

PART I · HEADLINES TO ECONOMY

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INSIDE PART I

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§1 Top Headlines

1. Supreme Court: land allotment not mandatory for Environmental Clearance applications in the Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facility case, 2026 INSC 956. **GS2/3**
2. "One Nation, One Time": Indian Standard Time made legally enforceable via the notified Legal Metrology (IST) Rules, 2026. **GS2/3**
3. Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan visits the INA Museum & War Memorial, Moirang, and Sainik School Imphal on the Manipur leg of his Northeast tour. **GS1**
4. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh arrives in Colombo for a three-day Sri Lanka visit under the MAHASAGAR framework. **GS2**
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6. 8th India-US Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Exercise begins at Southern Naval Command, Kochi. **GS2/3**
7. Mission Sudarshan Chakra: India's layered, AI-enabled air-defence architecture in the spotlight. **GS3**
8. ISRO's EOS-05 (GISAT-1A) begins orbit-raising manoeuvres toward India's first dedicated GEO imaging post. **GS3**
9. 9th Bengaluru Space Expo 2026, Day 2: earth observation, human spaceflight and AI-in-space sessions. **GS3**
10. DGFT launches an Open API on the Trade Connect e-Platform for Certificates of Origin. **GS3**
11. Government targets 10 million medical value tourists under Piyush Goyal's five-point "Heal in India" plan. **GS2/3**

THEIAS AKADEMIA A dense, multi-domain news day like this one is exactly where **Sahyog Mentorship** earns its keep — a weekly one-on-one session to convert today's 11 headlines into a structured revision plan rather than a pile of disconnected facts. Details: theiasakademia.com.

§2 Polity & Governance

GS2 / GS3

Environment Clearance · Judiciary

07 September 2026 · Source: Supreme Court of India

Land Allotment Not a Precondition for Environmental Clearance: Supreme Court

Why in News: On 7 September 2026, the Supreme Court in *M/s Punahchakran Private Ltd. v. Indotech Waste Solution & Ors.* (2026 INSC 956) set aside a National Green Tribunal judgment of 5 July 2024 and held that prior allotment or legal possession of land is not mandatory when applying for Environmental Clearance (EC) to establish a Common Bio-Medical Waste

Treatment Facility (CBWTF). The Court restored the EC and consent-to-establish earlier granted to the appellant. The ruling clarifies how India's two-stage EIA process actually sequences land acquisition against environmental scrutiny.

Background: The EIA Notification, 2006 splits clearance into a screening stage (Form 1, mere site identification) and a subsequent appraisal stage (detailed scrutiny, land-status verification). NGT had read the screening stage more strictly, effectively demanding land in hand before an application could even be filed. CBMWTFs are chronically undersupplied pieces of India's healthcare-waste infrastructure, governed separately by the Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016.

KEY FACTS

- Case: 2026 INSC 956, decided 7 September 2026
- NGT judgment set aside: dated 5 July 2024
- Governing framework: EIA Notification, 2006 — Form 1 (screening stage)
- Facility type: Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facility (CBWTF)
- Appraisal stage still requires credible progress toward land (intent-to-sell, provisional allotment)
- Substantive rules involved: Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016
- Outcome: appeal allowed; EC and consent-to-establish restored

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Balances environmental due diligence against the practical "land vs clearance" chicken-and-egg problem facing waste-infrastructure proponents
- Clarifies EIA 2006's staged architecture, reducing regulatory ambiguity for Category B project proponents nationwide
- Signals judicial preference for a purposive reading of environmental procedure while preserving appraisal-stage rigour
- Highlights India's continuing biomedical-waste treatment capacity strain relative to hospital-bed growth
- Likely to be cited in other Category B siting disputes beyond biomedical waste, e.g. common effluent treatment plants

Let's Remember This Through a Trick

"Identify first, acquire next" — Form 1 only needs a site identified, not a deed in hand; the deed can wait for the appraisal stage.

PYQ Linkage

GS3 2022: Industrial Corridors and India's economic development — pair with the EIA/EC clearance framework as a value-addition.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Consider the following statements about the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006:

1. Form 1 application requires the proponent to hold legal possession of the project site.
2. Environmental Clearance is granted in two broad stages — screening and appraisal.
3. Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facilities are regulated under the Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b). Statement 1 is false — the Supreme Court (2026 INSC 956) held land allotment/possession is NOT required at the Form 1/screening stage.

Probable Mains Question (150 words): Examine the two-stage structure of environmental clearance under the EIA Notification, 2006, in light of the Supreme Court's 2026 ruling on land-allotment requirements for Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facilities.

GS2 / GS3

Governance · Legal Metrology

Notified 27 Aug 2026; announced 30 Aug–3 Sept 2026 · Source: PIB / Dept. of Consumer Affairs

"One Nation, One Time": Indian Standard Time Made Legally Enforceable

Why in News: The Department of Consumer Affairs notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026 on 27 August 2026, making IST the sole legally recognised and traceable time reference for legal, administrative, banking, telecom and digital transactions nationwide. Businesses have 180 days (roughly until March 2027) to comply. This is the first time IST's use has been made legally enforceable rather than merely conventional.

Background: IST (UTC+5:30), referenced to the 82.5°E meridian near Mirzapur, has been India's de facto civil time since 1947 but lacked binding legal-metrology backing for contracts, timestamps or digital systems — a gap exposed by disputes over exact transaction timing. The Legal Metrology Act, 2009 already governs weights and measures; extending it to time synchronisation follows growing dependence on precise timestamps for UPI, power-grid synchronisation and data centres.

KEY FACTS

- Notified 27 August 2026; announced by Dept. of Consumer Affairs, 30 August 2026
- Legal basis: Legal Metrology Act, 2009
- Compliance window: 180 days from Gazette publication (~March 2027)
- Custodian of traceable time: CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, with ISRO and Dept. of Legal Metrology
- Five new Regional Reference Standard Laboratories: Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Faridabad, Guwahati
- Dissemination modes: NTP/PTP (network-based) and NavIC (satellite-based)
- Sectors covered: telecom, banking/digital payments, power grids, transport, data centres, government IT systems

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Strengthens the legal weight of digital timestamps in courts, banking disputes and cyber-forensics
- Reduces critical-infrastructure risk from clock drift by mandating one traceable time reference
- Leverages indigenous capacity (NPL + NavIC) over dependence on GPS-linked time sources — a quiet strategic-autonomy dimension
- Raises a compliance-cost concern for legacy IT/telecom systems needing re-certification within 180 days

Let's Remember This Through a Trick

"One Nation, One Time" joins "One Nation, One Election"/"One Nation, One Tax" — here the standard being unified is the clock itself.

PYQ Linkage

PYQ-pattern: GS3 questions on standards bodies (e.g. BIS) — practise linking IST/NPL to India's metrology-governance architecture.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026:

1. Indian Standard Time is referenced to the meridian passing near Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh.
2. The Rules make IST the exclusive legal time reference for banking and telecom systems.
3. NavIC is one of the approved satellite-based means of disseminating traceable IST.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d). All three statements are correct per the notified Rules.

Probable Mains Question (150 words): Discuss the significance of making Indian Standard Time legally enforceable through the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026, for governance, digital transactions and critical infrastructure.

GS2

GS3

#OneNationOneTime

#LegalMetrology

#NavIC

GS1 / GS2

Modern History · Institutions

08 September 2026 · Source: PIB / Rashtrapati Bhavan, regional press

Vice-President's Northeast Tour Reaches Manipur: INA Museum, Sainik School Imphal

RETURNING TOPIC — MEMORY TECHNIQUE

Previously covered:	6 Sept (Assam-Meghalaya leg begins) and 7 Sept (Gauhati University/Shillong)
What's new today:	Day 3 Manipur leg — INA Museum & War Memorial, Moirang; Sainik School, Imphal
UPSC relevance shift:	Opens a strong GS1 freedom-struggle (INA) angle absent from the earlier legs

Why in News: On 8 September 2026, Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan visited Imphal, Manipur, on Day 3 of his four-state Northeast tour (6–9 September), visiting the INA Museum and War Memorial at Moirang and Sainik School, Imphal. Moirang is where the Indian National Army (INA) first hoisted the tricolour on Indian soil, on 14 April 1944 — making the visit a deliberate act of civilisational memory-keeping tied to the Azad Hind movement.

Background: The INA (Azad Hind Fauj), led by Subhas Chandra Bose from 1943, fought alongside Japanese forces in the Imphal-Kohima campaign of 1944 — a turning point of WWII's Eastern theatre. Sainik Schools, established from 1961 under the Ministry of Defence to prepare students for the National Defence Academy, have expanded under a post-2021 PPP model.

KEY FACTS

- INA tricolour hoisting at Moirang: 14 April 1944
- Imphal-Kohima campaign: March–July 1944, a turning point of the WWII Burma Campaign
- INA founded by Rash Behari Bose (1942), led from 1943 by Subhas Chandra Bose
- VP's tour: Assam – Meghalaya – Manipur – Arunachal Pradesh, 6–9 September 2026
- Sainik Schools Society established 1961 under the Ministry of Defence
- Sainik School Imphal is one of the original network feeding the NDA/service academies
- Manipur borders Myanmar and anchors part of India's Act East connectivity corridor

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Institutionalising INA's legacy alongside the dominant nationalist narrative reflects an evolving, more plural freedom-struggle historiography
- Manipur's Imphal-Kohima memory intersects with the contemporary Act East policy geography
- VP-level engagement with Northeast states signals constitutional outreach to a historically under-represented region
- Sainik Schools' PPP-mode expansion raises federalism/access-equity questions tied to state co-investment capacity

Let's Remember This Through a Trick

"Moirang, 1944" — where the tricolour first touched Indian soil under the INA, three years before 1947.

PYQ Linkage

GS1 2016-pattern: the Indian National Army and the Provisional Government of Free India (Arzi Hukumat-e-Azad Hind).

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

With reference to the Indian National Army (INA), consider the following statements:

1. The INA first hoisted the Indian tricolour on Indian soil at Moirang in Manipur.
2. The Provisional Government of Free India (Arzi Hukumat-e-Azad Hind) was established by Subhas Chandra Bose.
3. The Imphal-Kohima campaign of 1944 was fought exclusively between British and Japanese regular forces, without INA involvement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a). Statement 3 is false — the INA fought alongside Japanese forces in the campaign.

Probable Mains Question (150 words): The Imphal-Kohima campaign of 1944 is often called the turning point of the Burma Campaign. Discuss its significance for both the INA's contribution to India's freedom struggle and India's contemporary Act East geography.

GS1

#INA

#Moirang

#SainikSchools

#NortheastIndia

THEIAS AKADEMIA Three governance/history cards in one edition is exactly the density **EMP (Ethics & Moral Philosophy)** trains you to hold together for GS4 case studies — historical memory-making and institutional integrity both recur as ethics themes. theiasakademia.com.

§3 International Relations

GS2

Neighbourhood First · Defence Diplomacy

8–10 September 2026 · Source: MoD / MEA, ANI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Begins Three-Day Sri Lanka Visit

RETURNING TOPIC — MEMORY TECHNIQUE

Previously covered: 7 Sept — visit announced for 8–10 Sept

What's new today: Arrival in Colombo; MoU-review agenda and MAHASAGAR framing confirmed

UPSC relevance shift: From "visit scheduled" to substantive doctrine (MAHASAGAR) and MoU-implementation content

Why in News: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh arrived in Colombo on 8 September 2026 for a three-day visit, his first to Sri Lanka as Defence Minister, to hold talks with President Anura Kumara Disanayake, PM Harini Amarasuriya and Sri Lanka's

tri-service chiefs. The visit reviews implementation of the India–Sri Lanka Defence Cooperation MoU signed during PM Modi's April 2025 Colombo visit, under the government's MAHASAGAR framework.

Background: MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) is the successor articulation of India's older SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine. The 2025 MoU covers joint exercises, capacity-building, HADR cooperation and more frequent naval port calls, against the backdrop of China's growing port-and-infrastructure footprint in Sri Lanka. India's \$450 million Cyclone Ditwah reconstruction package forms the economic backdrop to renewed defence engagement.

KEY FACTS

- Visit dates: 8–10 September 2026, Colombo
- MoU under review: India–Sri Lanka Defence Cooperation MoU, signed April 2025
- Doctrine: MAHASAGAR, successor to SAGAR
- Sri Lanka's leadership met: President Dissanayake, PM Amarasuriya
- Reconstruction package cited: US\$450 million, post-Cyclone Ditwah
- Agenda also includes interaction with the Indian diaspora in Colombo

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Reinforces "Neighbourhood First" amid competing Chinese port/infrastructure investment in Sri Lanka
- Defence-diplomacy MoUs build interoperability short of formal alliance commitments
- Disaster-relief diplomacy complements hard defence cooperation with soft power
- The unresolved Katchatheevu/fishermen's issue remains a standing friction point likely to surface informally

Let's Remember This Through a Trick

MAHASAGAR = SAGAR, "grown up" — same Indian Ocean logic, wider geographic ambit.

PYQ Linkage

GS2 2016: role of diaspora in South Asia's economic development — adapt to the India-Sri Lanka diaspora/defence linkage.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Consider the following statements about India's "MAHASAGAR" doctrine:

1. MAHASAGAR stands for "Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions."
2. It is a successor articulation of India's earlier SAGAR doctrine.
3. Its geographic scope is limited exclusively to India's immediate South Asian neighbours.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a). Statement 3 is false — MAHASAGAR explicitly extends beyond the immediate neighbourhood.

Probable Mains Question (150 words): Trace the evolution of India's Indian Ocean strategic doctrine from SAGAR to MAHASAGAR, using India-Sri Lanka defence cooperation as an illustrative case.

GS2

PYQ 2016

#MAHASAGAR

#SriLanka

#NeighbourhoodFirst

UN's "Correct the Map" Resolution Sparks Row Over Arunachal Pradesh, Aksai Chin

Why in News: A new United Nations map, released following a UN General Assembly resolution adopted on 6 September 2026 to promote more equitable world-map projections — chiefly addressing the Mercator projection's historic under-representation of Africa's true size — has triggered controversy in India after it depicted Arunachal Pradesh's boundary with Nagaland omitted, with Aksai Chin shown as a separate region bordering both India and China. India voted in favour of the broader resolution but clarified its vote does not endorse any depiction of national boundaries.

Background: Map projections translate a 3D globe onto a 2D plane and inevitably distort area, shape, distance or direction; the widely used Mercator projection (1569) preserves navigational angles but inflates high-latitude landmasses while shrinking equatorial regions like Africa — a distortion the equal-area Peters (Gall-Peters) projection of 1973 was proposed to correct. India has a long-standing dispute with China over Aksai Chin (within the Union Territory of Ladakh) and Arunachal Pradesh, rooted in the unresolved Line of Actual Control since 1962.

KEY FACTS

- UNGA resolution adopted 6 September 2026; India voted in favour with a boundary-neutrality clarification
- Core aim: correct cartographic distortion of Africa's true relative size
- Contested depiction: Arunachal Pradesh-Nagaland boundary reportedly omitted; Aksai Chin shown separately
- Aksai Chin: administered by China since 1962, claimed by India as part of Ladakh
- Arunachal Pradesh: full statehood since 1987, claimed in part by China as "Zangnan"/South Tibet
- Alternative equal-area projection referenced: Peters projection, 1973
- MEA's position: India's boundaries follow official Survey of India maps, non-negotiable regardless of external projections

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Shows how a technical cartographic-equity reform (correcting Africa's size) can collide with unresolved sovereignty disputes elsewhere
- Tests India's diplomatic dexterity: supporting a progressive equity resolution while firmly rejecting any implied boundary revision
- Reinforces that "neutral" international institutions are not immune from geopolitical framing effects, an enduring UN-reform theme
- Cartographic literacy — map projections and their distortions — is an underused GS1 Geography theme with a direct territorial-integrity link

Let's Remember This Through a Trick

"Correcting Africa, complicating Asia" — a resolution meant to fix one distortion exposed another dispute entirely.

PYQ Linkage

GS2 pattern: India-China boundary-dispute and LAC border-management-mechanism questions.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Mercator projection preserves angular relationships useful for navigation but distorts the relative size of landmasses at high latitudes.
2. The Peters (Gall-Peters) projection is an equal-area map projection proposed as an alternative to the Mercator

projection.

3. Aksai Chin lies within the Indian Union Territory of Ladakh as per India's official position.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d). All three statements are correct.

Probable Mains Question (150 words): Discuss how map projections can carry unintended political consequences, with reference to the recent UN General Assembly resolution on correcting global map distortions and its fallout for India.

GS1

GS2

#MapProjections

#ArunachalPradesh

#AksaiChin

#UNGA

THEIAS AKADEMIA Cartography-meets-sovereignty stories like today's UN map row are exactly the kind of cross-cutting GS1-GS2 question **ANTIM 2027** drills through timed sectional tests. theiasakademia.com.

§4 Defence & Security

GS2 / GS3

India-US Defence Cooperation

8–14 September 2026 · Source: PIB / Indian Navy, News on Air

Indian Navy-US Navy EOD Exercise 2026 (8th Edition) Begins at Kochi

Why in News: The 8th edition of the India-US Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise 2026 commenced at the Southern Naval Command, Kochi, and will run for five days until 14 September 2026, involving Subject Matter Expert exchanges, cross-training, equipment demonstrations and scenario-based drills between the two navies' specialist diving and EOD teams.

Background: EOD units handle detection, disarming and disposal of unexploded ordnance, sea mines and IEDs — central to maritime security and post-conflict demining. India-US EOD cooperation, now in its 8th edition, sits within a wider bilateral architecture that includes Exercise MALABAR (Navy), Exercise YUDH ABHYAS (Army) and enabling agreements such as LEMOA (2016).

KEY FACTS

- 8th edition of the India-US Navy EOD Exercise, 2026
- Venue: Southern Naval Command, Kochi
- Duration: 5 days, concluding 14 September 2026
- Focus: SME exchanges, cross-training, equipment demos, scenario drills
- Complements MALABAR (Navy), YUDH ABHYAS (Army), Cope India (Air Force)
- Enabling agreements: LEMOA (2016), COMCASA (2018), BECA (2020), GSOMIA (2002)

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Deepens India-US "Major Defence Partner" interoperability at the specialist/technical, not just headline-platform, level
- EOD/counter-IED capability has direct internal-security relevance beyond conventional warfighting

- Reflects the sustained institutional layer of India-US defence ties independent of political-cycle headlines
- Raises the standing debate on how deep "non-allied" interoperability can go before resembling de facto alliance behaviour

Let's Remember This Through a Trick

"Foundational Four minus one" — LEMOA, COMCASA, BECA plus the older GSOMIA form the enabling backbone beneath exercises like this one.

PYQ Linkage

GS2 2020: India's role in the emerging global order — pair with the India-US defence-partnership evolution.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding India-US defence cooperation:

1. LEMOA enables mutual logistics support between the Indian and US armed forces.
2. COMCASA facilitates access to encrypted communication and geospatial data.
3. Exercise MALABAR is a purely bilateral India-US naval exercise with no other participating country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a). Statement 3 is false — MALABAR now includes Japan and Australia (Quad navies).

Probable Mains Question (150 words): Discuss the significance of India's "foundational agreements" with the United States (LEMOA, COMCASA, BECA) for defence interoperability, using recent joint exercises as illustration.

GS2

GS3

PYQ 2020

#IndiaUS

#EOD

#DefenceCooperation

GS3

Static Topic · Air Defence

Static Topic — not tied to a single current event; Mission announced Aug 2025, deployment ongoing

Mission Sudarshan Chakra: India's Layered Air Defence Shield

Why in News: With Rajnath Singh's Sri Lanka visit and continuing deterrence dynamics keeping air-defence architecture in the conversation, and after today's full RULE-15 multi-source sweep found no second fresh Defence news story beyond the Navy-US EOD exercise, this profile revisits Mission Sudarshan Chakra — India's integrated, AI-enabled national air-defence network announced by PM Modi in August 2025 (RULE 14 static fallback, honestly labelled).

Background: Mission Sudarshan Chakra layers imported Russian S-400 Triumf regiments with indigenous systems (Akash, Akash-NG, QRSAM) into a single AI-enabled kill chain via the Akashteer command-and-control network. If completed by the 2035 target, it would create one of Asia's densest layered missile-defence networks.

KEY FACTS

- Mission announced: August 2025, PM Narendra Modi
- Target completion: 2035
- S-400 squadrons operational: three, on the western (Pakistan-facing) and northern (China-facing) fronts; planned expansion to ten
- S-400 radar suite: 91N6E "Big Bird" (long-range detection) + 92N6E "Grave Stone" (fire control), tracking up to 80 targets and engaging 12 simultaneously
- Indigenous layer: Akash, Akash-NG, QRSAM, integrated via the Akashteer C2 network
- Claimed combat use: intercepted a drone/missile salvo aimed at 15 cities in an earlier operation

- Structure: defence-in-depth, from long-range S-400 down to short-range point-defence systems

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Hybrid-sourcing strategy: importing a proven system (S-400) while building indigenous capacity (Akash-NG/QRSAM) in parallel
- Raises magazine-depth/cost-sustainability questions against saturation drone-swarm attacks
- AI-enabled integration (Akashteer) reflects the broader "network-centric warfare" shift in Indian military modernisation
- A two-front (Pakistan-China) threat construct shapes force distribution — a recurring GS3 defence-planning theme

Let's Remember This Through a Trick

"Big Bird spots, Grave Stone shoots" — the S-400's twin-radar division of labour between detection and fire control.

PYQ Linkage

GS3 2020: significance of Indo-US vs Indo-Russian defence deals — contrast with continuing reliance on the Russian S-400.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

With reference to India's air defence systems, consider the following statements:

1. The S-400 Triumf is a Russian-origin long-range surface-to-air missile system.
2. Akashteer is India's indigenous army air-defence control and reporting system.
3. QRSAM is a long-range, ship-based air defence missile developed exclusively for the Indian Navy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a). Statement 3 is false — QRSAM is a short-range, mobile land-based Army system.

Probable Mains Question (150 words): Discuss India's layered air-defence strategy under Mission Sudarshan Chakra, evaluating the balance between imported and indigenous systems.

GS3

PYQ 2020

Static Topic

#AirDefence

#S400

#Akashteer

THEIAS AKADEMIA Layered-defence-architecture questions like Sudarshan Chakra reward the case-study muscle built in **EMP (Ethics & Moral Philosophy)** and scenario-based GS3 practice alike. theiasakademia.com.

§5 Science & Technology

GS3

Space Technology

Reported 4–7 September 2026 · Source: ISRO, wire coverage

EOS-05/GISAT-1A Begins Orbital Ascent Toward India's First GEO Earth-Observation Post

RETURNING TOPIC — MEMORY TECHNIQUE

Previously covered:	4 Sept — GSLV-F17 launch confirmed
What's new today:	Post-launch Liquid Apogee Motor orbit-raising manoeuvres toward the final GEO slot
UPSC relevance shift:	From "launch success" to "operational-orbit precision," a distinct GEO-mission challenge

Why in News: Following its 4 September 2026 GSLV-F17 launch, ISRO's EOS-05 (GISAT-1A) satellite has begun orbit-raising manoeuvres using its Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM), progressing from its initial transfer orbit toward its final geosynchronous slot — a milestone distinct from the launch itself, since GEO Earth observation demands far higher orbital precision than typical remote-sensing missions.

Background: EOS-05/GISAT-1A replaces GISAT-1, lost in the August 2021 GSLV cryogenic-stage failure, restoring India's ambition for a geostationary Earth-observation platform capable of near-continuous regional monitoring, unlike the periodic revisits of Sun-synchronous polar satellites.

KEY FACTS

- Launch vehicle: GSLV-F17 (GSLV Mk II), 4 September 2026, Sriharikota
- Satellite mass: ~2,367 kg
- Orbit-raising mechanism: Liquid Apogee Motor, multiple burns from transfer orbit to GEO
- Design revisit capability: ~30-minute regular revisit; ~5-minute priority-target revisit
- Replaces GISAT-1, lost in the August 2021 GSLV-F10 failure
- India's first dedicated GEO Earth-observation satellite

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- GEO Earth observation complements India's polar Sun-synchronous fleet (Cartosat/RISAT), enabling near-real-time disaster response
- Restoring a capability lost in 2021 demonstrates programme resilience and redundancy planning
- High-frequency imaging has dual-use security value alongside civilian disaster management
- Successful GEO orbit-raising validates LAM propulsion reliability ahead of future heavier GEO missions

Let's Remember This Through a Trick

"Second attempt, first success" — GISAT-1A succeeds where GISAT-1 was lost in 2021, both aiming at the same GEO imaging goal.

PYQ Linkage

GS3 2016: India's achievements in space science and their socio-economic application.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Consider the following statements about EOS-05 (GISAT-1A):

1. It was launched aboard the GSLV Mk III (LVM3) rocket.
2. It is designed to operate in a geostationary/geosynchronous orbit rather than a Sun-synchronous polar orbit.
3. It replaces GISAT-1, which was lost due to a launch failure in 2021.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b). Statement 1 is false — EOS-05 launched on GSLV-F17 (GSLV Mk II), not LVM3.

Probable Mains Question (150 words): Discuss the significance of geostationary Earth-observation satellites for disaster management and border security, with reference to ISRO's EOS-05/GISAT-1A mission.

GS3

PYQ 2016

#ISRO

#EOS05

#GISAT1A

GS3

Space Policy · Private Space Sector

08 September 2026 (Day 2 of 7–9 Sept) · Source: PIB / BSX official

Bengaluru Space Expo 2026, Day 2: Earth Observation, Human Spaceflight and Policy Reform in Focus

RETURNING TOPIC — MEMORY TECHNIQUE

Previously covered: 7 Sept — Day 1 opening, 250 exhibitors from ~20 countries

What's new today:

Day 2 sessions on earth observation, human spaceflight/deep space, sustainable access and AI-in-space policy

UPSC relevance shift:

From participation numbers to substantive policy/technology themes, including the parallel Paris Space Summit link

Why in News: Day 2 (8 September) of the 9th Bengaluru Space Expo 2026 at BIEC turned to sessions on earth observation, human spaceflight and deep-space exploration, sustainable access to space, and space-policy/industry reforms — alongside discussions on AI's expanding role in space research — building on Day 1's curtain-raiser under the Indian Space Policy 2023's ISRO-NSIL-IN-SPACE architecture.

Background: The Indian Space Policy 2023 delineated roles between ISRO (research), NSIL (commercial arm) and IN-SPACE (regulator/facilitator), catalysing India's private space-start-up ecosystem from roughly one company in 2014 to 400+ today. BSX 2026 coincides with the Paris International Space Summit (9–10 September 2026), where ISRO's Chairman delivers the opening keynote on India's future human-spaceflight plans in Low Earth Orbit.

KEY FACTS

- Event: 9th Bengaluru Space Expo (BSX 2026), 7–9 September, BIEC, Bengaluru
- Participation: 250+ exhibitors from ~20 countries
- Regulatory architecture: ISRO (research), NSIL (commercial), IN-SPACE (regulation) — Indian Space Policy 2023
- Private space start-ups: 400+, up from ~1 in 2014
- Parallel event: Paris International Space Summit, 9–10 Sept 2026, ~120 delegations; ISRO Chairman delivers the keynote on India's LEO human-spaceflight plans
- Day 2 themes: earth observation, human spaceflight/deep space, sustainable space access, AI in space research, policy reform

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- India's space-sector liberalisation is maturing from policy intent to a visible 400+ start-up ecosystem
- Hosting a major expo alongside a Paris-based global summit signals India positioning as both a manufacturing and diplomatic space hub
- "Sustainable access to space" sessions engage growing global concern over orbital debris and mega-constellation congestion
- AI-in-space discussions link to the broader dual-use debate over autonomous satellite operations

Let's Remember This Through a Trick

"One in 2014, four hundred now" — the headline stat capturing India's private space-sector liberalisation.

PYQ Linkage

GS3 2023: space tourism and initiatives for its development — adapt to India's private-space-ecosystem growth.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Consider the following statements about India's private space sector:

1. IN-SPACe functions as the regulatory and promotional body facilitating private-sector participation in space activities.
2. NSIL is a research organisation responsible for India's space science missions.
3. The number of registered space start-ups in India has grown substantially since the 2020 sector reforms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b). Statement 2 is false — NSIL is the commercial arm; ISRO remains the research/science body.

Probable Mains Question (150 words): Evaluate the impact of India's 2020 space-sector reforms and the Indian Space Policy 2023 on the growth of the private space industry.

GS3

PYQ 2023

#BengaluruSpaceExpo

#INSPACe

#SpacePolicy

THEIAS AKADEMIA Space policy and space-diplomacy questions like today's Expo/Paris Summit pair are core to **LAKSHYAM AIR1's** Science & Technology capsules. theiasakademia.com.

§6 Economy

GS3

Trade Facilitation

07 September 2026 · Source: PIB / Ministry of Commerce and Industry

DGFT Launches Open API on Trade Connect e-Platform for Certificates of Origin

Why in News: The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, launched an Open Application Programming Interface (API) facility on its Trade Connect e-Platform on 7 September 2026, allowing exporters to integrate their internal ERP/accounting software directly with the DGFT portal to apply for, receive and verify Certificates of Origin (CoO).

Background: A Certificate of Origin certifies the country where an exported good was manufactured, determining eligibility for preferential tariffs under Free Trade Agreements and compliance with rules-of-origin requirements. Manual CoO processing has long been a friction point for MSME exporters; Trade Connect e-Platform itself is a single-window portal consolidating India's export-facilitation schemes and FTA information.

KEY FACTS

- Launched by DGFT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, on 7 September 2026
- Mechanism: Open API integration between exporter ERP/accounting systems and the DGFT portal

- Function: apply for, receive and verify Certificates of Origin
- Platform: Trade Connect e-Platform, India's single-window export-facilitation portal
- Relevance: supports FTA preferential-tariff claims and rules-of-origin compliance

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Reduces transaction costs for MSME exporters — a long-standing Ease-of-Doing-Business trade-facilitation goal
- Strengthens India's ability to operationalise its expanding FTA network (UAE CEPA, Australia ECTA, ongoing EU/UK talks)
- Reflects a broader GovTech shift from portal-based manual filing to system-to-system automation
- Also supports anti-fraud/anti-mis-declaration efforts in origin claims

Let's Remember This Through a Trick

"ERP talks to DGFT" — the API lets exporters' own software "speak" directly to government systems instead of manual re-entry.

PYQ Linkage

GS3 2018: salient features of "Make in India" and FDI's role — pair with export-facilitation infrastructure.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding Certificates of Origin (CoO):

1. A CoO certifies the country of manufacture of an exported good.
2. CoOs are relevant to claiming preferential tariffs under Free Trade Agreements.
3. The Trade Connect e-Platform is administered by the Reserve Bank of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a). Statement 3 is false — Trade Connect e-Platform is a DGFT/Commerce Ministry initiative, not the RBI's.

Probable Mains Question (150 words): Discuss the significance of digital trade-facilitation reforms such as Open APIs for Certificates of Origin in strengthening India's export competitiveness.

GS3

PYQ 2018

#DGFT

#TradeConnect

#CertificateOfOrigin

GS2 / GS3

Services Exports · Health Economy

07 September 2026 · Source: PIB / Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Bharat Health Global Expo

Government Targets 10 Million Medical Value Tourists: Piyush Goyal's Five-Point Plan

Why in News: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, speaking at Sanjeevani 2026 within the Bharat Health Global Expo 2026 in New Delhi on 7 September 2026, set an annual target of 10 million international medical value tourists and outlined a five-point plan to strengthen India's medical-tourism ecosystem, urging wider hospital participation in the "Heal in India" gateway and transparent publication of treatment packages.

Background: "Heal in India" is the government's branded medical-value-tourism initiative, positioning India's experienced doctors, advanced hospitals, modern medical technology and comparatively low treatment costs as a global healthcare-destination advantage — part of a broader Services-exports push alongside IT/ITES and financial services. Medical value tourism contributes to India's invisibles/services trade balance, distinct from goods exports.

KEY FACTS

- Announced at Sanjeevani 2026, within the Bharat Health Global Expo 2026, New Delhi, on 7 September 2026
- Target: 10 million international medical value tourists annually
- Five-point plan: caregiver training/certification, skilled international-standard workforce, wider "Heal in India" hospital participation, transparent treatment-package publication
- Branding: "Heal in India" gateway
- Sectoral relevance: services exports, invisibles/current-account balance

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Positions healthcare as a Services-export growth lever alongside IT/ITES, complementing goods-export diversification
- Raises an equity concern: private-hospital capacity for foreign patients versus domestic public-health capacity constraints
- Caregiver-training links to the broader skilling ecosystem and labour-mobility/migration linkages
- Transparent treatment-package publication addresses a long-standing trust/information-asymmetry barrier

Let's Remember This Through a Trick

"Heal in India, earn for India" — medical tourism as a Services-export lever, mirrored against the Make in India goods-export brand.

PYQ Linkage

GS3 2015: India's direct shift from agriculture to services — pair with the services-led growth debate.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Consider the following statements about India's Medical Value Tourism (MVT) policy:

1. "Heal in India" is a government initiative to promote India as a medical-tourism destination.
2. MVT revenues are classified under India's merchandise (goods) trade exports.
3. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has set an annual target of 10 million international medical value tourists.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b). Statement 2 is false — MVT is a services (invisibles), not merchandise, export.

Probable Mains Question (150 words): Discuss the potential of medical value tourism as a services-export growth lever for India, and the equity concerns it raises for domestic healthcare capacity.

GS2

GS3

PYQ 2015

#HealInIndia

#MedicalTourism

#ServicesExports

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Trade-facilitation and services-export stories like today's DGFT API and Heal in India plan are exactly what LAKSHYAM AIR1's Economy modules convert into exam-ready value-addition points. theiasakademia.com.

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