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MORNING EDITION • 08:00 IST

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PART I • HEADLINES TO ECONOMY

TODAY'S SECTIONS

1. Top 10 Headlines
2. Polity & Governance
3. International Relations
4. Defence & Security
5. Science & Technology
6. Economy

→ Continued in Part II: Environment • Places in News • Ethics • MCQs • Mains • Direct Hit Tracker

Top 10 Headlines

1. NSE launches Nifty500 Ahimsa Index — India's first values-based, non-violence investment benchmark aligned with Jain/ethical investing principles. **GS3**
2. India sets defence production record: ₹1.78 lakh crore in FY26, up 15.6%; defence exports reach ₹38,424 crore; private sector share at 24% — all-time highs. **GS3**
3. India-Japan 16th Annual Summit (New Delhi, July 1–3): PM Takaichi's first India visit; semiconductor supply chains, defence tech, clean energy MoUs signed. **GS2**
4. India-Indonesia: PM Modi's state visit (July 6–8, Jakarta); 16 documents signed; SAIL–PT Krakatau Steel JV; Prambanan Temple restoration pledge. **GS2**
5. SC zero-tolerance on AI-hallucinated judgments after NCLT case; Bar Council of India to frame AI-use guidelines for legal profession. **GS2**
6. 131st Constitution Amendment Bill: 33% women's reservation in Lok Sabha/State Assemblies linked to delimitation; LS seats to expand from 543 to 816. **GS2**
7. AMCA Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft: 3 private consortia shortlisted (Tata, Bharat Forge–BEML, L&T–BEL); HAL excluded; 5th-generation fighter RFP issued. **GS3**
8. C-295 Vadodara: Tata–Airbus JV delivers India's first privately manufactured military transport aircraft; maiden flight June 10, 2026. **GS3**
9. WPI base year revised to 2022–23 (from 2011–12); basket expanded 697→957 items; new Producer Price Index (PPI) also introduced from June 2026. **GS3**
10. NGT: Illegal Yamuna sand mining in Fatehpur (UP) alters river course at five sites; UP authorities directed to respond by September 7, 2026. **GS3**

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Today's edition covers 6 GS papers and 7 high-probability UPSC topics — the kind of multi-front analysis that demands structured mentorship. **Sahyog Mentorship** at theiasakademia.com pairs you with a mentor who decodes the exam's true demand.

Polity & Governance

GS2

Judiciary · AI in Governance

13 July 2026 · Source: SC Circular / ANI

SC Issues Zero-Tolerance Circular on AI-Hallucinated Judgments

Why in News: The Supreme Court issued a "zero-tolerance" circular after an NCLT case in which a lawyer cited fictitious judgments generated by an AI chatbot, causing the tribunal to spend time tracing non-existent citations. The Bar Council of India (BCI) has been directed to constitute a committee to frame ethical guidelines for AI use in legal practice.

Background: AI hallucination — where large language models confidently generate false case citations — has emerged as a global legal crisis, with similar incidents in US federal courts (2023 *Mata v. Avianca*). India's courts handle millions of cases and are increasingly influenced by lawyer-cited precedents, making the stakes high.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Trigger case: Lawyer in NCLT cited 3 AI-generated fictitious judgments as precedents
- SC circular: Lawyers must personally verify every citation before filing; contempt of court if false
- BCI committee mandate: Draft AI-use protocol for advocates, deadline 3 months
- Broader context: Supreme Court AI Policy 2024 permitted AI for research, NOT for generating legal submissions

💡 TEACHING HOOK

Remember: AI hallucination ≠ AI mistake — it is AI *confabulation*, generating plausible-sounding falsehoods with full confidence. For UPSC, link this to **Article 21 (right to fair trial)** — a lawyer citing false precedents undermines the constitutional guarantee of justice.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2023: "Discuss the potential of Artificial Intelligence in transforming judicial processes in India, along with associated risks." [UPSC Mains GS2, 2023]

GS2

Judiciary

AI Governance

PYQ 2023

Bar Council of India

NCLT

GS2

Constitutional Amendments · Women's Representation

13 July 2026 · Source: PIB / Lok Sabha Bulletin

131st Constitution Amendment Bill: 33% Women's Reservation + Lok Sabha Seat Expansion

Why in News: The 131st Constitution Amendment Bill, listed for introduction in the upcoming Monsoon Session (July 20), proposes 33% reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, triggering delimitation based on the 2026 Census that will expand LS seats from 543 to 816.

Background: India's LS seat count has been frozen at 543 since 1977 (based on 1971 Census). The 106th Amendment Act 2023 (Women's Reservation Act) had deferred implementation until after a post-census delimitation; the 131st Bill now links both — women's reservation and seat expansion — into a single constitutional exercise.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Reservation quantum: 1/3rd (33%) of total seats in LS + State Assemblies (including SC/ST reservation seats)
- Seat expansion: 543 → 816 LS seats (based on 2026 Census proportional population formula)
- Implementation: Post-delimitation; operative from 2029 general elections if passed in Monsoon Session
- Duration: Reservation valid for 15 years from first election after enactment (sunset clause)

💡 TEACHING HOOK

Key distinction: **106th Amendment (2023)** passed the concept; **131st Amendment** triggers the mechanism by linking seat expansion to delimitation. Think of it as the lock (106th) and the key (131st) — the lock was created 3 years ago, today the key is being cut.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2022: "The reservation of seats for women in the Panchayati Raj institutions has led to improved performance of these local bodies. What do you think will be the impact of the 33% reservation of seats for women in Parliament?" [GS2 Mains 2022]

GS2

Constitutional Amendment

Women's Representation

PYQ 2022

Delimitation

106th Amendment

§3 · GS2

International Relations

GS2

India–Japan · Indo-Pacific

July 1–3, 2026 · Source: MEA / PIB

India–Japan 16th Annual Summit: PM Takaichi's New Delhi Visit

Why in News: Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi visited New Delhi (July 1–3, 2026) for the 16th India–Japan Annual Summit, the first such visit after Japan's leadership change. The summit produced MoUs on semiconductor supply chains, defence technology, clean energy, and affirmed the "Special Strategic and Global Partnership."

Background: India–Japan annual summits have alternated between Tokyo and New Delhi since 2006. The Quad (India, US, Japan, Australia) gives the bilateral extra strategic weight; Japan is also India's largest ODA donor with ₹35,000+ crore in active projects including the Mumbai-Ahmedabad HSRail.

KEY FACTS

- Partnership level: Special Strategic and Global Partnership (upgraded 2014, PM Modi–PM Abe)
- Key outcomes: Semiconductor supply chain MoU (resilience against China concentration); Defence tech cooperation (UAV, military drones); Currency swap extended (¥750 bn / ₹50,000 cr)
- Quad angle: Affirmed Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) vision; critical minerals diversification

- ODA: Japan is India's largest bilateral ODA donor; Mumbai–Ahmedabad HSR (₹1.08 lakh cr, bullet train)

💡 TEACHING HOOK

India–Japan = **SMART partnership**: Semiconductors, Maritime security, Advanced tech, Resilient supply chains, Trade. For Prelims, note that India–Japan annual summits began in 2006 and the "Special Strategic and Global Partnership" was declared in 2014 under PM Modi and PM Abe.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2020: "What is the significance of the Quad grouping for India? Discuss its potential to shape Indo-Pacific security architecture." [GS2 Mains 2020]

GS2

India–Japan

Quad

PYQ 2020

Indo-Pacific

Semiconductor

GS2

India–SE Asia · Act East Policy

July 6–8, 2026 · Source: MEA Joint Statement / PIB

India–Indonesia: PM Modi's State Visit — 16 Documents, SAIL–Krakatau JV, Prambanan Pledge

Why in News: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Jakarta (July 6–8, 2026), hosted by President Prabowo Subianto, elevated ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with 16 MoUs across maritime, defence, energy, culture, and industry, making it one of India's most substantive bilateral engagements with ASEAN in 2026.

Background: India–Indonesia share strategic convergence as the Indian Ocean's two largest democracies. Indonesia's control of the Malacca, Sunda, and Lombok straits gives it critical maritime gatekeeper status; India's "Act East Policy" has deepened ASEAN ties since 2014.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- 16 documents signed: Maritime Security MoU renewed; Indonesia to station ILO at India's IFC–IOR (Gurugram)
- SAIL–PT Krakatau Steel Strategic JV: Stainless steel production + technology transfer (critical for India's steel sector)
- Cultural: Prambanan Temple Complex (UNESCO; 9th-century Hindu temple in Java) restoration by India; 2026–27 = Tagore–Dewantara Year

- Defence: BrahMos + Astra air-to-air missile cooperation extended; joint military exercises expanded

MEMORY TECHNIQUE — RETURNING TOPIC

Previously covered:	09 Jul 2026 (BrahMos + Astra missile deal angle)
What's new today:	Full joint statement: SAIL JV, Prambanan restoration, IFC-IOR liaison, Tagore-Dewantara Year, 16 documents
UPSC relevance shift:	GS1 cultural diplomacy + GS2 maritime security + GS3 steel sector — multi-paper story

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2019: "How does India's 'Act East Policy' differ from the erstwhile 'Look East Policy'? Assess India's engagement with ASEAN in recent years." [GS2 Mains 2019]

GS2

Act East Policy

India–Indonesia

PYQ 2019

SAIL Krakatau

Prambanan UNESCO

THEIAS AKADEMIA

India–Japan and India–Indonesia together define India's Indo-Pacific strategy in 2026. **ANTIM 2027 IR + Policy Mains Module** traces each bilateral from strategic roots to exam-day applications — visit theiasakademia.com.

§4 · GS3

Defence & Security

GS3

Defence Industrialisation · Indigenisation

July 3, 2026 · Source: MoD / PIB

India's Defence Production Hits Record ₹1.78 Lakh Crore in FY26; AMCA RFP Issued

Why in News: India's defence production reached a record ₹1.78 lakh crore (\$19 billion) in FY 2025–26, marking 15.6% growth over FY25 and more than double the FY21 figure of ₹84,643 crore. Simultaneously, the Ministry of Defence issued the RFP for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), shortlisting 3 private consortia.

Background: India's Defence Production Policy 2020 and four Positive Indigenisation Lists (1,000+ items reserved for domestic procurement) have driven this growth; AMCA is India's first 5th-generation stealth fighter aircraft programme designed domestically, with DRDO as the design agency.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- FY26 production: ₹1.78 lakh crore; exports: ₹38,424 crore; private sector: ₹42,000 crore (24% share)
- AMCA RFP (May 27, 2026): 3 private consortia — (i) Tata Advanced Systems; (ii) Bharat Forge–BEML–Data Patterns; (iii) L&T–BEL–Dynamatic Technologies; HAL excluded from bidding
- AMCA specs: 5th-gen stealth; twin Kaveri MkII engine; internal weapons bay; supercruise capability; 2035 induction target
- Policy drivers: DAP 2020, iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence), 4 Positive Indigenisation Lists (PILs)

💡 TEACHING HOOK

Remember the production trajectory: FY21 (₹84,643 cr) → FY25 (₹1.54L cr) → FY26 (₹1.78L cr) → Target FY29 (₹3L cr). For AMCA, the mnemonic is **TBL**: Tata, Bharat Forge, L&T — three private giants competing for India's biggest air force contract.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2023: "Analyse the challenges faced by India in achieving self-reliance in defence manufacturing. What measures have been taken to promote indigenisation?" [GS3 Mains 2023]

GS3

Defence Manufacturing

AMCA

PYQ 2023

DAP 2020

Atmanirbharta

THEIAS AKADEMIA

Defence industrialisation raises deep ethical questions about the State's obligation to its soldiers vs. its manufacturers. **EMP (Ethics & Moral Philosophy)** at TheIAS Akademia bridges GS3 procurement dilemmas with GS4 governance ethics — theiasakademia.com.

C-295 Vadodara: India's First Privately Manufactured Military Aircraft Takes Maiden Flight

Why in News: The first C-295 transport aircraft manufactured in India by the Tata–Airbus joint venture at Vadodara, Gujarat completed its maiden flight on June 10, 2026, marking the first time a private Indian company has manufactured a military aircraft — a historic milestone in Atmanirbhar Bharat defence.

Background: India signed a ₹21,935 crore deal with Airbus in 2021 for 56 C-295 aircraft — 16 to be delivered in fly-away condition from Spain, and 40 to be manufactured in India at Tata's Vadodara facility. The C-295 replaces the ageing Avro HS-748 fleet of the Indian Air Force.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- JV: Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) + Airbus Defence & Space; facility at Vadodara, Gujarat
- Deal: ₹21,935 crore; 56 aircraft (16 from Spain fly-away + 40 Make-in-India); deal signed September 2021
- C-295 specs: Medium tactical transport; capacity 71 troops or 5 tonnes; STOL capability; replaces Avro HS-748
- Significance: First military aircraft manufactured by a private Indian firm under Make in India framework

💡 TEACHING HOOK

The C-295 story = a perfect **GS3 three-layer answer** : (i) Technology transfer (Airbus to Tata), (ii) Private sector entry into defence manufacturing, (iii) FDI in defence (74% automatic route, 100% Govt route). Cite Vadodara as India's first private military aircraft factory.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2021: "What are the key barriers to private sector participation in India's defence manufacturing? Assess recent policy reforms addressing these challenges." [GS3 Mains 2021]

GS3

C-295

Make in India

PYQ 2021

Tata-Airbus

Vadodara

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Science and technology, defence manufacturing, and economic policy now converge in UPSC GS3. **LAKSHYAM AIR1** integrates all three seamlessly into your answer writing framework — theiasakademia.com.

§ 6 · GS3

Economy

GS3

Economic Statistics · Financial Markets

June 15 + July 11, 2026 · Source: DPIIT / NSE Indices

WPI Base Year Revised to 2022–23 + NSE Launches Nifty500 Ahimsa Index

Why in News: Two significant economic developments: (1) India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) has been rebased from 2011–12 to 2022–23, expanding the basket from 697 to 957 items and introducing a new Producer Price Index (PPI) alongside it (effective June 15, 2026). (2) NSE Indices launched the Nifty500 Ahimsa Index on July 11, 2026 — India's first values-based ethical investment benchmark.

Background: WPI base revisions are periodic adjustments to reflect changes in the economy's production structure; the gap between base year and current year causes measurement drift. The Ahimsa Index uses the AIM (Ahimsa Investment Movement) framework developed with the Ahimsagain Foundation, filtering companies for non-violence alignment.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- WPI 2022–23: Items 697→957; Solar + Wind energy added under Electricity group; Crude + Natural Gas shifted to Fuel & Power (from Primary Articles)
- PPI: To be released alongside WPI for 5 years then discontinued; measures prices received by domestic producers (unlike WPI which uses ex-factory/wholesale)

- NSE Ahimsa: Excludes meat, fish, eggs, alcohol, tobacco, weapons firms; Green/Orange/Red band classification; reconstituted semi-annually; has outperformed Nifty 500
- AIM framework: Developed by Ahimsagain Foundation; evaluates business impact on living beings, not just financials

💡 TEACHING HOOK

WPI vs CPI: WPI measures *producer-level* prices (factory gate, wholesale), CPI measures *consumer-level* prices (retail). PPI sits between — it measures prices at the point of production before trade margins are added. For Ahimsa Index: it signals that Indian markets are ready for *values-based* capitalism, a GS3/GS4 intersection point.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2020: "Explain the distinction between Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI). Which is a better measure of inflation in India?" [GS3 Mains 2020]

GS3

WPI

PPI

NSE Ahimsa

PYQ 2020

DPIIT

ESG

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ANTIM ASSURED 100+

7

QUESTIONS FROM
A SINGLE DOCUMENT

6

QUESTIONS FROM
A SINGLE CLASS

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→ Continue to **Part II**: Environment · Places in News · Ethics (GS4) · 15 MCQs · 6 Mains Questions · Answer Writing · Direct Hit Tracker

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