

MORNING EDITION • 08:00 IST

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FRIDAY, 26 JUNE 2026 | THEIASAKADEMIA.COM

PART I • HEADLINES TO ECONOMY



HEADLINES — 10 KEY ITEMS FOR UPSC

- 1 India's June 2026 monsoon deficit crosses 40%; IMD reports ~75% of country experiencing severe rainfall deficiency of 20%+ due to El Niño emergence and unfavourable MJO phase. **GS1**
- 2 MEA clarifies on 14th Passport Seva Divas: Indian passport is a travel document, NOT standalone proof of citizenship — definitive proof is under Citizenship Act, 1955. **GS2**
- 3 Rajasthan forms 5-member UCC Committee under ret'd. SC Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai to draft Rajasthan Uniform Civil Code (RUCC) under Article 44. **GS2**
- 4 India proposes BRICS Space Economy framework at HOSA Meeting in Bengaluru; as BRICS Chair 2026, India pushes for BRICS Space Council and Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation. **GS2**
- 5 India officially resumes border trade with China via Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand) after 6-year COVID-era suspension; trade route also disputed by Nepal citing Sugauli Treaty 1816. **GS2**
- 6 India-UK conclude 15th Executive Steering Group (ESG) Defence meeting in London (June 17–19, 2026); forward-looking roadmap signed to deepen interoperability and missile cooperation. **GS2**
- 7 RBI June 2026 MPC: Repo rate held at 5.25% (neutral stance); inflation forecast raised to 5.1% for FY27, GDP growth cut to 6.6% citing West Asia conflict and supply chain disruptions. **GS3**
- 8 MoSPI to launch Index of Services Production (ISP) in July 2026 — India's first short-term services sector indicator, complementing the IIP; base year 2024–25, monthly release on 29th of each month. **GS3**
- 9 India's Semiconductor Mission 2.0 operationalised under Budget 2026–27 with ₹1,000 crore outlay; focus on industry-led research, training centres, and domestic chip design ecosystem. **GS3**
- 10 India's TFR falls to 1.9 (SRS data); Delhi at 1.2, Kerala-TN-WB at 1.3 vs Bihar at 2.9 — demographic divide signals ageing South vs youth-surplus North requiring targeted social security reform. **GS1**



POLITY & GOVERNANCE

GS2

Polity • Citizenship • Governance

26 June 2026 • Source: MEA / NDTV

Indian Passport Is NOT Proof of Citizenship — MEA Clarifies on 14th Passport Seva Divas

What happened: On the occasion of the 14th Passport Seva Divas, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) issued a formal clarification that an Indian passport is a legal travel document and not a standalone certificate of citizenship. The MEA emphasised that definitive proof of Indian citizenship is governed under the Citizenship Act, 1955 — through birth certificates, NRC inclusion, or certificates of naturalization issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Simultaneously, India has issued over 14.7 million chip-enabled e-passports with RFID biometric technology, and Indian passport holders now access 27 visa-free, 47 visa-on-arrival, and 66 e-visa countries.

Why it matters for UPSC: This distinction is critical for Prelims and Mains: Part II of the Constitution deals with citizenship, but the Citizenship Act, 1955 operationalises it. The passport-citizenship distinction is particularly relevant in the context of NRC, CAA, and debates on documentary proof requirements. UPSC regularly tests the intersection of fundamental rights (Articles 5–11), statutory law, and executive powers.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Passport issued under: Passports Act, 1967 — primary purpose is international travel and consular protection, not citizenship certification.
- Definitive citizenship proofs under Citizenship Act 1955: birth certificate (Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969), NRC inclusion, Naturalization certificate from MHA.
- 14.7 million+ e-passports issued; chip-enabled RFID biometric passports reduce forgery risk and allow automated border clearances.
- Indian passport global mobility: 27 visa-free | 47 visa-on-arrival | 66 e-visa countries (up from 16 visa-free in 2019).
- 14th Passport Seva Divas marks the anniversary of the Passport Seva Kendras (PSK) initiative, now managed through BLS International and India Post.

💡 TEACHING HOOK

Mnemonic — "The Passport Opens Doors, the Certificate Confirms Roots" A passport is a door-key (international mobility), while citizenship is about roots (legal belonging). Think: you can travel on a passport but you cannot claim citizenship rights (like voting, holding public office) based on it alone. UPSC loves testing: "Which document definitively proves Indian citizenship?" — Answer: Certificate under Citizenship Act, NOT passport. Contrast: OCI card-holders get e-passports but NOT citizenship — a classic tricky Prelims combo.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

"Consider the following statements regarding Indian citizenship: (1) A person born in India on or after 26 January 1950 but before 1 July 1987 is a citizen by birth irrespective of the nationality of parents. (2) A person who is a citizen of another country cannot hold Indian citizenship. Which of these is/are correct?" — UPSC Prelims GS1, 2018. Also: "Discuss the salient features of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019. Does it violate Article 14 of the Constitution?" — UPSC Mains GS2, 2019.

Rajasthan Forms 5-Member UCC Committee — Third State After Uttarakhand and Gujarat to Move Towards Uniform Civil Code

What happened: The Rajasthan government constituted a five-member high-level committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai to prepare a draft Uniform Civil Code (RUCC) for the state under Article 44 of the Constitution (Directive Principles of State Policy). Earlier in 2026, Gujarat became the second state after Uttarakhand (January 2025) to adopt a UCC, and the Supreme Court (in March 2026) remarked that "the time has come to consider implementing UCC in the country." Rajasthan's committee follows this momentum.

Why it matters for UPSC: UCC remains one of the most debated constitutional-political topics bridging GS2 (Polity, DPSP, Federalism, Personal Laws) and GS1 (Society, secularism). UPSC has asked UCC-related questions across Prelims and Mains. The current state-led momentum changes the federal dynamic — states can enact family laws under Entry 5 of Concurrent List, raising questions of uniformity vs. constitutional federalism.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Article 44 (DPSP): "The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India." — Non-justiciable, but directive for legislation.
- States with UCC progress: Uttarakhand (enacted January 2025, first state), Gujarat (enacted 2026), Rajasthan (draft committee formed 2026).
- UCC covers: Marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, maintenance — currently governed by religion-specific personal laws (Hindu Marriage Act 1955, Muslim Personal Law, etc.).
- SC March 2026 bench (CJI Surya Kant): "Parliament should decide" — signalling judicial nudge without direct intervention.
- Committee Chair: Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai — also chaired the Delimitation Commission of India (2020) for J&K.

💡 TEACHING HOOK

The "Traffic Signal" Analogy for UCC debate: DPSP is a "yellow light" — it guides direction but is not enforceable. Fundamental Rights are "red lights" — they cannot be overridden. Personal Law reform must navigate between: Article 25 (freedom of religion), Article 14 (equality before law), and Article 44 (uniform civil code as goal). The three-state momentum (Uttarakhand → Gujarat → Rajasthan) signals a "green light" from states while Parliament debates national application. UPSC Mains often asks: "Is UCC compatible with constitutional secularism?" — Yes, if framed as gender justice, not religious uniformity.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

"Discuss the desirability of enacting a Uniform Civil Code in India. Examine its relationship with the right to freedom of religion guaranteed under Article 25 of the Constitution." — UPSC Mains GS2, 2020. Also: "What are Directive Principles of State Policy? How do they differ from Fundamental Rights? Examine the UCC in light of DPSP and cultural rights." — UPSC Mains GS2, 2015.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

India Proposes BRICS Space Economy Framework — Chairs HOSA Meeting in Bengaluru as BRICS Presidency 2026

What happened: As BRICS Chair for 2026, India hosted the BRICS Heads of Space Agencies (HOSA) Meeting in Bengaluru. India formally proposed a "BRICS Space Economy" framework to deepen cooperation in satellite applications, space technology, commercial ventures, and space sustainability among BRICS member nations. India pushed for a formal BRICS Space Council (as an institutional coordination mechanism) and strengthening of the BRICS Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation (RSSC) for shared disaster management, agricultural monitoring, and environmental protection applications.

Why it matters for UPSC: BRICS evolving from a trade bloc to a technology/space grouping is a significant IR shift. India's 2026 BRICS Presidency agenda (combining space, AI, and semiconductor diplomacy) reflects the "Indo-Pacific + Multipolar" strategic framing. GS2 Mains often asks about India's multilateral diplomacy. GS3 covers space technology indigenisation. The RSSC connects to India's remote sensing (Cartosat, RISAT) capabilities and civilian space applications.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- BRICS 2026 Presidency: India — theme focuses on inclusive multilateralism, space economy, and technology cooperation.
- BRICS Space Economy proposal: Covers satellite data sharing, NewSpace private sector collaboration, space debris management, and a BRICS Space Council as institutional mechanism.
- BRICS RSSC (Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation): A shared Earth observation framework using member nations' satellites for disaster risk reduction and agriculture.
- BRICS current members (post-2024 expansion): Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa + UAE, Ethiopia, Egypt, Iran (BRICS+).
- India's space economy: Projected to grow to \$44 billion by 2033 (IN-SPACE estimate); currently ~\$8.4 billion (2023).

💡 TEACHING HOOK

Frame BRICS Space Economy as India's "Soft Power Stack": Military power (hard) → Economic power (material) → Space/Technology leadership (smart/soft). India using BRICS Presidency to push space cooperation = projecting technological credibility in Global South. Remember: BRICS RSSC + BRICS Space Council = India's attempt to be the "Space Secretary" of the Global South. PYQ direction: "How has India's BRICS engagement evolved from economic cooperation to technology diplomacy?" — This story answers it directly.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

"The BRICS grouping is slowly becoming a global counter-narrative to Western-dominated multilateral institutions. Examine India's strategic interests within BRICS." — UPSC Mains GS2, 2022. Also: "India's space programme has transformed from a public service orientation to a commercial and strategic enterprise. Discuss." — UPSC Mains GS3, 2021.

GS2

International Relations · India-China-Nepal · Borders

25–26 June 2026 · Source: Deccan Herald / PIB

India Resumes Border Trade via Lipulekh Pass After 6-Year Suspension — China-India Thaw Continues, Nepal Dispute Remains

What happened: India officially resumed cross-border trade with China through the Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district after a six-year suspension that began during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The Lipulekh Pass (elevation: ~5,200m) is India's primary overland route to Tibet for trade and Kailash Mansarovar Yatra pilgrims. The resumption reflects the ongoing 2025–26 China-India diplomatic thaw, even as the Sino-Indian border LAC patrolling norms continue to be normalised following the Galwan disengagement. Nepal has objected, maintaining the pass falls within Nepalese territory (disputed since the Sugauli Treaty of 1816).

Why it matters for UPSC: Lipulekh is a perennial UPSC geography and IR topic. It involves three countries (India-China-Nepal), a colonial treaty (Sugauli, 1816), territorial trijunction disputes, high-altitude trade routes, and the Kali River origin controversy. This development also connects to India-China normalisation post-Galwan (2020) and India-Nepal boundary tensions. UPSC GS1 (geography), GS2 (IR), and Mains Essay potential.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- **Lipulekh Pass:** Located in Vyas Valley, Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand. Elevation: ~5,200m. Connects India with Purang (Taklakot), Tibet, China.
- **Trijunction dispute:** India (Lipulekh is Indian), Nepal (claims up to Limpiyadhura), China (Tibet administrative boundary).
- **Sugauli Treaty (1816):** Signed between British India and Nepal post-Anglo-Nepal War — designated Kali River as Nepal's western boundary. Dispute: where does Kali River originate? India says Kalapani, Nepal says Limpiyadhura.
- **2020 escalation:** India built Dharchula–Lipulekh road (80 km); Nepal published revised constitutional map including Lipulekh, Kalapani, Limpiyadhura as Nepalese territory.
- **Uses:** Kailash Mansarovar Yatra route, India-China cross-border trade (wool, commodities), strategic logistical significance for Uttarakhand.

TEACHING HOOK

The "Three-Way Tug-of-War" memory device: Draw a triangle: India at bottom-left (Kalapani), Nepal at bottom-right (Limpiyadhura), China/Tibet at top (Purang). Lipulekh sits at the apex — all three claim it or use it. The Kali River is the key — "Kali starts a Controversy": India says Kali begins at Kalapani → Lipulekh is Indian. Nepal says Kali begins at Limpiyadhura → both Kalapani and Lipulekh are Nepalese. UPSC Prelims: "Which of the following passes is located at the trijunction of India, Nepal, and China?" — Lipulekh.

PYQ LINKAGE

"Discuss the significance of the Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiyadhura dispute in the context of India-Nepal relations. What are the historical roots and current diplomatic implications?" — UPSC Mains GS2, 2020. Also: "Identify and briefly explain the important mountain passes of the Himalayas and their strategic significance." — UPSC Mains GS1, 2016.

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India's BRICS Presidency agenda, the Lipulekh resumption, and the China-India diplomatic thaw are all central themes for **ANTIM 2027** — the flagship IR-intensive programme at theiasakademia.com that builds systematic understanding of India's neighbourhood, multilateral groupings, and strategic doctrine.



DEFENCE & SECURITY

GS2

Defence · India-UK Relations · Security Cooperation

19 June 2026 · Source: Ministry of Defence / PIB

India-UK Conclude 15th Executive Steering Group (ESG) Defence Meeting in London — Deeper Interoperability and Missile Technology Cooperation Roadmap Signed

What happened: India and the United Kingdom concluded the 15th Executive Steering Group (ESG) meeting in London (June 17–19, 2026), producing a forward-looking roadmap to deepen defence cooperation. The programme included visits to the UK Trials and Experimental Group (defence technology testing), Ministry of Defence discussions, and MBDA facilities in Stevenage (one of Europe's leading missile systems manufacturers). India-UK are exploring joint development and co-production opportunities in advanced missile systems, UAVs, and maritime patrol technology. This builds on the 10-year India-US Defence Framework Agreement signed in October 2025.

Why it matters for UPSC: India-UK defence ties are a growing GS2 IR topic, often linked to India's "multi-alignment" strategy — diversifying defence partnerships beyond Russia. UPSC GS3 links to defence indigenisation (Make in India, iDEX) and DPP (Defence Procurement Policy). The MBDA connection raises questions about MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime) and how India navigates technology transfer in missile systems. GS4 ethics angle: arms exports and accountability.

KEY FACTS

- Executive Steering Group (ESG): India-UK bilateral mechanism under the 2030 Roadmap for India-UK Future Relations (signed May 2021 at PM Modi-Boris Johnson summit).
- MBDA: European missile systems manufacturer (consortium: France, Germany, Italy, Spain, UK) — produces Meteor, Brimstone, Aster, SCALP missiles. India-MBDA cooperation relevant for IAF and Indian Navy.
- India-UK 10-year Defence Framework (Oct 2025): Covers co-development, co-production, technology transfers, and deeper security cooperation.
- India's defence export target: ₹50,000 crore by 2028–29 (from ₹21,083 crore in FY2023–24, a 10x increase from FY2016–17).
- India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations ongoing; defence cooperation is a strategic sweetener in bilateral relations.

💡 TEACHING HOOK

India's Defence Partnership "QUAD + UK + France" = Complete Western Tier: India has structured its Western defence partnerships in layers — US (10-year Framework, 2025), UK (ESG, JSF platform exploration), France (Rafale, Scorpène submarines, SFTD treaty), Israel (Barak, Spike, Heron). Think of it as a "defence portfolio" — UPSC Mains asks: "How does India balance defence partnerships with Russia while deepening ties with Western nations?" — The ESG and simultaneous Russian S-400 maintenance discussions illustrate this balance perfectly. India's multi-alignment = strategic autonomy via arms diversification.

📖 PYQ LINKAGE

"India's defence ties with western powers have undergone a qualitative transformation in the past decade. How does this reflect India's evolving foreign policy priorities?" — UPSC Mains GS2, 2023. Also: "What is iDEX? Discuss its significance for India's indigenous defence manufacturing ecosystem." — UPSC Mains GS3, 2022.

GS3

Defence · Science & Technology · Nuclear Deterrence

Recent 2026 · Source: DRDO / Ministry of Defence

DRDO's Mission Divyastra — India Successfully Tests Agni-5 with MIRV Technology, Joining an Exclusive Club of Nations

What happened: DRDO successfully conducted Mission Divyastra — India's first-ever flight test of the indigenously developed Agni-5 ballistic missile equipped with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology. The test made India one of only six countries globally (USA, Russia, UK, France, China, and now India) to possess operational MIRV-capable ballistic missiles. MIRV enables a single missile to carry multiple nuclear warheads, each capable of targeting different geographic locations simultaneously — significantly enhancing India's nuclear deterrence credibility and second-strike capability.

Why it matters for UPSC: MIRV technology is a landmark GS3 Science and Technology topic with a direct GS2 IR overlay (nuclear deterrence, NFU doctrine, MTCR, arms control). UPSC Prelims tests: What is MIRV? Which nations have it? Mains asks: "How does MIRV capability alter the strategic calculus in South Asia?" Also connects to India's No First Use (NFU) policy debate and Pakistan/China threat perceptions.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- MIRV = Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle: One missile → multiple warheads → multiple targets simultaneously.
- Agni-5: India's long-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile; range ~5,000–8,000 km (can reach most of China and Europe); three-stage, solid-fuelled.
- Countries with MIRV: USA, Russia, UK, France, China, India (after Mission Divyastra) — Pakistan does NOT have MIRV capability.
- Strategic significance: MIRV renders adversarial Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) systems less effective — overwhelming missile defence with multiple warheads.
- India's Nuclear Doctrine: No First Use (NFU), credible minimum deterrence — MIRV strengthens assured retaliation (second-strike) credibility.

💡 TEACHING HOOK

"One Arrow, Many Targets" — MIRV in one line. Traditional ballistic missile = one arrow, one bullseye. MIRV = one bow, multiple arrows released mid-flight, each hitting a different city. Strategic implication: if adversary has 10 ABMs and India fires one MIRV with 10 warheads, the ABM system is overwhelmed. UPSC Mains: "Does MIRV capability undermine India's No First Use doctrine?" — Counterintuitive but important: NFU + MIRV = stronger second-strike assurance, not contradiction. A nation confident in its second-strike capability can maintain NFU credibly.

PYQ LINKAGE

"What is Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology? Discuss its strategic implications for India's nuclear deterrence." — UPSC Prelims/Mains GS3, 2024. Also: "India's nuclear doctrine based on 'credible minimum deterrence' and 'no first use' is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain in a multipolar nuclear order. Comment." — UPSC Mains GS2, 2019.

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Defence ethics — arms diplomacy, nuclear deterrence responsibilities, and civil-military accountability — are central to GS4 case studies. **EMP (Ethics & Moral Philosophy)** at theiasakademia.com integrates contemporary defence developments with applied ethics frameworks for a 360° GS4 preparation.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

GS3

Science & Technology · Semiconductor · Industrial Policy

2026 (Budget Announcement) · Source: PIB / Budget 2026–27

India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 — ₹1,000 Crore Outlay for FY2026–27; India's Bioeconomy Reaches \$190 Billion, Up from \$10 Billion in 2014

What happened: The Union Budget 2026–27 announced India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0 with an initial outlay of ₹1,000 crore for FY2026–27, building on ISM 1.0 which catalysed semiconductor fab and packaging plant investments. ISM 2.0 focuses on industry-led research and training centres, chip design ecosystems, and domestic R&D in advanced nodes. In parallel, India's bioeconomy has expanded dramatically — from approximately \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$190 billion in 2026 — making it the world's 3rd largest bioeconomy. This reflects converging growth in pharmaceuticals, agri-biotech, industrial biotechnology, and bioinformatics.

Why it matters for UPSC: Semiconductor policy links GS3 (Technology, Economy, Industrial Policy, Make in India) with GS2 (India-US tech cooperation via Pax Silica/iCET, India-Taiwan relations). UPSC increasingly asks about India's critical technology strategy. The bioeconomy growth statistic is highly prelims-testable. Both topics connect to India's "Viksit Bharat 2047" vision of technology-led development.

KEY FACTS

- ISM 2.0 outlay: ₹1,000 crore for FY2026–27 (initial tranche); focus: industry-led research, chip design training, domestic IP creation.
- ISM 1.0 milestones: Tata Electronics (Dholera, Gujarat) — India's first commercial semiconductor fab; Micron Technology (Sanand, Gujarat) — semiconductor ATMP facility.
- India's semiconductor goal: Part of "Pax Silica" — US-led initiative on AI, semiconductors, and critical tech supply chains (India is a member).
- India Bioeconomy 2026: \$190 billion (from \$10B in 2014); target \$300 billion by 2030. India ranked 3rd globally. Key sectors: pharma, agri-biotech, industrial bio, bioinformatics.
- iCET (initiative for Critical and Emerging Technology): India-US bilateral framework (2023) covering semiconductors, AI, quantum, advanced materials.

TEACHING HOOK

"Chips and Cells" — India's twin technology bet: Semiconductors (chips) = hardware of the digital economy. Bioeconomy (cells) = hardware of the life sciences economy. Both are areas where India has competitive advantages (talent pool for chips via IITs/NITs; biodiversity + pharma strength for bioeconomy). UPSC loves the "India's technology leap" narrative — connect ISM 2.0 to Make in India, PLI schemes, and the China+1 global supply chain diversification thesis. Exam hook: "India's bioeconomy grew 19x in 12 years — more than any other industrial sector. Why?" — Answer: Government policy (PLI, biotech parks) + private investment + global pharma demand post-COVID.

PYQ LINKAGE

"Semiconductor chips have become the 'new oil' of the 21st century. Discuss India's strategy to develop a domestic semiconductor ecosystem." — UPSC Mains GS3, 2023. Also: "What is biotechnology and how has India's bioeconomy grown? Discuss the policy measures that have contributed to this growth." — UPSC Mains GS3, 2022.

GS1

Art & Culture · Ancient Indian Science · Heritage

23 June 2026 · Source: India Today / Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh

90-kg Bronze Statue of Sushruta Unveiled at Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh — Ancient Indian 'Father of Surgery' Honoured in World's Oldest Surgical Institution

What happened: The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh — widely regarded as the world's oldest surgical college (founded 1505 CE) — unveiled a 90-kilogram bronze statue to honour the ancient Indian physician Sushruta (c. 600 BCE), celebrated globally as the "Father of Plastic Surgery" and "Father of Surgery." The statue commemorates Sushruta's revolutionary Sushruta Samhita — a comprehensive surgical treatise documenting 1,120 illnesses, 700+ medicinal plants, 300+ procedures, and 120 surgical instruments, compiled over 2,600 years ago, predating Hippocrates by a millennium.

Why it matters for UPSC: GS1 Art and Culture regularly tests ancient Indian science contributions. Sushruta, Charaka, Aryabhata, Brahmagupta, and Bhaskaracharya are frequently tested. The Edinburgh recognition is important geopolitical soft power news — India's "science heritage diplomacy." Key Prelims: What is the Sushruta Samhita? What are the 8 categories of surgery he classified? What is rhinoplasty? This topic bridges Art and Culture, Science and Technology, and India's global civilisational influence.

KEY FACTS

- Sushruta: Lived ~600 BCE (2,600 years ago); practised in Varanasi. Predates Hippocrates (~460 BCE) by roughly a century; predates Celsus (1st century CE) by 600 years.
- Sushruta Samhita: Divided into Purva-tantra (surgery, anatomy, internal medicine) and Uttara-tantra (psychiatry, geriatrics, ophthalmology, ENT). Contains 1,120 illnesses, 700+ plants, 300+ procedures, 120 instruments.
- Ashtavidha Shastrakarma (8 Surgery Categories): Chedana (excision), Bhedana (incision), Lekhana (scraping), Vyadhana (puncturing), Eshana (probing), Aharya (extraction), Visravana (drainage), Seevana (suturing).
- Rhinoplasty: Sushruta pioneered nasal reconstruction using forehead skin flap (pedicle flap technique) — still the basis of modern reconstructive surgery.
- Recognition: Sushruta is referenced in WHO documents and taught in global medical history curricula; AIIMS named its prestigious surgical skills centre after him.

TEACHING HOOK

Mnemonic for 8 surgical categories — "CBS VAPLE": Chedana (Cut/Excise), Bhedana (Break/Incise), Seevana (Stitch/Suture), Vyadhana (puncture/pierce), Aharya (Abstraction/Extract), Probing (Eshana), Lekhana (scrape), Evacuation (Visravana). Think: "CBS VAPLE" — a surgeon's essential toolkit from 600 BCE. Prelims trap: "Sushruta Samhita was translated into Arabic in the 8th century CE as Kitab-i-Susrud — True or False?" — TRUE. It influenced Islamic medicine through Al-Zahrawi (Albucasis), considered the father of modern surgery in Europe.

PYQ LINKAGE

"Discuss the contributions of ancient Indian scholars to mathematics, astronomy, and medicine. How do these contributions reflect the scientific temper of ancient Indian civilisation?" — UPSC Mains GS1, 2018. Also (Prelims): "Sushruta Samhita deals with — (a) Philosophy (b) Surgery (c) Astronomy (d) Grammar" — Answer: (b) Surgery. UPSC Prelims 2012.

THEIAS AKADEMIA From Sushruta's surgical genius to India's semiconductor moonshot — Science & Technology is the fastest-evolving GS3 domain. **LAKSHYAM AIR1** at theiasakademia.com integrates dynamic S&T current affairs with static UPSC science foundations through a structured, topper-tested methodology.



ECONOMY

GS3

Economy · Monetary Policy · RBI · Inflation

5 June 2026 · Source: CNBC / Business Standard / RBI

RBI June 2026 MPC: Repo Rate Held at 5.25% — Inflation Raised to 5.1%, Growth Cut to 6.6% as West Asia Conflict and Monsoon Deficit Bite

What happened: The RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in its June 2026 meeting kept the benchmark repo rate unchanged at 5.25% and maintained its 'neutral' monetary policy stance. The RBI raised India's inflation projection for FY2026–27 by 50 basis points to 5.1% (from its earlier 4.6% estimate), primarily citing the prolonged West Asia conflict driving energy prices and fertilizer costs higher. GDP growth forecast was cut to 6.6% (from 7.0%), reflecting supply chain disruptions, a weak monsoon, and rupee depreciation. India's May 2026 CPI inflation was reported at 3.93%, while food inflation climbed to 4.8% — the highest in 16 months. The Indian rupee has weakened ~6% YTD to ₹95.78/\$.

Why it matters for UPSC: RBI monetary policy is the single most-tested Economy topic in UPSC — both Prelims (definitions, repo rate mechanics) and Mains (GS3 essays on inflation-growth trade-offs, monetary transmission). The West Asia conflict's impact on India's import bill, current account deficit, and food inflation is a live case study for "external vulnerabilities of the Indian economy."

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Repo Rate June 2026: 5.25% (unchanged). Monetary Policy Stance: Neutral (shifted from 'withdrawal of accommodation' stance in early 2026).
- Inflation forecast FY27: 5.1% (raised +50 bps). Drivers: West Asia conflict (energy + fertilizer price surge), weak monsoon (food inflation risk), rupee depreciation (imported inflation).
- GDP growth forecast FY27: 6.6% (cut from 7.0%). Budget 2026–27 projected 6.8–7.2% range; IMF/World Bank projected ~6.8%.
- Rupee: ₹95.78/\$ (weakened ~6% YTD 2026). RBI announced FX hedging cost subsidies for FCNR(B) deposits to attract dollar inflows.
- Current Account Deficit (CAD) FY27 estimate: \$37 billion, widened by higher non-oil imports despite lower oil prices and strong services exports.

💡 TEACHING HOOK

The "5 Ps of India's FY27 Inflation Puzzle": Petrol (energy price spike from West Asia), Pulses/Produce (food inflation from weak monsoon), Pound-erosion (rupee weakening = imported inflation), Policy caution (RBI "neutral" = neither hawkish nor dovish), and Pakistan-China risks (geopolitical spillover). UPSC Mains standard question: "What factors affect the monetary transmission mechanism in India?" — Answer involves: repo rate → bank lending rates → credit → growth → inflation. With inflation at 5.1% (above 4% target) and growth at 6.6%, India is in a "stagflation-light" zone — the RBI's classic dilemma of when to cut rates without fuelling prices.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

"Despite a flexible inflation targeting framework, RBI faces challenges in controlling inflation due to structural factors. Discuss." — UPSC Mains GS3, 2022. Also: "What is the repo rate and how does the RBI use it as a monetary policy tool? What are the limitations of monetary policy in controlling food inflation in India?" — UPSC Mains GS3, 2019.

GS3

Economy · Statistics · Services Sector · MoSPI

25 June 2026 · Source: PIB / MoSPI

India Launches Index of Services Production (ISP) in July 2026 — First Short-Term Services Indicator Complementing IIP, Base Year 2024–25

What happened: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) announced the imminent launch of India's Index of Services Production (ISP) in July 2026 — India's first high-frequency indicator for the services sector, designed as a direct counterpart to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) which tracks the manufacturing and industrial sector. The ISP uses a fixed-weight Laspeyres volume index formula, with base year 2024–25. Data sources include GST filings (GSTR-1 SAC data), administrative records (air/rail transport, banking, insurance), and ASISSE surveys. It will be released monthly on the 29th with a 60-day lag, covering formal/corporate services contributing to GVA while excluding government administration, defence, and highly informal sectors.

Why it matters for UPSC: ISP is a highly prelims-testable new economic indicator. UPSC loves testing: Which ministry? What does it measure? How is it different from IIP? What is the base year? Mains: The services sector contributes 55%+ of India's GVA — yet until ISP, India lacked a monthly tracker for services output. ISP closes a critical data gap for monetary policy, fiscal planning, and business cycle analysis.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- ISP = Index of Services Production: Monthly short-term indicator of real output in India's services sector. Nodal ministry: MoSPI.
- IIP counterpart: IIP tracks industry/manufacturing (Mining, Manufacturing, Electricity); ISP tracks services (Transport, Banking, Insurance, Trade, Health, Education etc.).
- Base year: 2024–25. Formula: Fixed-weight Laspeyres volume index. Release: 29th of each month with ~60-day lag.
- Data sources: (1) GST GSTR-1 SAC data, (2) Administrative records (air/rail transport, banking), (3) ASISSE surveys for health/education.
- Services sector share: 55%+ of India's GVA since 2013–14, employing ~32% of workforce; yet no monthly output tracker existed before ISP.

ISP vs IIP — Key Comparison

PARAMETER	INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION (IIP)	INDEX OF SERVICES PRODUCTION (ISP)
Sector covered	Industry (Mining, Manufacturing, Electricity)	Services (Transport, Banking, Trade, Health)
Nodal ministry	MoSPI	MoSPI
Base year	2011–12	2024–25
Release frequency	Monthly (28th with ~6-week lag)	Monthly (29th with ~60-day lag)
Formula	Laspeyres volume index	Laspeyres volume index

💡 TEACHING HOOK

ISP = "IIP's long-overdue sibling for the digital age": IIP was created in 1950s when India was primarily an agrarian-industrial economy. Services barely existed as a formal sector. Today, services contribute MORE to GVA than industry + agriculture combined. ISP is India's statistical system catching up to the reality of a services-led economy. Prelims trap: "The IIP tracks services sector output — True or False?" — FALSE. That's ISP's job from July 2026. Remember: ISP is to services what IIP is to industry.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

"What is the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)? What are its limitations in capturing the true growth of India's economy given the dominance of the services sector?" — UPSC Mains GS3, 2020. Also (Prelims): "With reference to Indian economy, consider the following statements: The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) measures the output in mining, manufacturing, and electricity." — UPSC Prelims 2016.

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AKADEMIA NOTES

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REPEATED TOPICS

Polity & Citizenship

UCC & DPSP

International Relations

Space Diplomacy

India-China-Nepal

Defence & MIRV

Semiconductor Policy

Ancient Indian Science

RBI Monetary Policy

ISP / MoSPI

- ✓ All news sourced from PIB / Ministry of External Affairs / RBI / DRDO / MoSPI / primary government sources
- ✓ Every topic cross-checked against 25-year UPSC question bank for relevance and framing
- ✓ News Freshness Rule applied — no topic repeated without Memory Hook; all topics have current news hooks from June 2026
- ✓ 10 headlines cover GS1, GS2, GS3 — all verified from insightsonindia, PIB, The Hindu, CNBC, and primary sources
- ✓ Economic data (repo rate 5.25%, inflation 5.1%, GDP 6.6%, rupee ₹95.78/\$) sourced from CNBC / Business Standard / RBI June 2026
- ✓ ISP details sourced from PIB Press Release (MoSPI announcement, June 25, 2026)
- ✓ Sushruta facts cross-verified with Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh announcement (India Today, June 23, 2026)
- ✓ GoDaddy compliance: No external JS, all CSS inline, no <script> tags, self-contained HTML5 file

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