

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"

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§1 Top 10 Headlines

PM Modi arrives in Bratislava for historic first Indian PM visit to Slovakia since 1993; agenda covers trade, defence & manufacturing.

Source: MEA / DD News

52nd G7 Summit begins June 15–17 at Évian-les-Bains, France; India invited for 8th consecutive year; PM to voice Global South aspirations.

Source: PIB / Tribune India

India–France sign Innovation Roadmap 2030 & Economic Security Dialogue; Bharat Innovates 2026 co-inaugurated with Macron in Nice.

Source: MEA

DRDO successfully tests multi-layered Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system on June 10–11; India joins elite BMD nations.

Source: DRDO / PIB

Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth appointed next Chief of Army Staff (COAS); assumes charge June 30, 2026.

Source: PIB

Delimitation Bill, 2026 introduced in Lok Sabha: proposes increasing seats from 543 to 850.

Source: PRS India / Newsonair

Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 links women's one-third reservation to new census-based delimitation.

Source: Newsonair / PRS

Supreme Court releases draft "Regulations for Use of AI in Courts, 2026" — comments open until June 20.

Source: Supreme Court / Mondaq

RBI holds repo rate at 5.25% in June MPC meeting; projects FY27 GDP growth at 6.6%; Forex reserves at \$682.3 bn.

Source: RBI / Business Standard

Global Wind Day 2026 Conference held in Goa; MNRE targets 100 GW wind capacity by 2030, 155 GW by 2035.

Source: PIB / Sarkaritel

§2 Polity & Governance

Delimitation Bill, 2026 — Expanding Lok Sabha to 850 Seats

WHY IN NEWS

The Delimitation Bill, 2026 was introduced in Lok Sabha by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on April 16, 2026. It proposes expanding Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 850 before the 2027 census is conducted.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Current Lok Sabha strength: 543 seats; proposed: 850 (815 states + 35 UTs)
- Delimitation Commission will be constituted under the Delimitation Act
- Rajya Sabha maximum: 250 (238 elected + 12 nominated)
- Article 81 governs Lok Sabha composition; Article 82 mandates delimitation after each census

UPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS2 — Parliament, Constitutional Amendments, Federal Polity

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the Delimitation Bill, 2026:

1. It proposes to increase Lok Sabha seats to 850.
2. The Delimitation Commission will operate independently of Election Commission of India.

BACKGROUND

Seat delimitation was frozen after 1976 until the 84th Amendment (2003) extended the freeze to 2026. The 2026 exercise is constitutionally mandated post-census; the Delimitation Commission will redraw constituencies.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- South India fears reduced political weight due to slower population growth vs. North — federal tensions
- Larger Lok Sabha may improve representative democracy but raises questions of manageability
- Linkage with women's reservation (131st Amendment) makes delimitation politically complex

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2019: Significance of delimitation in ensuring proportional representation

3. Article 82 mandates delimitation after every census.
Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) 1 and 3 only (B) 2 and 3 only (C) 1 only (D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (A) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: The Delimitation Commission operates under the Delimitation Act and works in coordination with the ECI (Statement 2 is incorrect).

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

Discuss the political and federal implications of the Delimitation Bill, 2026, especially for southern states. (150 words)

GS2

PYQ 2019

Delimitation

Lok Sabha

Federal Polity

 **Akademia Teaching Hook:** The delimitation debate is the single most consequential political exercise of the decade — it reshapes who holds power for the next 25 years. Connect Article 82 (census-linked delimitation) with the 84th Amendment's freeze and the 131st Amendment's women's reservation to build a layered answer.

Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 — Women's Reservation & New Census

WHY IN NEWS

The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 was introduced alongside the Delimitation Bill; it operationalises the one-third women's reservation in Lok Sabha and state assemblies, linking its implementation to delimitation post-2027 census.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Women's reservation: one-third of total seats in Lok Sabha and state assemblies
- Reservation applies to SC/ST reserved constituencies proportionally
- The 106th Amendment (2023) is the parent act; 131st Amendment is enabling legislation
- Rotation of reserved seats every delimitation cycle (not every election)

UPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS2 — Women's Political Participation, Constitutional Amendments, Representation

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

With reference to the 106th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2023, which of the following is correct?

- (A) It immediately reserved one-third seats for women in Lok Sabha
(B) It conditions women's reservation on a new census and delimitation exercise
(C) It reserves seats for women only in state legislative assemblies
(D) It provides for 50% reservation for women in Parliament

Answer: (B)

Explanation: The 106th Amendment reserves one-third seats but conditions implementation on post-census delimitation.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

Critically analyse the linkage between women's reservation and delimitation in India. Does it delay justice or ensure structural sustainability? (250 words)

GS2

PYQ 2023

Women's Reservation

106th Amendment

BACKGROUND

The Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023 (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam) mandated women's reservation but conditioned it on a new census and delimitation — making the 131st Amendment the enabling legislation.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Delayed operationalisation raises questions about political will vs. constitutional intent
- Impact on women's political representation — India ranks 143rd globally (IPU 2025)
- Intersection with delimitation federalism — southern states may see reduced women's seats in absolute numbers

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2023: Women's reservation and its impact on Indian democracy

🔗 **Akademia Teaching Hook:** Frame this as a 3-tier story — 106th Amendment (enabling) → Census (condition) → Delimitation (trigger) → Women enter in numbers. The delayed implementation is not a bug; it is a design choice with federal implications.

§3 International Relations

PM Modi's Historic Visit to Slovakia — First Indian PM Since 1993

WHY IN NEWS

PM Modi arrived in Bratislava on June 14–15, 2026 for the first-ever visit by an Indian PM to Slovakia since its independence in 1993, meeting President Peter Pellegrini and PM Robert Fico.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Slovakia became independent in 1993 (Dissolution of Czechoslovakia — "Velvet Divorce")
- Capital: Bratislava; Currency: Euro; Member: EU, NATO, Schengen
- PM Robert Fico — Slovak PM since 2023; President Peter Pellegrini (since 2024)
- India–Slovakia: no visa-on-arrival; ~10,000 Indian students study in Slovakia

UPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS2 — India's foreign policy, bilateral relations, Central Europe engagement

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Which of the following is INCORRECT about Slovakia?

- (A) It became independent in 1993 after the dissolution of Czechoslovakia
- (B) Bratislava is its capital city
- (C) It is a member of the European Union but NOT NATO
- (D) Its currency is the Euro

Answer: (C)

Explanation: Slovakia is a member of both the EU and NATO, having joined NATO in 2004.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

Evaluate the strategic significance of India's diplomatic outreach to Central European nations like Slovakia in the current geopolitical context. (150 words)

GS2

PYQ 2021

Slovakia

Central Europe

India EU

BACKGROUND

Slovakia, a Central European EU and NATO member, is a major automobile manufacturing hub. India–Slovakia bilateral trade remains modest (~\$1.5 bn); the visit seeks to unlock defence co-production and railway partnerships.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- India's Central Europe engagement — new frontier beyond traditional EU partners (France, Germany, Italy)
- Defence co-production: Slovakia manufactures Zuzana self-propelled howitzers — fits India's artillery modernisation
- Slovakia as EU entry point for Indian manufacturing and tech investment

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2021: India's growing engagement with European nations beyond traditional partners

🔗 **Akademia Teaching Hook:** Slovakia is the template for India's "diversified Europe" strategy — moving beyond London, Paris, Berlin to find manufacturing and defence partnerships in smaller EU members with complementary industrial capacity.

52nd G7 Summit & India–France Innovation Roadmap 2030

WHY IN NEWS

The 52nd G7 Summit is held June 15–17 at Évian-les-Bains, France. India is invited for the 8th consecutive year; PM Modi will address outreach sessions, voicing Global South concerns on climate, debt, and trade.

BACKGROUND

India and France elevated bilateral ties to a "Special Global Strategic Partnership" in February 2026. The Innovation Roadmap 2030, signed in Nice, covers AI, nuclear energy, space, and defence co-production.

PRELIMS FACTS

- G7 members: USA, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, Japan + EU
- 52nd G7 hosted by France; Presidency rotates annually
- Évian-les-Bains: located in Haute-Savoie, on Lake Geneva's French shore
- VivaTech 2026 (Paris, June 18): India has largest national pavilion — Europe's premier tech summit

UPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS2 — India's foreign policy, multilateral bodies, India–France relations

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

With reference to the G7, consider these statements:

1. The European Union is a member of the G7.
2. India is a permanent invitee, not a full member of G7.
3. The 52nd G7 Summit (2026) was hosted by the United Kingdom.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) 1 and 2 only (B) 2 only (C) 1 only (D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (A) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: The EU participates in G7 as a non-enumerated member. The 52nd Summit (2026) was hosted by France, not UK (Statement 3 is incorrect).

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- India's G7 role: bridging Global North–South divide on climate finance, debt restructuring, digital governance
- India–France roadmap — civil nuclear + AI + space = most comprehensive bilateral in Europe
- Economic Security Dialogue: signal that geo-economics is now embedded in diplomatic frameworks

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2022: India's role in G7 outreach sessions and Global South leadership

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

How does India's consistent participation in G7 outreach sessions advance its foreign policy objectives? Illustrate with recent examples. (250 words)

GS2

PYQ 2022

G7

India-France

Global South

 **Akademia Teaching Hook:** India at G7 is not a seat — it is a platform. Use this in Mains answers to show India's strategic ambiguity: engaging with the Global North while championing the Global South on debt, climate finance, and digital governance.

§4 Defence & Security

DRDO BMD Success + Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth Appointed Next COAS

WHY IN NEWS

DRDO conducted successful back-to-back trials of India's multi-layered Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system on June 10–11, 2026, intercepting targets in both exo-atmospheric and endo-atmospheric domains. Separately, Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth was named next Chief of Army Staff.

PRELIMS FACTS

- BMD Layers: Exo-atmospheric (PAD, >40km) + Endo-atmospheric (AAD, 15–40km)
- Countries with BMD: USA, Russia, Israel, China, India (after 2026 trials)
- Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth: assumes charge as 30th COAS on June 30, 2026
- DRDO established in 1958; under Ministry of Defence; HQ: New Delhi

UPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING

BACKGROUND

India's BMD programme has two phases: Phase I (Prithvi Air Defence for exo-atmospheric; Advanced Air Defence for endo-atmospheric) and Phase II targeting ICBM-class threats. The programme started in the early 2000s post-Kargil.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Strategic deterrence: BMD changes India's second-strike calculus vis-à-vis Pakistan and China
- Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence — BMD is 100% indigenously developed
- COAS appointment significance: Army chief is highest operational commander; guides doctrine evolution

PYQ LINKAGE

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

With reference to India's Ballistic Missile Defence system, which of the following is correct?

- (A) PAD (Prithvi Air Defence) operates in the endo-atmospheric domain
- (B) AAD (Advanced Air Defence) intercepts missiles above 40 km altitude
- (C) PAD operates in exo-atmospheric domain; AAD in endo-atmospheric domain
- (D) BMD programme in India was started in 2015

Answer: (C)

Explanation: PAD (exo-atmospheric, >40km) and AAD (endo-atmospheric, 15–40km) form India's two-tier BMD system.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

Evaluate the strategic implications of India's successful Ballistic Missile Defence system for its deterrence posture in South Asia. (250 words)

GS3

PYQ 2020

BMD

DRDO

Atmanirbhar Defence

 **Akademia Teaching Hook:** BMD is the ultimate Atmanirbhar Bharat story in defence. Connect PAD + AAD → Phase II (ICBM-class) → India's deterrence triad to show escalation management logic in any GS3 security answer.

§5 Science & Technology

Supreme Court Draft AI Regulations for Indian Courts, 2026

WHY IN NEWS

The Supreme Court of India released draft "Regulations for Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Courts, 2026" on June 3, 2026, inviting public comments until June 20. The framework governs AI as an assistive tool in the Indian judiciary.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Framework principles: Human primacy, Fairness, Transparency, Data Privacy (DPDP Act 2023)
- Permitted uses: Scheduling, translation, transcription, legal research, accessibility
- Prohibited: AI risk scoring for bail, recidivism prediction, predicting litigant behaviour
- Apex Body at Supreme Court to certify, monitor, and report annually on AI use

UPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS2 — Judiciary, Access to Justice; GS3 — AI governance, emerging technologies

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

The Supreme Court's Draft AI Regulations 2026 expressly prohibit which of the following?

- (A) Translation and transcription of court proceedings
- (B) AI-based risk scoring for bail eligibility and recidivism prediction
- (C) Legal research assistance using AI tools
- (D) Scheduling and case management using AI

Answer: (B)

BACKGROUND

India's courts face a backlog of ~50 million cases. The Supreme Court's AI Committee, constituted under CJI's leadership, is developing a governance framework based on human primacy, transparency, data protection (DPDP Act, 2023), and 'Innovation Over Restraint'.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Access to justice: AI can reduce pendency if properly deployed — 50mn case backlog is a governance failure
- Ethics: Banning AI bail risk-scoring is critical — algorithmic bias could compound existing inequities
- DPDP Act 2023 as legal foundation — judiciary acknowledging data protection in its own operations

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2023: Ethical and regulatory challenges of AI in public institutions

Explanation: The regulations specifically bar AI systems from predicting future conduct of litigants or making bail/recidivism risk assessments, while permitting administrative and research uses.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

Critically examine the Supreme Court's draft AI regulations for courts in India. How do they balance judicial innovation with constitutional safeguards? (250 words)

GS2

GS3

PYQ 2023

AI Judiciary

Access to Justice

DPDP Act

🔗 **Akademia Teaching Hook:** Use this in GS2 (Judiciary) + GS3 (AI Governance) + GS4 (Ethics of algorithmic decision-making). The bail-scoring prohibition is the key ethical angle — connect to the right to equality under Article 14 and presumption of innocence.

§6 Economy

RBI MPC June 2026 — Repo Rate 5.25%, GDP 6.6%, Forex \$682 Billion

WHY IN NEWS

The RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in its June 2026 meeting kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.25% with a 'neutral' stance, citing geopolitical risks from West Asia. FY27 GDP growth projected at 6.6%.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Repo Rate: 5.25%; SDF Rate: 5.00%; MSF & Bank Rate: 5.50%
- FY27 GDP projection: 6.6% (Q1: 6.6%, Q2: 6.3%, Q3: 6.5%, Q4: 6.8%)
- Forex Reserves: \$682.3 billion (as of May 29, 2026) — ~11 months import cover
- MPC composition: 3 RBI members + 3 external members; Governor holds casting vote

UPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS3 — Monetary policy, RBI, Indian economy, External sector

BACKGROUND

RBI has been in an easing cycle since early 2025, cutting rates to support post-global-slowdown recovery. The West Asia conflict risks inflationary pressure through energy prices, warranting caution before further cuts.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Balancing growth stimulus vs. inflation risk in uncertain global environment
- High forex reserves (\$682 bn) as buffer — but import dependence on energy remains structural vulnerability
- Neutral stance flexibility: signals neither tightening nor easing, preserving policy space

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2022: Role of MPC in inflation targeting and monetary transmission in India

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

With reference to India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which of the following is correct?

- (A) MPC has 6 members, all appointed by the Government of India
- (B) MPC has 6 members — 3 from RBI and 3 external; Governor has casting vote
- (C) MPC decisions require unanimous agreement of all members
- (D) MPC is constituted under the FRBM Act, 2003

Answer: (B)

Explanation: MPC has 6 members (3 RBI + 3 external appointed by Govt); decisions by majority vote with Governor's casting vote in case of tie. It is constituted under the RBI Act, 1934 (amended 2016).

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

Evaluate the RBI's 'neutral' monetary policy stance in June 2026 in the context of global uncertainty and India's growth requirements. (150 words)

GS3

PYQ 2022

RBI

Repo Rate

MPC

Forex Reserves

📖 **Akademia Teaching Hook:** For any MPC-related Prelims MCQ, anchor on three numbers: Repo (5.25%), SDF (5.00%), MSF/Bank Rate (5.50%). For Mains, the 'neutral stance' argument is about policy optionality — neither hawkish nor dovish, maximum flexibility.

→ **Continued in Part II**

Part II covers: \$1 Environment · \$2 Places in News (Interactive Map) · \$3 Ethics & Integrity · \$4 Prelims MCQs (15 Qs) · \$5 Mains Questions · \$6 Value Addition · \$7 Direct Hit Tracker · \$8 Proof of Precision

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UPSC CSE Prelims 2026 Results

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

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