

CDS Monthly Compendium

July 2026

Compiled from in-window PIB press releases · 92 items



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How to use this digest

- Each entry is a **ready-to-revise note**: the **headline fact** a CDS examiner would pin, with the static context (full form, year, ministry/body, related facts) built around it.
- Bold** marks the load-bearing detail to memorise.
- Tap any **PIB** link at the foot of an entry to open the original press release and verify or go deeper.
- Entries are grouped by theme; every figure is drawn from in-window PIB press releases.

Schemes (3)

• Viksit UDAN deepens regional air connectivity (RCS)

Body: Ministry of Civil Aviation

Detail: UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) is the Regional Connectivity Scheme making flights affordable via Viability Gap Funding and capped fares; revives unserved/under-served airports

Exam hook: UDAN launched 2016 under NCAP; VGF subsidises airlines; ~50% seats fare-capped; airports developed under RCS

• PMFME scheme crosses 2 lakh credit-linked micro food-processing loans

Body: Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Detail: PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (2020, ₹10,000 cr); 35% credit-linked subsidy up to ₹10 lakh; One District One Product (ODOP) approach; ~90% first-gen, 44% women

Exam hook: PMFME (micro) vs PMKSY/Kisan SAMPADA (infrastructure)

• PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana and food processing

Body: Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Detail: PMKSY is a central sector umbrella scheme running since 2017-18, building farm-gate-to-retail infrastructure — mega food parks, cold chains, processing and preservation capacity, agro-processing clusters, food-testing labs and Operation Greens for TOP crops; aims to cut post-harvest losses, add value, raise exports and create rural jobs

Exam hook: Allied — PMFME (micro units, One District One Product, 35% subsidy), PLISFPI (scale and branding), FSSAI (food safety), APEDA (exports)

Welfare (11)

• VB-G 'RAM-G' Act: 125 days of guaranteed rural work

Body: Ministry of Rural Development

Detail: A rural-employment guarantee framework (building on MGNREGA's demand-driven wage-work model) offering guaranteed person-days and the 'right to work'

Exam hook: MGNREGA (2005) = legal right to 100 days' wage work; demand-driven; social audit by Gram Sabha; wages via DBT

• NCW and the women's-safety architecture (Helpline 14490)

Body: National Commission for Women (NCW)

Detail: NCW is a statutory body safeguarding women's rights; supported by Women Helpline, One Stop Centres (Sakhi), and the Nirbhaya Fund

Exam hook: NCW = statutory (NCW Act 1990), not constitutional; recommendatory powers; One Stop Centres under Mission Shakti

• AISHE 2022-23 & 2023-24 released; GER reaches 30, GPI 1.08

Body: Ministry of Education

Detail: All India Survey on Higher Education; GER = enrolment ÷ 18–23 population; 23.7 (2014-15) → 30 (2023-24); enrolment 4.5 cr; STEM crosses 1 cr; NEP 2020 targets 50% GER by 2035

Exam hook: GER vs NER; GPI = female GER ÷ male GER

• 3rd NAMASTE Day marks the sanitation-ecosystem scheme

Body: Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

Detail: NAMASTE = National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (2023, replaced SRMS); implemented by NSKFDC with MoHUA; ends hazardous sewer cleaning; manual scavenging banned by PEMSAR Act 2013

Exam hook: Article 17 (untouchability); SC 2023 fixed ₹30 lakh for sewer deaths

• EPFO launches the Amnesty Scheme 2026 for exempted PF Trusts

Body: EPFO / Ministry of Labour & Employment

Detail: EPFO = statutory body under EPF & MP Act, 1952; runs EPF + EPS (1995) + EDLI; governed by the Central Board of Trustees; now framed by the Code on Social Security, 2020

Exam hook: Four Labour Codes; EPFO (labour) vs NPS (PFRDA); UAN portability

• NSFDC impact study: 81% of beneficiaries report gains

Body: NSFDC / Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

Detail: National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation (est. 1989), a Section-8 CPSE; gives concessional credit to SCs via State Channelising Agencies

Exam hook: NSFDC-SC, NSTFDC-ST, NBCFDC-OBC, NMDFC-minorities; Article 46 (DPSP), Article 338 (NCSC)

• Key findings of NFHS-6 released

Body: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (nodal: IIPS Mumbai)

Detail: Gains in maternal-child health (institutional deliveries ~90.6%); rising lifestyle (non-communicable) diseases; TFR ~2.0 (replacement ~2.1)

Exam hook: IMR = per 1,000 live births; MMR = per 1,00,000; demographic dividend/transition

• World Hepatitis Day and the NVHCP

Body: MoHFW / WHO

Detail: Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver; types A–E; A and E spread by contaminated food and water (faecal-oral), B, C and D through blood and body fluids; B and C cause chronic infection leading to cirrhosis and liver cancer; vaccines exist for A and B (the B vaccine also protects against D) but not C, which is curable with antivirals

Exam hook: World Hepatitis Day is 28 July; the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (2018) offers free testing and treatment, targeting elimination by 2030

• PM-JANMAN and PVTG welfare

Body: Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Detail: Scheduled Tribes are notified by the President under Article 342; the NCST is a constitutional body under Article 338A; the Fifth Schedule applies to most states (Tribes Advisory Council) and the Sixth Schedule to Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram (Autonomous District Councils); PVTGs are the 75 most vulnerable ST groups, identified on Dhebar Commission criteria — pre-agricultural technology, low literacy, stagnant population, extreme backwardness

Exam hook: PM-JANMAN launched 15 Nov 2023 on Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (Birsa Munda's birth anniversary), covering 18 states and 1 UT through 11 converged interventions

• World Breastfeeding Week and child nutrition

Body: Ministry of Women & Child Development / WHO

Detail: Colostrum is the antibody-rich first milk, to be given within one hour of birth; exclusive breastfeeding is advised for six months, then complementary feeding alongside breastfeeding to two years; stunting is low height-for-age (chronic), wasting is low weight-for-height (acute), and underweight is low weight-for-age

Exam hook: World Breastfeeding Week is 1–7 August; delivery through Anganwadi Centres under ICDS (1975), Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, POSHAN Abhiyaan (2018) and the Poshan Tracker

• India's social security coverage crosses 100 crore (ILO)

Body: ILO / Ministry of Labour & Employment

Detail: Coverage of roughly 101 crore people, over 68% of the population; EPFO provides provident fund, pension (EPS 1995) and EDLI under the EPF & MP Act 1952; ESIC provides medical care under the ESI Act 1948; Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY gives Rs 5 lakh health cover; e-Shram is the unorganised-worker database

Exam hook: Also APY, PMJJBY and PMSBY for pension and insurance, and the National Food Security Act 2013

Polity/Bodies (22)

• CCI reviews combinations under the Competition Act

Body: Competition Commission of India (CCI)

Detail: CCI regulates anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominance and 'combinations' (M&A above thresholds); a statutory body under the Competition Act 2002; 2023 amendment added a deal-value threshold

Exam hook: CCI = statutory (Competition Act 2002, operational 2009); replaced MRTP Act; appeals go to NCLAT

• UAPA: designating individuals as 'terrorists'

Body: Ministry of Home Affairs

Detail: The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act lets the Centre ban organisations and, after the 2019 amendment, name individuals as terrorists; India's principal anti-terror law

Exam hook: UAPA 1967; 2019 amendment = individual terrorist designation + NIA powers; distinct from repealed TADA/POTA

• 5th Foundation Day of the Ministry of Cooperation (Sahkar Se Samridhhi)

Body: Ministry of Cooperation

Detail: Created 2021 (carved from Agriculture); motto 'Sahkar Se Samridhhi'; cooperatives under State List; drives like model bye-laws, PACS computerisation, new multi-state cooperative bodies

Exam hook: Cooperative societies = Part IXB, 97th Amendment; 'Prosperity through Cooperation'

• Narmada Award: one-time settlement among MP, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra

Body: Ministry of Home Affairs / Jal Shakti

Detail: Settles Sardar Sarovar cost-sharing dues; Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (1969, award 1979); Article 262 + Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956; courts barred, tribunal decides

Exam hook: Water = State List; inter-state rivers = Union List; cooperative federalism

• Library dedicated to Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan inaugurated

Body: Ministry of Home Affairs

Detail: JP gave the call for 'Sampoorna Kranti' (Total Revolution) from Patna (1974); led resistance to the Emergency (1975–77, Article 352); Bharat Ratna (1999); Quit India (1942)

Exam hook: 42nd Amendment (mini-Constitution); 44th Amendment tightened Emergency; Shah Commission

• NextGen e-Governance push using AI (DARPG)

Body: DARPG (Dept of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances)

Detail: AI-driven grievance redressal via CPGRAMS; digital-first, citizen-centric governance; part of the Digital India / minimum-government agenda

Exam hook: DARPG = nodal for administrative reform; CPGRAMS = public grievance portal

• Tribhuvan Sahkari University — first convocation (Anand, Gujarat)

Body: Ministry of Cooperation

Detail: India's first national cooperative university; named after Tribhuvandas Patel (founder of Amul/Kaira, 1946, backed Verghese Kurien); motto 'Sahkar Se Samridhhi'

Exam hook: 97th Amendment — Article 19(1)(c), 43B, Part IX-B; White Revolution / Operation Flood (1970)

• Census 2027: self-enumeration begins (Tamil Nadu & Tripura)

Body: Registrar General of India / Ministry of Home Affairs

Detail: India's first fully digital census (mobile app + online self-enumeration, 16 languages); two phases (Houselisting -> Population Enumeration); reference date 1 Mar 2027; first caste enumeration since 1931

Exam hook: Census Act 1948; census = Union subject (Entry 69); RGI, not MoSPI

• NITI Aayog releases Investment Friendliness Index

Body: NITI Aayog

Detail: Data-driven ranking of States on ease of investment (EoDB, infra, labour, governance); embodies competitive federalism; announced in Budget 2025-26

Exam hook: NITI Aayog (2015) replaced Planning Commission; advisory, PM-chaired, does NOT allocate funds

• Aadhaar App crosses 40 million downloads

Body: UIDAI / Ministry of Electronics & IT

Detail: Aadhaar = 12-digit ID (proof of identity, NOT citizenship); UIDAI statutory via Aadhaar Act 2016; part of India Stack (Aadhaar+UPI+DigiLocker); JAM trinity enables DBT

Exam hook: Puttaswamy (2017) made privacy a Fundamental Right (Article 21)

• CCPA takes suo motu action against 41 restaurants for default service charge

Body: Central Consumer Protection Authority / Ministry of Consumer Affairs

Detail: CCPA (est. 2020) under the Consumer Protection Act 2019; service charge is voluntary (2022 guidelines); penalties up to Rs 10 lakh (first)/Rs 50 lakh (repeat)

Exam hook: 2019 Act replaced 1986 Act; three-tier redressal (District/State/NCDRC)

• All-party meeting ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, 2026

Body: Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

Detail: Parliament has 3 sessions/year by convention (Budget/Monsoon/Winter); Article 85 — President summons/prorogues, max 6-month gap; adjournment vs prorogation vs dissolution

Exam hook: Rajya Sabha is a permanent House — never dissolved; quorum = 1/10 (Article 100)

• Draft Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2026 for public consultation

Body: Bar Council of India / Dept of Legal Affairs

Detail: Advocates Act 1961 governs the legal profession; the BCI (statutory, NOT constitutional) regulates lawyers AND legal education; State Bar Councils enrol advocates

Exam hook: Statutory (BCI) vs constitutional bodies; NALSA/Article 39A (legal aid)

• Sagarmala & Maritime India Vision 2030 progress

Body: Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways

Detail: Sagarmala (2015) = port-led development on 5 pillars; MIV 2030 targets ~3,500 MTPA port capacity; ~95% of India's trade by volume is seaborne

Exam hook: Major ports = Centre, minor/non-major ports = States; Sagarmala (ports) vs Bharatmala (roads)

• National Flag Quiz launched for the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign

Body: Dept of Youth Affairs (MY Bharat)

Detail: Tiranga = saffron (courage), white (peace), green (prosperity) + navy-blue Ashoka Chakra (24 spokes, from Samath); ratio 3:2; design credited to Pingali Venkayya; adopted 22 July 1947

Exam hook: Flag Code 2002 (amended 2021-22); respect = Fundamental Duty (Art 51A)

• New criminal laws (BNS, BNSS, BSA) implementation

Body: Ministry of Home Affairs

Detail: In force 1 July 2024 — BNS (replaces IPC 1860, crimes), BNSS (replaces CrPC 1973, procedure), BSA (replaces Evidence Act 1872, evidence); Zero FIR, community service, forensics

Exam hook: Sedition (124A) replaced by Section 152 BNS; BNS=crimes, BNSS=procedure, BSA=evidence

• Mission Karmayogi crosses 1.69 crore users

Body: Dept of Personnel & Training

Detail: National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (2020); shift from 'rule-based' to 'role-based' HR; delivered via the iGOT Karmayogi platform; overseen by PM's HR Council + Capacity Building Commission

Exam hook: 'Karmachari -> Karmayogi'; All India Services under Article 312

• Push to strengthen the anti-paper-leak law

Body: Ministry of Personnel / Education

Detail: Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act 2024 — India's first central anti-paper-leak law; offences cognizable, non-bailable, non-compoundable; covers UPSC/SSC/Railways/banking/NTA

Exam hook: Targets organisers, not honest candidates; assent Feb 2024, notified June 2024

• Eight Constitution Amendments enacted in twelve years (Art 368)

Body: Ministry of Law & Justice

Detail: Article 368 — three routes (simple majority; special majority; special majority + ratification by >=half the states for federal provisions); Kesavananda Bharati (1973) = basic-structure doctrine

Exam hook: Recent — GST (101st), EWS (103rd), women's reservation (106th); special majority = total-membership majority + 2/3 present & voting

• eCourts Phase III (Rs 7,210 crore) to cut case pendency

Body: Dept of Justice

Detail: eCourts = Mission Mode Project (Digital India) — e-filing, virtual hearings, the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG); disposing of cases is the JUDICIARY's job (separation of powers)

Exam hook: Supreme Court (Art 124), High Courts (Art 214); access to justice (Art 21 / 39A NALSA)

• PM interacts with Vibrant Villages Programme 2026 participants

Body: Ministry of Home Affairs

Detail: VVP (Budget 2022-23) develops border villages — Phase I northern (China) border, Phase II (2025) other borders; goals = infrastructure, livelihoods, reverse migration; border villages = 'first villages'

Exam hook: 7 land neighbours; guarding forces BSF/ITBP/SSB/Assam Rifles; BRO builds the roads

• Panchayati Raj and the Atmanirbhar Panchayat push

Body: Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Detail: 73rd Amendment (1992) inserted Part IX (Art 243) and the Eleventh Schedule (29 subjects); three tiers — Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti (block), Zila Parishad (district); Gram Sabha = all village voters (direct democracy, not elected); 5-yearly elections by the State Election Commission; reservation for SC/ST plus at least one-third for women

Exam hook: Finances flow via the State Finance Commission (Art 243-I)

Economy (27)

• Maharatna–Navratna–Miniratna: CPSE classification

Body: Dept of Public Enterprises (DPE), Ministry of Finance

Detail: Central Public Sector Enterprises get graded autonomy: Maharatna (largest, e.g. ONGC, SAIL), Navratna, and Miniratna I/II by size, profit and investment powers

Exam hook: Maharatna needs ■5,000 cr+ net profit / ■25,000 cr turnover norms; grants biggest investment autonomy; MECON = Miniratna

• India's EV push: FAME, PLI and battery supply chains

Body: Ministry of Heavy Industries

Detail: Electric-mobility drive via FAME (demand incentives), PM E-DRIVE, PLI for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) batteries and auto; aim to cut oil imports and emissions

Exam hook: FAME = Faster Adoption & Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) EVs; ACC-PLI for gigafactories; lithium-ion supply-chain dependence on imports

• 16th Finance Commission and fiscal federalism

Body: Sixteenth Finance Commission (chair Arvind Panagariya)

Detail: Constitutional body recommending the Centre–State tax-devolution formula and grants for the 2026-31 award period; vertical + horizontal devolution

Exam hook: Art 280 = Finance Commission (every 5 yrs); 15th FC kept States' share at 41%; criteria incl. population, income distance, area, demographic performance

• India–EFTA TEPA: Chintan Shivir on the seafood/marine-exports opportunity

Body: Department of Commerce

Detail: EFTA = Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland (NOT the EU); TEPA (Trade & Economic Partnership Agreement) signed 2024, includes a \$100 bn investment commitment over 15 years

Exam hook: EFTA ≠ EU; TEPA is India's first FTA with an investment target

• India's steel sector records growth in Q1 FY2026

Body: Ministry of Steel

Detail: India = world's 2nd-largest crude-steel producer; National Steel Policy 2017 targets 300 MT capacity by 2030; PLI for specialty steel; SAIL, Tata, JSW major producers

Exam hook: Steel = core-sector; India 2nd after China; per-capita consumption rising

• ECLGS 5.0 crosses 4.11 lakh guarantees (■1.55 lakh crore); 98% to MSMEs

Body: Dept of Financial Services / NCGTC

Detail: Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme first launched 2020 (Atmanirbhar Bharat); 100% guarantee to MSMEs via NCGTC; ECLGS 5.0 approved 5 May 2026 for West Asia shock

Exam hook: Credit guarantee mitigates lender risk; CGTMSE = standing MSME guarantee

• Index of Services Production (ISP), base year 2024-25, unveiled by MoSPI

Body: MoSPI

Detail: First monthly measure of the formal services sector (~53% of GVA); built from aggregated GST data; complements the IIP (base 2011-12)

Exam hook: IIP = industry monthly; ISP = services monthly; GDP = GVA + net product taxes

• Ministry of Coal invites applications under ■37,500 cr coal/lignite gasification scheme

Body: Ministry of Coal

Detail: Surface gasification converts coal to syngas (CO + H■) → methanol, ammonia, SNG; approved 13 May 2026; advances National Coal Gasification Mission target of 100 MT by 2030

Exam hook: Gasification → syngas; liquefaction → liquid fuel; combustion → heat

• TReDS made mandatory for CPSEs settling MSME invoices

Body: Ministry of MSME

Detail: TReDS = RBI-regulated platform that discounts MSME invoices into instant, collateral-free cash (RXIL, M1xchange, Invoicemart); MSMED Act 2006 = 45-day payment rule; Udyam portal

Exam hook: TReDS regulated by RBI; Section 43B(h) income-tax nudge

• FIU-IND wins runner-up at the Best Egmont Case Award (Baku)

Body: Ministry of Finance (FIU-IND)

Detail: ■868 cr cyber-fraud laundering cracked (5,000+ mule accounts, crypto); FIU-IND (est. 2004) under Dept of Revenue, powers from PMLA 2002; Egmont Group = global FIU network; ED investigates

Exam hook: FATF = standard-setter (grey list); Egmont = FIU network; India in FATF 'regular follow-up' (2024)

• CPI rebased to new base year 2024=100 (June 2026 release)

Body: NSO / MoSPI

Detail: Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures retail inflation across goods AND services; rebased to 2024=100; it is the RBI's monetary-policy target index (4% ± 2%)

Exam hook: CPI (retail, MoSPI) is the RBI target — NOT WPI; CPI-Combined/Rural/Urban

• WPI June 2026 (9.87%) on new base 2022-23; new Producer Price Index launched

Body: Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT

Detail: WPI (goods only, wholesale) rebased 2011-12 -> 2022-23; a new PPI (Output + Input + Services) will replace WPI after a 5-year parallel run; Working Group under Ramesh Chand

Exam hook: WPI/PPI = DPIIT; CPI = MoSPI; RBI targets CPI, not WPI

• India–UK CETA and the Double Contribution Convention enter into force

Body: Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Detail: Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement signed 24 Jul 2025, in force 15 Jul 2026; ~99% of Indian exports get duty-free UK access; DCC ends double social-security payments (5-year exemption)

Exam hook: India's first comprehensive FTA with a G-7 nation; CEPA(UAE)/ECTA(Australia)/TEPA(EFTA)

- **PLFS monthly bulletin, June 2026 (LFPR 54.4%, WPR 51.4%)**
Body: NSO / MoSPI
Detail: Periodic Labour Force Survey (since 2017); LFPR = in labour force, WPR = employed, UR = unemployed share of labour force; Usual Status (365 days) vs Current Weekly Status (7 days)
Exam hook: UR is a share of the LABOUR FORCE, not total population
- **Draft CAFE-III (2027) fuel-economy norms out for consultation**
Body: Ministry of Power / Bureau of Energy Efficiency
Detail: Corporate Average Fuel Economy caps a carmaker's fleet-average CO₂/fuel (g/km) under the Energy Conservation Act 2001; pushes EVs
Exam hook: CAFE = CO₂/fuel economy (BEE); Bharat Stage (BS-VI) = pollutants
- **Strengthening India's rural credit system**
Body: Ministry of Finance / NABARD
Detail: Rural credit via NABARD (apex, 1982), commercial banks, RRBs (1975, Narasimham), cooperative banks (PACS->DCCB->StCB), SFBs; tools = KCC (1998) + Priority Sector Lending (40%, 18% agri)
Exam hook: NABARD refinances (does not lend directly to farmers)
- **APEDA facilitates first J&K cherry & plum export to Singapore**
Body: APEDA / Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Detail: APEDA (statutory, APEDA Act 1985) promotes agri & processed-food exports; marine = MPEDA; GI tags under GI Act 1999 (Chennai registry)
Exam hook: APEDA = Commerce Ministry (not Agriculture); Agriculture Export Policy 2018
- **'White Gold' — India's cotton story**
Body: Ministry of Textiles / Agriculture
Detail: India grows all 4 cultivated cotton species (only country); 1st in acreage, 2nd in production; Bt cotton (GM, 2002, >95% area, bollworm-resistant); black (regur) soil; kharif crop; MSP via CCI
Exam hook: Bt = *Bacillus thuringiensis*; leading states Gujarat & Maharashtra
- **Government reaffirms safety & benefits of E20 ethanol-blended petrol**
Body: Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
Detail: Ethanol (C₂H₅OH) = biofuel from sugarcane + surplus grain; E20 = 20% ethanol (achieved ~2025, 5 years early); higher blends (E85/E100) need Flex-Fuel Vehicles; cuts oil imports & emissions
Exam hook: India imports ~85% of crude; National Policy on Biofuels 2018; Global Biofuels Alliance 2023
- **India's services exports rise to ~USD 421 billion (FY26)**
Body: Ministry of Commerce (RBI data)
Detail: IT/software (telecom-computer-info) ~49%, business services ~29.5%; services are 'invisibles' in the current account of the Balance of Payments; a services surplus offsets the goods trade deficit
Exam hook: BoT (goods) vs BoP (all); India = world's largest remittance recipient
- **3rd Bharat CPSEs' Consultative Conclave concludes (GSV, Vadodara)**
Body: Department of Public Enterprises
Detail: CPSE = central govt holds >=51%; graded by the DPE into Maharatna (~14, most autonomy) > Navratna (~26) > Miniratna (~74); higher status = more investment autonomy
Exam hook: Disinvestment via DIPAM; New PSE Policy 2021 (strategic sectors); 'commanding heights'
- **Commerce Ministry reviews FCV tobacco market (Andhra Pradesh)**
Body: Tobacco Board / Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Detail: Commercial/cash crops (cotton, sugarcane, jute, tobacco, plantation crops) grown for sale/export vs food crops (rice/wheat); FCV tobacco grown in AP & Karnataka; Tobacco Board (Guntur) is under Commerce
Exam hook: Cropping seasons Kharif/Rabi/Zaid; commodity boards under Commerce; WHO FCTC

- **ASUSE and India's unincorporated informal sector**
Body: MoSPI (Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises)
Detail: Informal/unorganised = small unregistered units and the self-employed, with no formal contract or social security; over 80% of India's workforce; 'unincorporated' means not a registered company; the sector employs roughly 19% of non-farm workers but contributes only about 6% of GVA
Exam hook: Low productivity is the core problem — the case for formalisation via EPFO/GST registration
- **India's record FY26 exports and the FTA push**
Body: Ministry of Commerce & Industry / DGFT
Detail: Total exports a record US\$ 863.1 bn — merchandise \$441.8 bn plus services \$421.3 bn; merchandise = 'visible' goods trade, services = 'invisibles'; India runs a goods deficit but a services surplus, both recorded in the current account
Exam hook: Recent FTAs — UAE-CEPA, Australia-ECTA, EFTA-TEPA, UK-CETA; the Foreign Trade Policy is issued by the DGFT
- **Public sector banks and the fall in NPAs**
Body: RBI / Ministry of Finance
Detail: NPA = a loan overdue beyond 90 days (RBI norm); GNPA is total bad loans, NNPA is net of provisions; classes are sub-standard, doubtful and loss; PSB GNPA has fallen to roughly 1.9% in FY26
Exam hook: Clean-up tools — AQR (2015), IBC (2016, through the NCLT), SARFAESI Act (2002), recapitalisation and NARCL; banks were nationalised in 1969 (14) and 1980 (6); RBI established 1935
- **CPI base-year revision to 2024=100**
Body: NSO, MoSPI
Detail: The Consumer Price Index measures retail inflation across goods and services; base year revised from 2012 to 2024=100, with 1,465 rural and 1,395 urban markets plus 12 online sources; food carries the largest weight; core inflation excludes food and fuel
Exam hook: Under flexible inflation targeting (2016, amended RBI Act), the RBI targets 4% CPI inflation with a ±2% band through the MPC's repo rate; WPI covers wholesale goods only (DPIIT, base 2022-23)
- **Samudra Manthan — the National Offshore Exploration Scheme**
Body: Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas / DGH
Detail: A Central Sector Scheme with an outlay of Rs 84,084 crore up to FY 2030-31 for offshore and deepwater exploration and production; India imports about 85% of its crude and roughly 50% of its natural gas; the country has about 26 sedimentary basins covering 3.36 million sq km, much of it offshore and under-explored
Exam hook: Policy path NELP (1999) to HELP (2016, revenue sharing and a uniform licence) to OALP, where bidders pick their own block using the National Data Repository

IR/Diplomacy (9)

- **16th India–Japan Annual Summit: Special Strategic Partnership**
Body: Ministry of External Affairs
Detail: India–Japan hold annual summits under a 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership'; cooperation on the Mumbai–Ahmedabad bullet train, QUAD and a Free & Open Indo-Pacific
Exam hook: India–Japan = only 'Special Strategic & Global Partnership'; Shinkansen (bullet train) tech; QUAD = India+Japan+US+Australia
- **PM's Indonesia–Australia–New Zealand visit: Act East & Indo-Pacific**
Body: Ministry of External Affairs
Detail: Three-nation tour deepening Act East, Indo-Pacific and trade ties; Indonesia is a maritime neighbour and ASEAN anchor; QUAD partner Australia
Exam hook: Act East Policy (from 'Look East'); ASEAN centrality; India–Australia ECTA (2022); Indo-Pacific = strategic construct
- **India–Israel Bilateral Investment Agreement signed**
Body: Ministry of Finance / MEA
Detail: A Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) protects and promotes cross-border investment (fair treatment, dispute settlement); part of India's revised BIT model post-2016
Exam hook: BIT ≠ FTA (BIT = investment protection only); India's 2016 Model BIT; ISDS = Investor-State Dispute Settlement

• **India's BRICS Chairship 2026: Kochi women's track, Guwahati anti-drug meet**

Body: Ministry of External Affairs

Detail: India chairs BRICS in 2026, hosting working groups (BRICS Women, anti-narcotics); expanded BRICS+ now includes Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE (and others)

Exam hook: BRICS = Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (+ new members); New Development Bank (HQ Shanghai); India chair 2026

• **13th ASEAN–India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) Joint Committee, New Delhi**

Body: Department of Commerce

Detail: ASEAN founded 1967 (Bangkok Declaration), HQ Jakarta, 10 members; AITIGA signed 2009, in force 2010 (goods only); review focuses on Rules of Origin; ASEAN ~11% of India's trade

Exam hook: Act East (2014) vs Look East (1991); India left RCEP in 2019

• **3rd India–Australia Annual Summit (Melbourne); Joint Declaration on Defence & Security**

Body: Ministry of External Affairs

Detail: Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2020); both in the Quad + Malabar; ECTA trade deal in force Dec 2022; Australia a key critical-minerals & uranium supplier

Exam hook: Quad = India, Australia, US, Japan (not a treaty alliance)

• **First round of India–Maldives Free Trade Agreement talks concludes**

Body: Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Detail: Maldives = Indian Ocean archipelago (capital Malé, currency Rufiyaa, SAARC); 60 years of ties (since 1965); Operation Cactus (1988); Greater Malé Connectivity Project

Exam hook: Neighbourhood First + MAHASAGAR/SAGAR; Operation Cactus = Maldives (not Pawan/Meghdoot)

• **Codex adopts three India-led spice standards (CAC49, Geneva)**

Body: Codex Alimentarius Commission (FAO + WHO)

Detail: Standards for large cardamom, coriander and vanilla; Codex (est. 1963) sets global food standards; FSSAI is India's regulator & Codex contact point

Exam hook: Codex = FAO+WHO (not WTO); FSSAI under Health Ministry; SPS Agreement benchmark

• **India joins the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS)**

Body: Ministry of Commerce & Industry / WTO

Detail: First WTO agreement centred on the environment; adopted at MC12 (Geneva 2022), in force Sept 2025; bans subsidies for IUU fishing, overfished stocks and unregulated high-seas fishing; aquaculture/inland excluded

Exam hook: Flows from SDG 14.6; WTO (1995, Geneva, successor to GATT)

Environment (12)

• **Ethanol blending hits the E20 milestone**

Body: Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

Detail: India reached ~20% ethanol blending in petrol (E20) ahead of the 2025 target under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme; cuts crude imports and emissions; feedstock sugarcane/maize/grain

Exam hook: E20 = 20% ethanol; EBP programme; ethanol = biofuel (renewable); target advanced from 2030 to 2025-26

• **VP launches Letters of Authorisation for sustainable High Seas fishing (BBNJ context)**

Body: Ministry of Fisheries

Detail: UNCLOS (1982) zones — Territorial Sea 12 nm, Contiguous 24 nm, EEZ 200 nm, High Seas beyond; BBNJ ('High Seas Treaty') adopted 2023, India signed 2024 (not yet ratified); deep-sea/blue economy

Exam hook: EEZ = sovereign resource rights (not full sovereignty); ISA governs the seabed 'Area'

• **91st Standing Committee meeting of the National Board for Wildlife (Coimbatore)**

Body: Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Detail: NBWL = statutory body under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, chaired by the PM (Standing Committee by Environment Minister); Project Tiger (1973, Jim Corbett); NTCA statutory (2006)

Exam hook: WPA 1972 protected areas; Project Elephant (1992); WCCB

• **7th Governing Body meeting of National CAMPA (Coimbatore)**

Body: Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Detail: CAMPA = Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management & Planning Authority; CAF Act 2016; NPV = payment for lost ecosystem services; Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 for forest diversion

Exam hook: Divert forest → pay CA + NPV; born of the T. N. Godavarman case

• **Preparations for the 'Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar' coastal-cleanup (10–19 Sept 2026)**

Body: Ministry of Earth Sciences

Detail: 'Clean Coast, Safe Sea' campaign (since 2022) tackles marine litter/plastic & microplastics; India's coast ~11,098 km, 9 coastal states; protects mangroves, corals, blue economy

Exam hook: Sundarbans = largest mangrove; INCOIS forecasts; EPR & single-use-plastic ban

• **12th National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS) meeting**

Body: Central Water Commission / Ministry of Jal Shakti

Detail: Dam Safety Act 2021 (dams >15 m); three bodies — NCDS (policy), NDSA (implementation), SDSOs (state surveillance); India 3rd in large dams (after China, USA)

Exam hook: Water = State List (Entry 17); inter-state rivers = Union (Entry 56)

• **'Catch the Rain' national water-conservation campaign renewed**

Body: Ministry of Jal Shakti

Detail: Flagship theme of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan — harvest rain, recharge groundwater, revive water bodies; India has ~18% of world population but ~4% of freshwater

Exam hook: National Water Mission (under NAPCC) targets 20% water-use efficiency; Jal Jeevan Mission = Har Ghar Jal

• **CAQM reviews enforcement across the NCR (air quality)**

Body: Commission for Air Quality Management

Detail: CAQM = statutory body (Act 2021, replaced EPCA) for NCR + adjoining areas; tools = GRAP (stage-wise by AQI) and the AQI (8 pollutants, PM2.5/PM10 key); CPCB monitors

Exam hook: Stubble burning; Air Act 1981; National Clean Air Programme

• **NBA releases funds under Access & Benefit Sharing (ABS)**

Body: National Biodiversity Authority / MoEF&CC

Detail: NBA (statutory, Biological Diversity Act 2002, HQ Chennai); three-tier — NBA + State Biodiversity Boards + local Biodiversity Management Committees; ABS prevents biopiracy (neem/turmeric/basmati)

Exam hook: CBD 1992 (Rio); Nagoya Protocol 2010 (ABS)

• **India's updated NDC under the Paris Agreement**

Body: MoEFCC / UNFCCC

Detail: NDC = a country's climate pledge under the Paris Agreement (2015); India's three targets — 45% cut in emission intensity of GDP by 2030 over 2005, about 50% non-fossil installed power capacity (achieved 2025), and an additional 2.5–3 billion-tonne CO2 carbon sink

Exam hook: Flows from the Panchamrit pledges at COP26 (Glasgow, 2021) — 500 GW non-fossil capacity, 50% renewables, net-zero by 2070

• **Flood management in the Ganga basin**

Body: Ministry of Jal Shakti / CWC

Detail: India floods because monsoon rain is concentrated in a few months, Himalayan rivers carry heavy silt that raises riverbeds, the plains are flat, and floodplains are encroached; the Kosi is the 'Sorrow of Bihar', the Damodar the 'Sorrow of Bengal' (tamed by the DVC)

Exam hook: Flood forecasting by the Central Water Commission, rainfall warnings by the IMD; disaster response under the Disaster Management Act 2005 — NDMA (PM-chaired), SDMA, DDMA, NDRF; India-Nepal joint mechanisms because tributaries rise in Nepal

• **Microplastics and marine litter on India's coast**

Body: NCCR, Ministry of Earth Sciences (Chennai)

Detail: Microplastics are plastic fragments under 5 mm — primary (microbeads, industrial pellets) or secondary (broken-down plastic and synthetic clothing fibres); nanoplastics are under 1 micrometre; most sources are land-based via rivers and drains, plus abandoned fishing gear ('ghost nets'); plastic is non-biodegradable and bioaccumulates up the food chain

Exam hook: Monitored using the Clean Coast Index; the Gulf of Mannar is a Marine Biosphere Reserve

Infra (2)

- **India rolls out its first fully made-in-India shipping container**

Body: Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways

Detail: India (long import-reliant, mainly on China) begins indigenous manufacture of ISO shipping containers, cutting import dependence and supporting exporters; TEU = standard 20-foot container unit

Exam hook: TEU = Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit; Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047; self-reliance in logistics

- **Underwater archaeology and India's submerged heritage**

Body: Archaeological Survey of India, Ministry of Culture

Detail: Underwater archaeology studies submerged remains left by sea-level rise, erosion, tsunamis and shipwrecks, using sonar, ROVs and photogrammetry; the ASI (founded 1861 under Alexander Cunningham) runs an Underwater Archaeology Wing; key sites are Dwarka and Bet Dwarka (Gujarat), Mahabalipuram (Pallava, a UNESCO site), Poompuhar (an ancient Chola port named in Sangam literature) and Karaikal

Exam hook: Governed by the AMASR Act 1958 and the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972; globally by the UNESCO 2001 Convention favouring in-situ preservation over treasure hunting

Culture/Sport (3)

- **VP unveils statue of social reformer Mannathu Padmanabhan**

Body: Nair Service Society

Detail: Mannathu Padmanabhan (1878–1970) founded the NSS; 'Bharata Kesari', Padma Bhushan (1966); organiser of the Vaikom (1924) & Guruvayur (1931) temple-entry Satyagrahas → Temple Entry Proclamation 1936

Exam hook: Kerala reformers — Narayana Guru (SNDP), Ayyankali; Article 17/25

- **72nd National Film Awards announced (for 2024); 'Article 370'**

Best Feature Film

Body: Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (NFDC)

Detail: National Film Awards instituted 1954; three sections; Golden Lotus (Swarna Kamal)/Silver Lotus; Dadasaheb Phalke Award (lifetime, 1969, first to Devika Rani)

Exam hook: Raja Harishchandra (1913) = first feature film; awards presented by the President

- **Sarnath inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (India's 45th)**

Body: Ministry of Culture / UNESCO (48th WHC, Busan)

Detail: Sarnath (near Varanasi) = site of Buddha's first sermon (Dharmachakra Pravartana); Dhamek Stupa; Ashoka's Lion Capital = India's National Emblem

Exam hook: 4 holy Buddhist sites — Lumbini, Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, Kushinagar; UNESCO 1972 Convention (cultural/natural/mixed)

Other (3)

- **K. Kamaraj birth anniversary (15 July)**

Body: —

Detail: Kamaraj (1903–1975): CM of Madras, Congress President (1963); the 'Kamaraj Plan' (1963) had leaders resign for party work; 'Kingmaker' (Shastri & Indira); pioneered free education + mid-day meal ('Kalvi Thanthai')

Exam hook: Bharat Ratna 1976 (posthumous); mid-day meal → PM POSHAN

- **Seismic activity in the Kangra–Chamba belt (Seismic Zone V)**

Body: National Center for Seismology / MoES

Detail: Focus (underground origin) vs epicentre (surface above); Zone V = highest risk (NE, Kashmir, Himachal, Kutch, Andaman); caused by Indian Plate colliding Eurasian (~5 cm/yr) → Himalayas

Exam hook: P-waves (through solids & liquids) vs S-waves (solids only); Richter scale

- **Lokmanya Tilak birth anniversary (23 July)**

Body: —

Detail: Tilak (1856–1920): 'Swaraj is my birthright'; newspapers Kesari (Marathi) & Maratha (English); Extremist (Garam Dal); Home Rule League 1916 (with Annie Besant); started public Ganesh (1894) & Shivaji festivals

Exam hook: Lal-Bal-Pal (Lajpat Rai, Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal); 'Father of Indian Unrest' (Valentine Chirol)