

PART I • HEADLINES TO ECONOMY

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UPSC PRELIMS & MAINS

Saturday, 13 June 2026

MORNING EDITION • THEIAS AKADEMIA

"From Daily News to Direct UPSC Questions"

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FCRA Amendment Bill 2026 — Expanding Executive Control Over Foreign Funds

GS2

PYQ LINKED

WHY IN NEWS

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 was introduced in the Lok Sabha (March 25, 2026) and is now under debate, with opposition parties and civil society groups raising constitutional objections to its sweeping provisions.

BACKGROUND

The FCRA, 2010 regulates foreign contributions to NGOs to safeguard national security and public order. Earlier amendments (2020) already restricted sub-granting and tightened bank account norms.

PRELIMS FACTS

- FCRA 2010 amended by: FCRA Amendment Acts of 2010 and 2020.
- New provision: Designated Authority (DA) appointed by Union Govt to supervise NGO assets post-cancellation.
- DA can take over, manage, and liquidate foreign contributions if FCRA licence is cancelled/surrendered.
- Article 19(1)(c) — right to form associations — cited by critics as being threatened.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Federalism vs. national security: Can Union override state-registered NGOs' property rights?
- Chilling effect on civil society, minority educational institutions, and human rights groups.
- Separation of powers: Should an executive-appointed DA hold quasi-judicial powers over NGO assets?

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS2: Parliament, statutory bodies, fundamental rights, civil society & governance.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2021: FCRA provisions and impact on civil society organisations in India.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Consider: (1) FCRA 2026 Bill introduces a 'Designated Authority' to manage NGO assets post-licence cancellation. (2) Currently, foreign funds in cancelled NGO accounts revert directly to the Consolidated Fund of India. Which is/are correct?

Answer: Only (1) — Statement 2 is incorrect; under FCRA 2010 funds go to the government but not directly to CFI without process.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

"The FCRA Amendment Bill 2026 raises serious questions about constitutional freedoms and federal balance." Critically examine.

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

Every FCRA amendment since 2010 has progressively narrowed civil society space. In the 2026 bill, the key innovation is the 'Designated Authority' — link this to how Art. 19(1)(c) is tested in PYQ-style MCQs on NGO regulation.

GS2

FCRA

CIVIL SOCIETY

ART.19

PARLIAMENT

NFHS-6 (2023-24) — India's Health Transition: Progress and Persistent Gaps

GS2

GS1

PYQ LINKED

WHY IN NEWS

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released NFHS-6 data (2023-24) covering 715 districts, showing accelerated progress in maternal-child health but

persistent challenges in women's reproductive autonomy.

BACKGROUND

NFHS is a large-scale household survey conducted by MOHFW under the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS). NFHS-5 was conducted in 2019–21.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Hospital births: rose from 88.6% (NFHS-5) to 90.6% (NFHS-6).
- Child marriages (women 20–24 married before 18): fell from 23.3% to 16.7%.
- Women in household decisions: 89%; domestic violence still affects 1 in 5 women.
- Conducted by: IIPS, Mumbai, under MOHFW with technical support from ICF International (USA).

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Heavy reliance on female sterilisation as contraception — reflects systemic gender disparity in reproductive health burden.
- Data gaps in NFHS-6: critics note absence of indicators tracking PM Jan Aushadhi Yojana and PM Suraksha Bima Yojana outcomes.
- SDG 3 and 5 linkages: how NFHS data tracks India's progress on health and gender equality goals.

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS2: Welfare schemes, women & child development, health policy. GS1: Population, social issues.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS1 2022: Status of women and children in India — key indicators and government interventions.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

NFHS-6 (2023–24) is conducted by: (a) NSSO (b) IIPS (c) NHRC (d) Planning Commission

Answer: (b) IIPS — International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, under MOHFW mandate.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

"NFHS-6 reveals India's uneven health transition — gains in institutional delivery coexist with persistent reproductive inequality." Analyse with policy recommendations. (250 words)

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

NFHS data is a high-frequency MCQ source — examiners love numbers: 16.7% child marriage, 90.6% hospital births. Anchor these with the NFHS-5 figures to answer 'increase/decrease' statement MCQs confidently.

GS2

GS1

NFHS-6

WOMEN HEALTH

IIPS

§3

International Relations

PM Modi–France Visit: Rafale Marine Deal, G-7 Summit & India–France Strategic Partnership

GS2

DEFENCE

PYQ LINKED

WHY IN NEWS

PM Narendra Modi is in Nice, France (June 13–14) for the G-7 Summit and bilateral talks with President Macron, with France confirming tech transfer for 114 Rafale fighter jets as part of Make in India defence cooperation.

BACKGROUND

India-France are strategic partners since 1998. A previous Rafale deal (36 jets) was signed in 2016 for ₹59,000 crore. The new 114-jet deal (₹3.25 lakh crore) covers IAF requirements with ToT provisions.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Deal size: 114 Rafale jets; 24 in fly-away condition, 90 manufactured in India — indigenous content target: 55–60%.

- G-7 Summit 2026 location: Nice, France — India is an invited partner (not G-7 member).
- India-France Year of Innovation jointly inaugurated at 'Bharat Innovates' event.
- France is India's 5th largest trade partner in Europe; bilateral trade ~€12 billion annually.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Make in India in defence: How Rafale ToT advances India's strategic autonomy and defence industrial base.
- India-France vs India-US defence ties: multipolarity vs. single-alliance dependence debate.
- G-7 engagement: India's role as a bridge between developed economies and Global South.

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS2: India's bilateral relations, defence procurement, multilateral forums.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2023: India-France strategic partnership — scope and significance for Indo-Pacific security.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Consider: (1) India is a permanent member of G-7. (2) The G-7 Summit 2026 is hosted by France. Which is/are correct?

Answer: Only (2) — India is not a G-7 member but is frequently invited as a guest nation.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

"The India-France Rafale deal represents a new paradigm in defence diplomacy — technology partnership over transactional procurement." Evaluate. (250 words)

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

Rafale questions recur in UPSC — the 2016 deal, the CAG audit, and now the 2026 ToT. Each iteration is a new angle: first the controversy, now the strategic partnership model. Know both.

GS2

DEFENCE

INDIA-FRANCE

G7

MAKE IN INDIA

India Appoints Ambassador to Türkiye; BRICS Summit September 2026 in Focus

GS2

PYQ LINKED

WHY IN NEWS

MEA appointed Rudra Gaurav Shresth as India's next Ambassador to Türkiye (June 11, 2026), signalling continued diplomatic engagement. Separately, India is preparing for the BRICS Leaders Summit in September 2026.

BACKGROUND

India-Türkiye relations have been complex — Türkiye has historically supported Pakistan on Kashmir. BRICS expanded in 2024 with admission of new members including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran, Ethiopia, and Egypt.

PRELIMS FACTS

- New Indian Ambassador to Türkiye: Rudra Gaurav Shresth (appointed June 11, 2026).
- BRICS original members: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa.
- BRICS expanded 2024: new members include Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia.
- BRICS Leaders Summit 2026 scheduled for September — India committed to multipolar world order.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- India's diplomatic calculus with Türkiye: balancing NATO member relations with sovereignty on Kashmir.
- BRICS expansion — does enlarged BRICS serve India's multipolarity goals or dilute consensus?

- India-Russia partnership within BRICS: divergence on Ukraine war vs. convergence on multilateralism.

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS2: India's foreign policy, multilateral institutions, bilateral diplomacy.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2022: BRICS — relevance and challenges for India in a changing global order.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Which among the following became BRICS members in 2024? (a) Indonesia, Thailand (b) Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia (c) Argentina, Turkey (d) Nigeria, Bangladesh

Answer: (b) — Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia formally joined BRICS in January 2024.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

"An expanded BRICS is simultaneously India's opportunity and challenge." Critically examine India's position in post-2024 BRICS. (250 words)

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

BRICS expansion MCQs are guaranteed in Prelims — know the 5 original + 5 new members (2024). India-Türkiye relations test IR analytical writing: always frame through Kashmir + NATO + trade dimensions.

GS2

BRICS

TURKEY

DIPLOMACY

MULTILATERAL

§4

Defence & Security

AFSPA Withdrawal from Northeast — HM Amit Shah's Announcement & Significance

GS3

GS2

PYQ LINKED

WHY IN NEWS

Home Minister Amit Shah announced (June 11, 2026) that AFSPA will be removed from the entire Northeast barring 1–2 states within the next year, with 80%+ of the region already freed from the Act.

BACKGROUND

AFSPA 1958 grants special powers to armed forces in 'disturbed areas' — including immunity from prosecution. AFSPA has been progressively withdrawn from Tripura (2015), Meghalaya (2018), and Mizoram (1980s).

PRELIMS FACTS

- AFSPA fully withdrawn from: Tripura (2015), Meghalaya (2018), Mizoram (1980s).
- Still operational (partially): Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh (Tirap, Changlang, Longding districts).
- Assam-Nagaland tripartite MoU also signed at same event — oil exploration in Naga-Schuppen Belt.
- 80%+ of Northeast now free from AFSPA per MHA data (June 2026).

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- AFSPA as a law: balancing national security imperatives with human rights concerns and state sovereignty.
- Peace indicators: reduction of AFSPA as a metric for insurgency management success in Northeast.
- Constitutional implications: AFSPA vs. Art. 21 (right to life) — Supreme Court scrutiny history.

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS3: Internal security, insurgency, border management. GS2: Constitutional provisions, fundamental rights.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2016: AFSPA — provisions, controversy, and need for reform in Northeast India.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

AFSPA has been completely withdrawn from which of the following NE states? (1) Tripura (2) Meghalaya (3) Assam (4) Mizoram — Select correct: (a) 1,2 only (b) 1,2,4 (c) 2,3,4 (d) 1,3,4

Answer: (b) 1, 2, 4 — Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram. Assam still partially has AFSPA coverage.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

"The progressive withdrawal of AFSPA from the Northeast signals India's transition from conflict management to peace consolidation." Critically examine. (250 words)

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

AFSPA is a perennial UPSC favourite — both in Prelims (which states, which year withdrawn) and Mains (human rights vs. security). The 2026 announcement adds a fresh layer: frame your answer through NE peace dividends and Art. 21 jurisprudence.

GS3

GS2

AFSPA

NORTHEAST

INTERNAL SECURITY

\$5

Science & Technology

India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 — Towards Domestic Chip Manufacturing at Scale

GS3

PYQ LINKED

WHY IN NEWS

ISM 2.0 was announced in the Union Budget 2026–27 with ₹1,000 crore allocation. The Centre has approved 13 semiconductor projects across 7 states, including logic/power fabs, OSAT units, and SiC substrate projects.

BACKGROUND

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) was launched in 2021 with ₹76,000 crore incentive package. First chip fab approved: Tata Electronics-PSMC facility in Dholera (Gujarat). India aims to capture \$100 billion semiconductor market share by 2030.

PRELIMS FACTS

- ISM 2.0 budget allocation: ₹1,000 crore (FY 2026–27).
- 13 projects approved across 7 states under ISM + SPECS scheme.
- ISM 2.0 focus: semiconductor equipment, materials, full-stack Indian IP, global supply chain integration.
- SPECS = Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Semiconductor self-reliance as strategic imperative: lessons from COVID supply disruption and China-Taiwan risk.
- Challenges: water-intensive fabs, power supply, skilled manpower — India's infrastructure gaps.
- ISM 2.0 vs. US CHIPS Act and EU Chips Act: how India competes in global semiconductor geopolitics.

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS3: Science & technology, indigenous technology, industrial policy, digital economy.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2022: India's electronics manufacturing policy — opportunities, challenges and way forward.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

SPECS scheme relates to: (a) Space exploration (b) Semiconductor/electronic component manufacturing (c) Skill development (d) Solar power equipment

Answer: (b) — SPECS = Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

"India's Semiconductor Mission 2.0 is as much a geopolitical strategy as an industrial policy." Examine. (250 words)

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

Semiconductor MCQs are rising in UPSC — know ISM 2021 (₹76,000 cr) vs ISM 2.0 (₹1,000 cr FY27 allocation), SPECS, and Dholera fab. Frame Mains answers through supply chain security + Make in India + Viksit Bharat.

GS3

SEMICONDUCTOR

ISM 2.0

DIGITAL INDIA

SPECS

§6

Economy

RBI Cuts Repo Rate to 5.5% — Third Consecutive Cut; Stance Shifts to 'Neutral'

GS3

PYQ LINKED

WHY IN NEWS

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), in its 55th meeting (June 4–6, 2026), cut the repo rate by 50 bps to 5.5% — the third consecutive cut — and shifted stance from 'accommodative' to 'neutral', signalling the end of the easing cycle.

BACKGROUND

The RBI began its rate cut cycle in February 2025 after elevated inflation subsided. Cumulative cuts now total 100 bps since February 2025. India's GDP grew at 7.4% YoY in Q4 FY25.

PRELIMS FACTS

- New Repo Rate: 5.5% (cut by 50 bps in June 2026 MPC meeting).
- SDF rate revised to: 5.25%; MSF rate and Bank Rate: 5.75%.
- MPC stance changed from: 'Accommodative' → 'Neutral'.
- RBI Governor: Sanjay Malhotra (appointed December 2024).

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Monetary transmission: why repo rate cuts don't always translate into lower bank lending rates immediately.
- Neutral stance implication: RBI signalling space for further easing is limited — balancing growth vs. inflation.
- RBI's dual mandate: price stability + growth — how the 2026 rate cycle tests this balance.

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS3: Indian economy, monetary policy, RBI, banking sector, inflation management.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2020: Monetary policy transmission in India — challenges and remedies.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate is: (a) always 25 bps above repo rate (b) the floor of the LAF corridor (c) set by SEBI (d) linked to CRR

Answer: (b) — SDF is the floor of the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) corridor, 25 bps below repo rate.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

"India's third consecutive repo rate cut in 2026 marks a turning point in RBI's monetary strategy." Analyse the implications for growth, inflation, and banking sector. (250 words)

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

RBI tools — SDF, MSF, repo, reverse repo, CRR, SLR — are tested almost every year. In 2026, the key addition is MPC stance shift from

'accommodative' to 'neutral': know what each stance means for future rate direction.

GS3

RBI

REPO RATE

MPC

MONETARY POLICY

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UPSC CSE Prelims 2026 Results

In what critics called the most unpredictable Prelims paper in a decade —

48

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7

QUESTIONS FROM
A SINGLE DOCUMENT

6

QUESTIONS FROM
A SINGLE CLASS

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