

PART I • HEADLINES TO ECONOMY

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Daily Current Affairs for UPSC Prelims & Mains

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"From Daily News to Direct UPSC Questions — Every Morning, Every Edge."

SECTION INDEX — PART I

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01 India-Vietnam seal BrahMos supersonic cruise missile deal worth ₹5,800 crore; Indonesia in final stages

Source: *The Week / BharatShakti*, Jun 2026

02 India holds BRICS 2026 Presidency; New Delhi summit set for September 12–13 under theme 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'

Source: *brics2026.gov.in*

03 Gaganyaan G1 uncrewed mission 90% complete; 8,000+ ground tests conducted with 97% success rate

Source: *ISRO / Swarajya Mag*

04 State of India's Environment 2026: 7 of 9 planetary boundaries breached; 97,000 ha forestland diverted in 5 years

Source: *CSE–DTE Report*, Jun 2026

05 Draft National Electricity Policy 2026 proposes indexed tariffs, end to cross-subsidies in power sector

Source: *Ministry of Power*

06 Niryat Protsahan scheme launched — Interest Subvention & Collateral Support for MSME exporters under PM's export push

Source: *Ministry of Commerce*

07 Land Stack Portal launched: transparent, citizen-centric digital land governance; Glossary of Revenue Terms (GoRT) released

Source: *Ministry of Rural Development*

08 Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission crosses 90 crore ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) registrations

Source: *NHA / PIB*

09 Operation Sheruwali: Major counter-terrorism mission launched in Jammu & Kashmir

Source: *INSIGHTSONINDIA / Defence sources*

10 ISRO budget 2026-27 set at ₹13,705.63 crore; quantum key distribution and high-thrust electric propulsion systems in focus

Source: *Union Budget / ISRO*

WHY IN NEWS

The Ministry of Rural Development launched the Land Stack Portal along with the Glossary of Revenue Terms (GoRT) to modernise India's land record system and improve citizen access to land-related services.

BACKGROUND

India's land records have historically been fragmented, prone to disputes, and opaque; DILRMP (Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme) since 2008 aimed to computerise records, but the last-mile access gap persisted.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Land Stack integrates land records, maps, and mutation data on a single digital platform.
- GoRT standardises revenue terminology across states to reduce ambiguity in land transactions.
- DILRMP has been in operation since 2008; Land Stack is its next-generation upgrade.
- Land disputes account for ~67% of all civil court cases in India, per NCRB data.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Transparency in land ownership reduces corruption, enables credit access, and supports ease of doing business.
- Digital land records are critical for implementation of PM-KISAN, housing schemes, and tribal land rights under FRA.
- Centre-state coordination challenge: land is a State subject under the 7th Schedule; national portals require state buy-in.

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS2 — Governance

GS2 — e-Governance

GS3 — Land Reforms

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2021: Digital India initiatives and their impact on governance and transparency.

PROBABLE MCQ

Consider the following statements about the Land Stack Portal:

1. It is managed by the Ministry of Urban Development.
2. The GoRT aims to standardise revenue terminology across states.
3. It builds upon the DILRMP framework.

Which are correct?

Ans: 2 and 3 only. (MoRD manages it, not Urban Dev.)

PROBABLE MAINS Q

Examine how the Land Stack Portal can reduce land-related disputes and improve ease of living for citizens. (150 words)

Land Stack is the UPSC-ready convergence point of three GS themes — e-governance, land reform, and federalism. When they ask about "digital infrastructure for transparent governance," this is your anchor example for 2026.

GS2

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission — 90 Crore ABHA Milestone

WHY IN NEWS

India's Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission has registered over 90 crore ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) IDs, marking a watershed moment in building a federated digital health ecosystem.

BACKGROUND

ABDM was launched in September 2021 under NHA to create a seamless online platform linking patients, doctors, hospitals, and health records across India using unique ABHA IDs.

PRELIMS FACTS

- ABHA is a 14-digit unique health identifier for every citizen under ABDM.
- NHA (National Health Authority) implements ABDM; it also administers PM-JAY.
- ABDM is part of India's National Digital Health Mission ecosystem.
- The mission connects health facilities (HPR) and health professionals (HRP) in a federated registry.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Interoperability of health records enables continuity of care, reduces duplication, and supports evidence-based policy.
- Privacy concerns: Health data is sensitive; ABHA must be governed by robust data protection frameworks (DPDP Act 2023).
- Equity challenge: Digital health access requires last-mile internet penetration in rural and tribal areas.

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS2 — Health

GS2 — Government Schemes

GS3 — Digital Infrastructure

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2023: Challenges in health infrastructure and role of digital solutions in improving healthcare delivery.

PROBABLE MCQ

With reference to ABHA, which of the following is correct?

- (a) It is a 10-digit identifier
- (b) It is managed by Ministry of Health directly
- (c) It is a 14-digit unique health ID under ABDM
- (d) It is only for BPL cardholders

Ans: (c). ABHA is a 14-digit ID under NHA's ABDM framework.

PROBABLE MAINS Q

How does Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission transform India's health governance? Discuss

challenges in scaling ABHA to universal coverage. (150 words)

GS2

PYQ 2023

ABDM

ABHA

NHA

Digital Health

PM-JAY

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

90 crore ABHA IDs is not just a statistic — it is India's largest federated health data infrastructure, and UPSC loves to test the intersection of digital governance, health equity, and privacy rights in the same question.

§3 International Relations

GS2

India's BRICS 2026 Presidency — "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation & Sustainability"

WHY IN NEWS

India assumed the BRICS Chairship on January 1, 2026, and is hosting the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on September 12–13, 2026, with Russian President Putin confirmed to attend.

BACKGROUND

India has chaired BRICS previously in 2012, 2016, and 2021; the group has expanded from 5 to 10 members post-2023 Johannesburg summit, adding Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and UAE.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Theme: "BRICS: Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability" — "Humanity First" approach.
- Current BRICS members: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa + Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE.
- India's 4th BRICS chairship (2012, 2016, 2021, 2026).

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- India's BRICS presidency reflects its "multi-alignment" strategy — engaging Global South while maintaining strategic autonomy from both US and China-led blocs.
- Expanded BRICS (BRICS+) creates both opportunity (larger voice for Global South) and challenge (divergent interests of new members).
- India can leverage the presidency to push for UNSC reform, de-dollarisation dialogue, and climate finance from developed nations.

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS2 — IR

GS2 — Multilateral Bodies

GS2 — India's Foreign Policy

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2021: "BRICS and SCO: complementary or competing frameworks for India?" Discuss.

PROBABLE MCQ

- BRICS Foreign Ministers met in India in May 2026 amid Iran war context.

Consider: 1. India is chairing BRICS for the fourth time in 2026. 2. The 2026 summit theme includes the term 'Humanity First'. 3. BRICS currently has 12 members including partner nations. Which is/are correct?

Ans: 1 and 2 only. (BRICS has 10 full members, not 12.)

PROBABLE MAINS Q

How can India use its 2026 BRICS Presidency to advance its foreign policy interests and the Global South agenda? (150 words)

GS2

PYQ 2021

BRICS

Multilateral

Global South

Multi-alignment

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

BRICS 2026 under India's presidency tests GS2 IR + India's foreign policy simultaneously. The expanded 10-member BRICS is a favourite UPSC trap — expect a statement-based MCQ mixing old members and new entrants.

GS2/GS3

India–Vietnam BrahMos Deal — Defence Diplomacy Milestone

WHY IN NEWS

India signed a ₹5,800 crore agreement with Vietnam for shore-based coastal BrahMos missile batteries, with Indonesia confirmed as the next buyer — a direct outcome of BrahMos's combat-proven status post-Operation Sindoor (May 2025).

BACKGROUND

BrahMos is a joint venture between India's DRDO and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya; it is the world's fastest operational supersonic cruise missile, reaching speeds of Mach 2.8–3.0. Philippines was the first export customer in 2022.

PRELIMS FACTS

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Defence exports signal India's transition from importer to a credible defence manufacturing hub, targeting \$5 billion in exports by 2025.
- BrahMos exports to Southeast Asia serve India's Act East Policy and strengthen ASEAN security partnerships against China's assertiveness in South China Sea.
- Dual-use concern: missile technology transfer raises non-proliferation sensitivities under MTCR norms.

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS2 — IR / India-SEA

GS3 — Defence Indigenisation

GS3 — Defence Exports

PYQ LINKAGE

- BrahMos: range ~290–800 km (upgraded); speed Mach 2.8–3.0; land/sea/air launched variants.
- Vietnam deal: ₹5,800 crore; includes coastal batteries, missiles, training, logistics.
- Philippines was the first BrahMos export customer (2022, ₹2,671 crore deal).
- Operation Sindoor (May 2025) used BrahMos effectively, overwhelming Pakistan's air defences.

GS3 2022: Role of defence indigenisation in India's security and economic growth.

PROBABLE MCQ

Which was the FIRST foreign country to purchase BrahMos missiles from India?
(a) Vietnam (b) Indonesia (c) Philippines (d) UAE

Ans: (c) Philippines — deal signed in 2022 for ₹2,671 crore.

PROBABLE MAINS Q

BrahMos exports reflect India's emerging defence diplomacy. Critically examine the strategic and economic implications. (150 words)

GS2

GS3

PYQ 2022

BrahMos

Defence Exports

Act East Policy

MTCR

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

BrahMos is the single most predictable UPSC Prelims topic in defence — specifications, joint venture partner (Russia), MTCR waiver, and export customers are all standard MCQ fodder. Memorise the export sequence: Philippines → Vietnam → Indonesia.

§4 Defence & Security

GS3

Operation Sheruwali — Counter-Terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir

WHY IN NEWS

Security forces launched Operation Sheruwali, a major counter-terrorism operation in Jammu & Kashmir, targeting active militant hideouts in the region's forest and mountainous terrain.

BACKGROUND

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Security operations must balance kinetic action with winning hearts and minds through development and governance outreach in J&K.
- Border management (LoC fencing, night vision surveillance) is critical to reducing infiltration-enabled terrorism.

Post-Article 370 abrogation (2019), J&K has seen persistent low-intensity conflict; security operations like Sheruwali follow a pattern of multi-force grid operations involving Army, CRPF, and J&K Police.

PRELIMS FACTS

- AFSPA (Armed Forces Special Powers Act) remains in force in parts of J&K, enabling sustained military operations.
- CRPF is India's primary counter-insurgency force under MHA deployed in J&K.
- J&K is now a Union Territory (since Oct 2019) under direct Central administration.
- Operation Sheruwali targets terror logistics and cross-border infiltration networks.

- Legal framework: AFSPA and its human rights critiques; NHRC oversight vs. operational necessity debate.

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS3 — Internal Security

GS3 — Terrorism

GS2 — Centre-State

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2020: Role of security forces in counter-insurgency operations; challenges in border management.

PROBABLE MCQ

Consider: 1. AFSPA empowers armed forces to shoot-to-kill suspects. 2. CRPF operates under Ministry of Home Affairs. 3. J&K became a UT in 2019. Which are correct?

Ans: 2 and 3 only. (AFSPA does not give shoot-to-kill authority without justification.)

PROBABLE MAINS Q

How can counter-terrorism operations in J&K be made more effective while safeguarding human rights? (150 words)

GS3

PYQ 2020

AFSPA

J&K

Counter-Terrorism

CRPF

Internal Security

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

Every J&K security operation is a gateway to AFSPA, CRPF mandate, and India's counter-terrorism legal architecture — topics UPSC revisits every 2–3 years. Map the three pillars: legal authority, operational structure, and human rights balance.

§5

Science & Technology

Gaganyaan Programme 2026 — India's Human Spaceflight at the Threshold

WHY IN NEWS

ISRO Chairman confirmed Gaganyaan G1 (first uncrewed mission) is 90% complete with 8,000+ ground tests at a 97% success rate, targeting 2026 launch, while the crewed H1 mission is scheduled for 2027.

BACKGROUND

Gaganyaan was announced by PM Modi in 2018 for India's first indigenous crewed spaceflight; its budget has been expanded to ₹20,193 crore and it also supports the Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS) goal by 2035.

PRELIMS FACTS

- G1 (uncrewed), G2 & G3 (uncrewed test flights) planned 2026; H1 (crewed, 3 astronauts) in 2027.
- ISRO budget 2026-27: ₹13,705.63 crore — a 10.1% rise over revised spending.
- Shubhanshu Shukla (IAF) flew Axiom Mission 4 to ISS in 2025 — first Indian to visit ISS.
- Gaganyaan budget: ₹20,193 crore; aims to place India as 4th nation to independently send humans to space.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Human spaceflight boosts national prestige, drives STEM enrollment, and creates spin-off technologies in materials, medicine, and robotics.
- Gaganyaan's commercial payoff: India targets a 10% share of the global space economy (projected at \$1 trillion by 2040).
- Ax-4's Shubhanshu Shukla brings critical ISS experience to HSFC (Human Space Flight Centre) for astronaut training protocols.

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS3 — Space Technology

GS3 — Science & Innovation

GS2 — India's S&T Policy

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2019: India's space programme; significance of human spaceflight for national development.

PROBABLE MCQ

Which of the following is correct about Gaganyaan?

1. H1 is the first crewed mission. 2. Total budget is ₹20,193 crore. 3. It will make India the 3rd nation to independently launch humans in space. Which is/are correct?

Ans: 1 and 2 only. (India would be the 4th, after USSR/Russia, USA, China.)

PROBABLE MAINS Q

Evaluate Gaganyaan's strategic, scientific, and economic significance for India. What are the key milestones achieved so far? (150 words)

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

Gaganyaan is the most layered S&T topic for UPSC 2026: it touches ISRO budget, human spaceflight history, spin-off technologies, space economy, and international cooperation — one topic, five GS angles.

\$6 Economy

GS3

Niryat Protsahan Scheme — Boosting MSME Exports

WHY IN NEWS

The Government launched the Interest Subvention Scheme and Collateral Support Scheme under the Niryat Protsahan sub-scheme to lower borrowing costs and address collateral barriers faced by MSME exporters.

BACKGROUND

MSMEs contribute ~30% of India's GDP and ~45% of exports, yet face structural disadvantages — high credit costs and inability to provide collateral — that limit their global competitiveness.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Interest Subvention Scheme reduces effective borrowing rate for MSME exporters, making Indian goods price-competitive.
- Collateral Support Scheme provides government-backed guarantee cover, enabling bank loans without physical collateral.
- MSMEs account for ~45% of India's total exports and employ ~110 million workers.
- The scheme operates under Niryat Protsahan, part of the broader National Export Policy framework.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Credit-constrained MSMEs cannot scale for global supply chains; interest subvention directly addresses this market failure.
- Trump tariffs (2025-26) have disrupted established trade flows, making new MSME export promotion schemes more critical for India's trade resilience.
- MSME formalisation (via Udyam Portal, GST linkage) must accompany export incentives for long-term competitiveness.

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS3 — Indian Economy

GS3 — MSMEs

GS3 — Trade Policy

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2022: Challenges faced by MSMEs and the role of government schemes in enhancing their competitiveness.

PROBABLE MCQ

The Niryat Protsahan sub-scheme's Interest Subvention aims to:

- Subsidise import duties for raw materials
- Lower effective borrowing rates for MSME exporters

- (c) Provide direct cash transfer to exporters
- (d) Exempt MSMEs from GST

Ans: (b). It reduces borrowing costs for export-oriented MSMEs.

PROBABLE MAINS Q

Examine the role of interest subvention and collateral support in transforming India's MSMEs into globally competitive exporters. (150 words)

GS3

PYQ 2022

MSME

Niryat Protsahan

Export Policy

Interest Subvention

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

MSME export schemes are perennial GS3 material — link Niryat Protsahan to RAMP, Udyam, and PM Vishwakarma to show examiners you understand the full policy ecosystem, not just isolated schemes.

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