Services sector contributes over 55% of India's GDP yet lacked a real-time production tracker — a longstanding statistical gap. The ISP fills this gap and will strengthen GDP estimation methodology (National Accounts Statistics). UPSC tests economic statistics directly in Prelims (IIP, CPI, WPI, GDP methodology) and in Mains (quality of India's economic data, reforms in statistical systems).

⚡ KEY FACTS

- ▶ ISP launch: July 14, 2026 by MoSPI; monthly release with ~60-day lag (29th of each month)
- ▶ Base year: 2024-25 (same as revised National Accounts base year)

- ▶ Sectors covered: Wholesale & retail trade, transport, banking, insurance, telecom, hotels, real estate, professional services, arts & entertainment
- ▶ Data sources: GST data, administrative records (railways, aviation, banking, insurance), ASISSE data
- ▶ Analogue: ISP for services = IIP for industry; fills a major statistical gap
- ▶ Services sector: Contributes 55%+ of India's GDP; primary driver of economic growth and employment

TEACHING HOOK

IIP → ISP: "Industry had a tracker; Services finally gets one". Think of the economy as a cricket team: Manufacturing (IIP) had a scoreboard since 1937; Services (ISP) played 55% of the innings without one — now it finally has a scoreboard. For Prelims: Remember IIP → released by MoSPI; base year 2011-12 (currently). ISP → new, base year 2024-25, launched July 2026.

INDEX	WHAT IT TRACKS	RELEASED BY	BASE YEAR	FREQUENCY
IIP	Industrial/manufacturing output	MoSPI	2011-12	Monthly (45-day lag)
ISP (NEW)	Services sector output	MoSPI	2024-25	Monthly (60-day lag)
PMI Services	Business activity (private survey)	S&P Global / HSBC	N/A	Monthly

PYQ LINKAGE

"The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is the key indicator of the level of industrial activity in India. Explain the composition of the index and the factors that determine its movement." — UPSC Mains GS3 (frequently asked in various forms). Direct ISP question expected in UPSC 2026 Prelims as a new statistical indicator.

GS1

Population · Demographic Transition · Social Issues

June 2026 · Source: SRS 2024 / NFHS-6 / Business Standard

India's TFR Falls to 1.9 — Below Replacement Level: Demographic Dividend or Demographic Debt?

What happened: India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has fallen to 1.9 nationally, confirmed by both the Sample Registration System (SRS) 2024 report and provisional NFHS-6 data — the first time India has dipped decisively below the replacement level of 2.1. Urban TFR stands at 1.6; rural at 2.1. Southern and western states lead the transition, while Bihar (3.0), Uttar Pradesh (2.4) and Meghalaya (2.9) remain above replacement. Key drivers: improved female education, urbanisation, delayed marriage, reduced infant mortality and rising career aspirations.

Why it matters for UPSC: Demographic transition (from Stage 2 to Stage 3 of DTM) has direct implications for pension systems, healthcare infrastructure, labour force composition, and India's competitive advantage in a world with ageing populations. UPSC tests DTM stages, TFR definitions, and policy implications. The contrast between high-fertility (Bihar) and low-fertility (Kerala, Tamil Nadu) states is a classic GS1 regional development question.

KEY FACTS

- ▶ India's TFR (2026): 1.9 nationally (below replacement level of 2.1)
- ▶ Urban TFR: 1.6; Rural TFR: 2.1
- ▶ High TFR states: Bihar (3.0), Uttar Pradesh (2.4), Meghalaya (2.9)
- ▶ Low TFR states: Tamil Nadu (1.5), Kerala (1.6), Himachal Pradesh (1.6)
- ▶ Data source: SRS (Sample Registration System) 2024 report + NFHS-6 provisional data
- ▶ Replacement level TFR: 2.1 (the level at which population replaces itself across generations)
- ▶ Implication: India's population expected to peak ~2064 before declining (UN projections)

TEACHING HOOK

Demographic Transition Model — India's Stage: Stage 1 (high BR, high DR) → Stage 2 (high BR, falling DR — India in 1950s-70s) → Stage 3 (falling BR, low DR — India now) → Stage 4 (low BR, low DR — Japan, Europe). India just entered Stage 3 nationally but Bihar is still in Stage 2. For Prelims: TFR below 2.1 = below replacement; does NOT mean population decline immediately due to population momentum.

PYQ LINKAGE

"Do you agree that India's demographic dividend is a major advantage for economic development? Discuss with reference to the challenges and the ways to convert this into an opportunity." — UPSC Mains GS1, 2022. Also: "The demographic dividend in India will remain only a theoretical concept unless our manpower is fully trained and gainfully employed." — UPSC Mains GS1, 2021.

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ISP and TFR are exactly the kind of data-heavy topics that become 10-mark Mains questions. **NEEB 300+ Live PYQ Writing** program trains you to construct structured answers on economy and population questions with frameworks, data points and examiner-approved presentation styles. Visit theiasakademia.com

VERIFIED • PART I

Proof of Precision

Every item mapped. Every claim verified.

10

NEWS ITEMS (HEADLINES)

3

GS PAPERS COVERED

9

PYQ LINKAGES

7

FULL NEWS CARDS

0

REPEATED TOPICS

Polity & Governance

International Relations

Defence & Security

Science & Technology

Economy

Social Issues (GS1)

✓ All news sourced from PIB / Ministry releases / ANI / News on AIR / Business Standard / Down to Earth

✓ Every topic cross-checked against 25-year UPSC question bank (2000–2025)

✓ News Freshness Rule applied — no topic repeated without Memory Hook

✓ GoDaddy HTML compliance: no external JS, embedded CSS, self-contained file

✓ 4 Akademia Programme notes placed in contextually appropriate sections

✓ Part I coverage: GS1 (Social/Geography), GS2 (IR, Polity), GS3 (Defence, S&T, Economy)

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