

PART I · HEADLINES TO ECONOMY

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1. **India GDP 7.7% in FY 2025-26** — MoSPI confirms India remains fastest-growing major economy; consumption and investment-led rebound.
2. **Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary becomes India's 100th Ramsar site** — Surha Tal, Ballia, Uttar Pradesh; PM lauds milestone.
3. **West Bengal Assembly joins NeVA as 33rd legislature** — National e-Vidhan Application digital governance expansion.
4. **Russia's Putin pitches Su-57 at SPIEF 2026** — Offers co-production of 36 stealth fighters; full technology transfer including AESA radar and engines.
5. **India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue** — "Never more strategically aligned"; SAR exercise announced for Chennai; maritime IOR cooperation deepened.
6. **Venezuela becomes India's 3rd largest oil supplier (May 2026)** — Shift from Russia-dominant sourcing amid US pressure on Russian crude.
7. **Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0 wins National e-Governance Award** — World's first framework assessing 2.55 lakh gram panchayats on 150 parameters.
8. **India-Indonesia ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership 2026–2030 activated** — Cooperation across political, economic, defence, and cultural domains.
9. **Vineet McCarty assumes charge as 20th C-in-C of Andaman & Nicobar Command** — India's only tri-service joint theatre command.
10. **India-Philippines business interaction (June 4)** — Trade, investment, and market opportunities discussed; India eyes SE Asian manufacturing footprint.

Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 — National e-Governance Award

GS2 · PANCHAYATI RAJ · LOCAL GOVERNANCE · E-GOVERNANCE

WHY IN NEWS

PAI 2.0 won the National e-Governance Award 2026, recognising it as the world's first nationwide framework to objectively measure the progress of all Gram Panchayats in India using verifiable data.

BACKGROUND

PAI was conceived under the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to implement the 73rd Constitutional Amendment's mandate for "economic development and social justice" at the grassroots. PAI 2.0 expanded on the first edition by adding nine thematic areas and increasing verifiability of data.

PRELIMS FACTS

- 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayats assessed across India.
- 150+ parameters across 9 thematic areas (health, water, sanitation, infrastructure, etc.).
- 33 States/UTs participated; West Bengal, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Goa, Puducherry excluded pending validation.
- 73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992) added 11th Schedule — 29 subjects devolved to panchayats.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- PAI enables evidence-based fund allocation — linking performance to resource transfer under Finance Commission grants.
- Exclusion of states like West Bengal raises questions about cooperative federalism and uniform data governance.
- Technology as a tool for accountability in decentralised governance (SDG 16 — Peace, Justice, Strong Institutions).

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS2 — Panchayati Raj

GS2 — e-Governance

GS2 — Federal Relations

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2023: Significance of 73rd Amendment in decentralised governance; GS2 2019: Gram Sabha as foundation of panchayati raj.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Which of the following statements about Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 is correct?

1. (a) It is published by the Ministry of Rural Development.
2. (b) It assesses Gram Panchayats on more than 150 parameters across 9 thematic areas.
3. (c) All 36 States and UTs participated in PAI 2.0.
4. (d) PAI focuses only on financial management of panchayats.

Answer: (b)

PAI 2.0 is under the Ministry of Panchayati Raj; 33 States/UTs participated (not all 36); it covers 9 thematic areas including health, water, and infrastructure.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

"The Panchayat Advancement Index represents a paradigm shift from input-based to outcome-based governance at the grassroots." Critically examine. (250 words, GS2)

GS2

PYQ 2023

73rd Amendment

Gram Panchayat

e-Governance Award

Decentralisation

Akademia Hook: PAI 2.0 is the answer to the perennial Mains question on "performance-linked devolution." Link it to Finance Commission grants + SDG 16 + 73rd Amendment — three linkages in one story.

NeVA — West Bengal Joins as 33rd Legislature

GS2 · PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM · DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

WHY IN NEWS

The West Bengal Legislative Assembly became the 33rd State Legislature to join the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA), advancing India's paperless Parliament and legislature initiative under "One Nation One Application."

BACKGROUND

NeVA is a Mission Mode Project under the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, launched in 2018, to digitise the functioning of all State Legislatures. It covers tabling of bills, questions, notices, and committee proceedings digitally.

PRELIMS FACTS

- NeVA = National e-Vidhan Application; Mission Mode Project since 2018.
- Aim: Paperless legislature through "One Nation One Application" framework.
- 33rd State Legislature to join — coverage now extends to most Indian states.

- Funded under Digital India Mission; Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is nodal ministry.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Digital transformation of legislatures strengthens transparency and citizen access to parliamentary proceedings.
- NeVA aligns with India's broader Digital India vision and supports SDG 16 on accountable institutions.
- Challenges include digital literacy of legislators and cybersecurity of sensitive parliamentary data.

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS2 — Parliamentary System

GS2 — e-Governance

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2021: Digital initiatives in governance; GS2 2018: Role of technology in legislature functioning.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) is associated with which ministry?

1. (a) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
2. (b) Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
3. (c) Ministry of Home Affairs
4. (d) Ministry of Law and Justice

Answer: (b)

NeVA is a Mission Mode Project under the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for digitising all State Legislatures under "One Nation One Application."

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

"Digital legislatures are not just about technology — they are about accountability." Examine NeVA's role in transforming India's legislative governance. (150 words, GS2)

GS2

NeVA

Digital India

Parliamentary Affairs

e-Legislature

Akademia Hook: NeVA is a sleeper Prelims topic — remember "One Nation One Application" and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. Examiners have asked about digital governance mission mode projects repeatedly since 2019.

Russia's Putin Pitches Su-57 to India at SPIEF 2026

GS2 · INDIA-RUSSIA RELATIONS · GS3 · DEFENCE MANUFACTURING

WHY IN NEWS

Russian President Putin offered India co-production of 36 Su-57 stealth fighters (5th-generation) at the St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) 2026, with full technology transfer including AESA radar, engines, and source code — India's most advanced potential fighter acquisition.

BACKGROUND

India is bridging a fighter-jet gap: AMCA (Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft) won't enter service before 2035, creating an urgent need. India previously flew the Su-30MKI (250 aircraft) and has explored Rafale and F/A-18 options. Su-57E (export variant) would be the first 5th-gen jet in IAF inventory.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Su-57 is Russia's only operational 5th-generation stealth multi-role fighter jet.
- Offer: 36 aircraft (2 squadrons), full technology transfer, co-production in India.
- SPIEF (St Petersburg International Economic Forum) — Russia's premier annual economic summit.
- AMCA (India's indigenous 5th-gen aircraft) timeline: earliest IOC by 2035–36.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Su-57 deal would deepen India's strategic dependence on Russia — tension with India's "strategic autonomy" doctrine.
- Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence: accepting full ToT could accelerate AMCA learning vs. delaying domestic R&D incentive.
- Geopolitical calculus: US may view Su-57 procurement as violation of CAATSA spirit — diplomatic tightrope for India.

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS2 — India-Russia Relations

GS3 — Defence Indigenisation

GS2 — Foreign Policy

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2022: India-Russia relations in changing global order; GS3 2023: Defence indigenisation and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Which of the following best describes the Su-57 aircraft?

1. (a) Russia's 4th-generation carrier-based fighter
2. (b) Russia's 5th-generation stealth multi-role fighter jet
3. (c) A hypersonic cruise missile system
4. (d) India's indigenous medium combat aircraft

Answer: (b)

Su-57 is Russia's first and only operational 5th-generation stealth fighter, comparable to the US F-22 Raptor and F-35.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

"India's potential Su-57 acquisition from Russia reflects strategic necessity over strategic preference." Analyse in the context of India's defence modernisation and foreign policy. (250 words, GS2/GS3)

GS2

GS3

PYQ 2022

Su-57

SPIEF 2026

India-Russia

AMCA

CAATSA

Akademia Hook: The Su-57 story is a multi-dimensional UPSC question — link CAATSA (GS2 IR), Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence (GS3), and India's strategic autonomy doctrine (GS2 Foreign Policy) together for a 20-mark Mains answer.

India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue 2026

GS2 · INDIA-AUSTRALIA RELATIONS · INDIAN OCEAN · QUAD

WHY IN NEWS

India and Australia held their second Defence Ministers' Dialogue, with Australian DPM Richard Marles declaring bilateral ties are "at their most strategically aligned" — announcing a joint SAR (Search and Rescue) exercise at Chennai's Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre and technology co-operation in sensor systems.

BACKGROUND

India-Australia elevated ties to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2020. Both are QUAD members and share Indian Ocean strategic interests. AUSINDEX (bilateral maritime exercise) and AUSTRALIND (army exercise) are established platforms. Australia is India's 17th largest trade partner.

PRELIMS FACTS

- 2nd India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue; Rajnath Singh participated from India.

- SAR tabletop exercise to be held at MRCC Chennai — Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre.
- India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: June 2020.
- Both QUAD members; AUSINDEX (naval), AUSTRAHIND (army), AIR-AUSTRAHIND (air) are joint exercises.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- India-Australia convergence on IOR security aligns with India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine.
- Maritime SAR cooperation signals shift from "exercises" to operationally meaningful collaboration.
- Sensor technology cooperation could aid India's ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance) capability in the IOR.

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS2 — Bilateral Relations

GS2 — Indian Ocean

GS3 — Maritime Security

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2021: India-Australia relations; GS2 2023: QUAD and Indo-Pacific security architecture.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Consider the following about India-Australia defence exercises. Which pair is correctly matched?

1. (a) AUSINDEX — Army exercise
2. (b) AUSTRAHIND — Naval exercise
3. (c) AUSINDEX — Naval exercise
4. (d) AIR-AUSTRAHIND — Army exercise

Answer: (c)

AUSINDEX is the bilateral naval exercise; AUSTRAHIND is the army exercise; AIR-AUSTRAHIND is the air force exercise between India and Australia.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

"Australia has emerged as India's most consequential partner in the Indo-Pacific." Critically analyse this statement in light of recent developments. (250 words, GS2)

GS2

GS3

PYQ 2023

QUAD

IOR

SAGAR

AUSINDEX

Maritime Security

Akademia Hook: Examiner's favourite — "India + QUAD member + IOR + Maritime SAR" is a 4-keyword combo that appeared in Prelims 2022 and Mains 2023. India-Australia is the new India-Japan for UPSC question setters.

Andaman & Nicobar Command: Vineet McCarty as 20th Commander-in-Chief

GS3 · DEFENCE · JOINT THEATRE COMMAND · MARITIME SECURITY

WHY IN NEWS

Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty assumed charge as the 20th Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) on June 1, 2026, bringing tri-service leadership experience — significant as India accelerates its jointness and theatre command reform.

BACKGROUND

ANC, established in 2001, is India's only integrated theatre command under a single commander with authority over Army, Navy, and Air Force units — and is often viewed as the template for India's planned seven theatre commands.

PRELIMS FACTS

- ANC established in 2001 — India's only joint tri-service command.
- Headquartered at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- Strategic significance: overlooks Malacca Strait (40% of global trade) and Six Degree Channel.
- India plans 5–7 Theatre Commands: Air Defence, Maritime, Land-Western, Land-Eastern, Logistics.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- ANC demonstrates joint-ness can work — experience from ANC will inform design of future Theatre Commands.
- Geographic advantage: ANC's location enables surveillance over Malacca Strait — critical for India's Act East Policy.
- Theatre Command reform faces institutional resistance from individual service HQs — civil-military coordination challenge.

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS3 — Internal Security

GS3 — Defence Reforms

GS2 — Act East Policy

PYQ LINKAGE

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Which of the following statements about the Andaman and Nicobar Command is correct?

1. (a) It was established in 2005 under the Navy.
2. (b) It is India's only integrated tri-service theatre command.
3. (c) Its primary function is disaster relief only.
4. (d) It overlooks the Lombok Strait.

Answer: (b)

ANC (est. 2001) is India's only operational joint/integrated theatre command with Army, Navy, and Air Force units under a single C-in-C; it overlooks the Malacca Strait, not Lombok.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

"The Andaman and Nicobar Command is India's proof of concept for theatre-level jointness."

Examine its strategic significance and lessons for theatre command reform. (250 words, GS3)

GS3

PYQ 2022

ANC

Theatre Command

Malacca Strait

Act East

Jointness

Akademia Hook: Every time a new ANC chief is appointed, examiners revisit the ANC-Theatre Command link. Know this: ANC = est. 2001 + tri-service + Malacca Strait + template for future commands. That's a Prelims MCQ and a 10-mark Mains question combined.

WHY IN NEWS

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched "Navachar Mantra" on June 3, 2026 — a national entrepreneurship initiative offering mentorship, investor access, and business support for grassroots innovators in Agritech, HealthTech, and EdTech.

BACKGROUND

India is the world's 3rd largest startup ecosystem (110,000+ startups). Navachar Mantra complements existing schemes (Startup India, PMKVY) by focusing on the pre-seed to seed stage for non-metro innovators, who typically lack access to formal venture capital networks.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Launched by: Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (June 3, 2026).
- Target sectors: Agritech, HealthTech, EdTech — Bharat-focused innovation.
- Features: mentorship network, investor connect, business incubation support.
- India: 3rd largest global startup ecosystem; 110,000+ DPIIT-recognised startups as of 2026.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Navachar Mantra bridges the urban-rural innovation divide — critical for achieving inclusive economic growth (GS3).
- Agritech + HealthTech focus directly addresses rural India's two biggest sectoral gaps.
- Complementarity with PM Mudra Yojana and Startup India creates a "support ladder" from grassroots to scale-up.

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS3 — Science & Technology

GS3 — Economy — Startups

GS2 — Government Schemes

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2022: Startup ecosystem and innovation; GS3 2020: Role of technology in rural development.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

"Navachar Mantra," launched in 2026, is an initiative of which ministry?

1. (a) Ministry of Science and Technology
2. (b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
3. (c) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
4. (d) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Answer: (c)

Navachar Mantra was launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to support grassroots innovators in Agritech, HealthTech, and EdTech.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

"Grassroots entrepreneurship, not metro-led startups, holds the key to inclusive innovation in India." Examine in light of Navachar Mantra. (150 words, GS3)

GS3

PYQ 2022

Navachar Mantra

Skill Development

Agritech

Startup India

Innovation

Akademia Hook: Name + Ministry + Target sectors = the Prelims MCQ formula. "Navachar Mantra = Ministry of Skill Development + Agritech/HealthTech/EdTech" — memorise this triplet and you own this question.

§ 06

Economy

India GDP 7.7% in FY 2025-26 — MoSPI Data

GS3 · INDIAN ECONOMY · GROWTH · MACROECONOMICS

WHY IN NEWS

MoSPI (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation) confirmed India's GDP grew at 7.7% in FY 2025-26, reinforcing India's position as the fastest-growing major economy, driven by consumption recovery and capital investment.

BACKGROUND

India's GDP trajectory: FY24 = 8.2%, FY25 = 6.8% (slowdown), FY26 = 7.7% (rebound). IMF had projected 6.5% for FY26; outperformance driven by rural consumption, infrastructure capex, and robust services exports.

PRELIMS FACTS

- GDP growth FY 2025-26: 7.7% (MoSPI provisional estimates).
- India is now the 5th largest economy globally; projected 3rd by 2030.
- MoSPI publishes GDP data using 2011-12 as base year (National Accounts Statistics).
- Venezuela became India's 3rd largest oil supplier (May 2026) — energy import dynamics shifting.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- 7.7% growth amid global headwinds (US tariffs, West Asia tensions) reflects resilience of India's domestic-consumption-led model.
- Fiscal consolidation challenge: sustaining capex while achieving fiscal deficit target of 4.5% of GDP.
- Oil import diversification (Venezuela as 3rd supplier) reduces overexposure to Russia — strategic energy policy shift.

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS3 — Indian Economy

GS3 — Macroeconomics

GS3 — Energy Security

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2023: GDP measurement methodology; GS3 2022: Drivers of India's economic growth.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Which ministry releases India's official GDP data through National Accounts Statistics?

1. (a) Ministry of Finance
2. (b) RBI
3. (c) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
4. (d) NITI Aayog

Answer: (c)

MoSPI (National Statistical Office) releases GDP estimates; the base year currently used is 2011-12 under the National Accounts Statistics framework.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

"India's 7.7% GDP growth in FY26 is impressive but not transformative unless it translates into jobs and income for the bottom 40%." Critically examine. (250 words, GS3)

GS3

PYQ 2023

GDP

MoSPI

7.7%

FY2026

Venezuela Oil

Energy Security

Akademia Hook: GDP + MoSPI + base year (2011-12) is a recurring Prelims combo. Pair it with the Venezuela oil story for a two-fact, one-question double hit that has appeared in both Prelims and Essay Paper.

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