

Polity/Bodies (1)

• Lucknow Cantonment projects and how cantonment boards work

Body: Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and UP CM Yogi Adityanath; Bhoomi Pujan for **14 projects worth over Rs 100 crore**, two with the state government
Detail: Projects include an **AI-based solid waste plant**, a **1,500 KL underground reservoir**, **eight tubewells with SCADA**, a special school for differently abled children, **multi-level robotic car parking** and **legacy waste bio-mining** — all recognisably **municipal functions**
Detail: A **cantonment** is a notified **civil-military** area with a substantial **civilian** population; a **military station** is purely military. That is why a municipal-style body is needed inside a defence estate
Lineage: Governed by the **Cantonments Act, 2006** (replacing **1924**) under the **Ministry of Defence** through the **Directorate General Defence Estates**. The **Station Commander** is **ex-officio President**; the **CEO** comes from the **Indian Defence Estates Service**; composition is **partly elected**, **partly nominated**
Exam hook: **Cantonment boards fall outside the 74th Amendment** — they are **statutory**, not constitutional bodies under Part IXA, and their functions are not in the **Twelfth Schedule**. The live debate is **excising civilian areas** into adjoining municipalities

IR/Diplomacy (1)

• Inaugural India-Kuwait Joint Defence Committee

Body: Co-chaired by **Joint Secretary Amitabh Prasad** and **Brigadier General Raed Alsakran**, New Delhi; Indian side included the three Services, **DDP**, **DRDO**, **Armed Forces Medical Services** and **MEA**
Detail: Agreed areas — **training**, **military exercises**, **military medicine**, **staff talks**, **defence industry** and **R&D**. Wreath at the **National War Memorial**; industry talks at **DPSU Bhawan**
Detail: A **JDC** is the **institutional mechanism** that operationalises an MoU. The progression runs **diplomatic relations** → **MoU (intent)** → **joint committee (process)** → **activities** → **deeper agreements**. Without a mechanism an MoU has no owner
Lineage: Relations established **1962**; upgraded to a **Strategic Partnership** during the PM's visit in **December 2024**, when the defence MoU was signed. The **Gulf rupee**, issued by the **RBI from 1959**, was legal tender in Kuwait
Exam hook: The **1990 Iraqi invasion** prompted the **largest civilian airlift in history**, evacuating over a lakh Indians. Gulf exercises: **UAE Desert Cyclone/Desert Eagle** · **Saudi Al-Mohed Al-Hindi** · **Oman Al Najah**, **Naseem Al Bahr**, **Duqm access** · **Qatar Za'ir-Al-Bahr**

Defence (10)

• 9th National Security Strategies Conference

Body: Intelligence Bureau; inaugurated by Union Home Minister **Amit Shah**, New Delhi, **24–25 August 2026**, hybrid, **850+ participants**
Detail: Day 1 — counter-terrorism, intelligence fusion via **MAC**, a **narcotics vision document**, illegal-migrant detection, cyber-crime and proxy warfare. Day 2 — **sub-aerial systems**, blue economy, **information warfare**, bio-security
Detail: Directions included **PRAHAAR** training, bringing fugitives back with **trial in absentia**, integrated **UAPA** investigation and **AI analysis of MAC data**
Lineage: **IB 1887** (renamed 1920; R&AW split off 1968) · **Assam Rifles 1835**, the oldest · **CRPF 1939**, **CRPF Act 1949** · **NSG raised 1984**, **NSG Act 1986** · **MAC December 2001** · **NIA Act 2008**
Exam hook: **Public order** = **State List Entry 1**; **police** = **Entry 2**, subject to **Union List Entry 2A**, inserted by the **42nd Amendment (not the 44th)**. **Article 355** = Union's duty to protect States. **BNSS Section 356** allows in-absentia trial of a proclaimed offender **90 days after charge**

• Operation Black Hawk: 18.64 kg heroin seized

Body: **Central Bureau of Narcotics**, MP and UP Units, Ministry of Finance
Detail: **18.64 kg** crude heroin on the **Sultanpur–Lucknow highway**, night of **20–21 August 2026** — **~16.5 kg** in a fabricated **fuel-tank cavity** of an Assam-registered car, **2.16 kg** in a truck body frame near Barabanki. **3 arrests**; the toll was **four refuellings in 500 km**
Detail: **NDPS Act, 1985**, in force **14 November 1985**; heroin **small** = **5 g**, **commercial** = **250 g**; commercial attracts **10–20 years**; **Section 37** twin bail bar; **Hira Singh (2020)** — the **whole mixture counts**
Lineage: **CBN HQ Gwalior**, licenses **licit opium** in **MP**, **Rajasthan** and **UP** under the **Single Convention, 1961**. **NCB** is under **Home Affairs**, created **March 1986** under **Section 4(3)**
Exam hook: The classic trap is putting the **CBN under Home** — it is **Finance**. **Golden Crescent** = **Afghanistan**, **Iran**, **Pakistan**; **Golden Triangle** = **Myanmar**, **Laos**, **Thailand**

• Nipun, second Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel

Body: Indian Navy; built by **Hindustan Shipyard Limited**, **Visakhapatnam**
Detail: **Delivered 30 July 2026**, commissioning **31 August 2026** at **Naval Dockyard, Mumbai**. **INS Nistar**, the first of class, was commissioned **July 2025** — about **118 m**, **~10,000 tonnes**, saturation diving to about **300 m**, **80%+ indigenous content**, **~120 MSMEs**
Detail: **Saturation diving** works because once tissues are saturated at a pressure, extra time adds **no decompression penalty** — divers live in a pressurised chamber and decompress **once**, turning minutes of work into weeks
Lineage: Its strategic role is as **mothership for a Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV)**; the binding constraint in a submarine emergency is **how fast the DSRV reaches the site**
Exam hook: Shipyards — **MDL Mumbai** (destroyers, Scorpene) · **GRSE Kolkata** · **GSL Goa** · **CSL Kochi** (**INS Vikrant**) · **HSL Visakhapatnam**. India aims to be a **preferred submarine rescue partner in the IOR**

• INS Sudarshini at Lisbon on Lokayan 26

Body: Indian Navy sail training ship; three-day port call at **Lisbon** concluded **25 August 2026**, after **Ponta Delgada** in the Azores
Detail: Commissioned **27 January 2012**, built by **Goa Shipyard Limited**, based at **Kochi** under **Southern Naval Command** — about **54 m**, **20 sails**, **~1,035 sq m** of sail area. Sister ship **INS Tarangini (1997)**; both in the **First Training Squadron**
Detail: **Lokayan 26** began **20 January 2026** — about **ten months**, **~22,000 nautical miles**, **13 countries**, **18 ports**, over **200 Navy and Coast Guard trainees**
Lineage: Sail training survives because it removes the machine between sailor and sea — teaching **seamanship**, **teamwork under physical risk** working aloft at night, and **endurance**. Major navies all keep tall ships (**US *Eagle***, **Russia *Kruzenshtern***, **Portugal *Sagres***)
Exam hook: A tall ship is **naval diplomacy without threat** — unarmed and open to visitors. Commands: **Western Mumbai** · **Eastern Visakhapatnam** · **Southern Kochi (training)**; tri-service **Andaman and Nicobar**, **Port Blair**

• Hutatma Smruti Smarak at Patradevi and Goa's liberation

Body: **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the redeveloped memorial at **Patradevi**, with Goa CM **Dr Pramod Sawant**
Detail: **Satyagrahis** honoured by name — **Karnail Singh (Punjab)**, **Sahodra Devi (Madhya Pradesh)**, **Madhukar Damodar Chaudhary (Maharashtra)** — evidence the movement was **national**, not **regional**
Detail: Portuguese rule began **1510** with **Afonso de Albuquerque** and lasted **451 years**. Independence in 1947 did not touch Goa because Portugal claimed it as an **overseas province**, not a colony; **Dadra and Nagar Haveli** were liberated 1954; **satyagrahis** were **fired upon at Patradevi on 15 August 1955**
Lineage: **Operation Vijay** launched **17 December 1961**, surrender **19 December** — a **tri-service** operation of about **36 hours**; the **IAF struck Dabolim**. **Goa Liberation Day** = **19 December**
Exam hook: **12th Amendment, 1962** incorporated Goa, Daman and Diu as a UT; **statehood 30 May 1987** (25th state); **Konkani** added to the Eighth Schedule by the **71st Amendment, 1992**. Do not confuse **Operation Vijay 1961** with **Operation Vijay 1999 (Kargil)**

• T-series tank overhaul project at Jabalpur

Body: Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and MP CM Dr Mohan Yadav performed the Bhoomi Pujan at **Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur**, a unit of AVNL (Mini Ratna)

Detail: Rs 472 crore project to overhaul **80 tanks a year**. The Army needs 230 overhauled annually; **Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi** does 150 — so $150 + 80 = 230$, sized exactly to the deficit

Detail: An **overhaul** is a complete strip-down and rebuild, not a repair, and usually includes upgrades. Overhaul capacity sets **serviceability** — the share of a fleet fit to fight today

Lineage: The **Ordnance Factory Board** was dissolved in 2021, its 41 factories reorganised into seven DPSUs — Munitions India, AVNL, Advanced Weapons and Equipment India, Troop Comforts, Yantra India, India Optel, Gliders India

Exam hook: T-72 = Ajeya · T-90 = Bhishma · Arjun = indigenous (DRDO's CVRDE). The Raksha Mantri's argument: armour is vulnerable when used alone, hence the **Integrated Battle Group** concept

• First Mahila Commando Conversion Course at NSG Manesar

Body: Marked by WCD Minister Smt Annpurna Devi; NSG Training Academy, Manesar

Detail: Women from **State Police Forces** and CAPFs train in weapons, tactical intervention, hostage rescue and counter-terrorism

Detail: A **conversion course** takes **already-trained soldiers or police** and makes them commandos — close-quarter battle, room intervention, method of entry. It is **not basic training**

Lineage: NSG raised 1984, NSG Act 1986, modelled on GSG 9 and the SAS; personnel are the **Black Cats**. **Special Action Group** comes from the Army; **Special Ranger Groups** from CAPFs and state police — nobody is recruited directly, all serve on **deputation**

Exam hook: The NSG is under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, not Defence — the commonest error in the topic. The NSG and SPG are not CAPFs. Assam Rifles alone is MHA-administered but **Army-operational**. NDA opened to women from 2021; first women cadets 2022

• Defence export SOP and OGEL framework simplified

Body: Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence

Detail: An OGEL is a **standing one-time authorisation** letting an exporter self-generate authorisations for multiple consignments — no separate licence per shipment. **Three OGEL SOPs consolidated into one**; validity **two** → **three years**; coverage **41 countries** → **all countries** except negative/sensitive nations and those under **UNSC sanctions or arms embargoes**; item range expanded; a new provision for long-term **Foreign OEM** contracts

Detail: Stakeholder consultation **dispensed with** for **non-lethal items to most destinations** and for **all items for international tenders and exhibitions** — a deadline-driven change, since a product not shown is a product not sold

Lineage: This is a switch from a **positive list** (permit what is enumerated) to a **negative list** (forbid what is enumerated), reversing the default.

End-use and end-user controls are retained — liberalising procedure is not removing scrutiny

Exam hook: Exports cut unit cost for India's own forces by **spreading fixed development costs over longer runs**, and smooth the **lumpy** procurement cycle. **Positive indigenisation lists** restrict imports — the mirror image. Compare **Japan's April 2026** revision of its Three Principles

• Operation Vajra 2.0: 66.80 lakh psychotropic tablets

Body: Central Bureau of Narcotics, MP Unit, on intelligence from Neemuch; Ministry of Finance

Detail: 66,79,980 tablets — Alprazolam, Tramadol, Nitrazepam, Clonazepam — seized on the **Chandigarh–Baddi** route, 27–28 August 2026; 120 **master cartons**, one arrest, a truck seized; inventory took over 14 hours

Detail: This is **pharmaceutical diversion**, not smuggling — **legally manufactured licensed medicine leaving the regulated chain**.

Enforcement polices a **paper trail**, not a frontier

Lineage: The evidence was documentary — **batch numbers and expiry dates erased**, destroying traceability to the manufacturing lot; stock marked '**Not to be sold in Punjab Haryana State**' moving into that region; **no invoices, bilty or E-way bills**

Exam hook: NDPS Act, 1985 grades punishment by **small / intermediate / commercial** quantity. CBN and DRI are under Finance; the NCB is under Home Affairs. India may cultivate **licit opium** under the **Single Convention, 1961** in MP, Rajasthan and UP

• 4th Tri-Services Future Warfare Course concludes

Body: HQ Integrated Defence Staff, coordinated by CENJOWS; four weeks at the **Manekshaw Centre**, New Delhi. CDS General NS Raja Subramani interacted with participants; certificates from **CISC Air Marshal Tejinder Singh**

Detail: Curriculum — **AI, quantum technologies, cyber and cognitive warfare, information warfare, autonomous systems**, operations across **land, maritime, air and space, grey-zone** and **multi-domain operations**. Methods included **scenario-building** and **cognitive warfare simulations**. **5th edition: 16 Nov–11 Dec 2026**

Detail: **Grey-zone operations** are coercion kept **below the threshold of armed conflict**, defined by **ambiguity**. **Cognitive warfare** targets **how the recipient thinks**, distinct from information warfare's concern with content and flow

Lineage: HQ IDS created 2001 after the **Kargil Review Committee**; the CDS post and the **Department of Military Affairs** came in 2019 — India built the **joint staff first** and the **joint commander later**

Exam hook: The CDS is **permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee**. Tri-service bodies: **Andaman and Nicobar Command**, **Strategic Forces Command**, **Defence Cyber Agency**, **Defence Space Agency**, **AFSOD**. India has had **two Field Marshals** — Cariappa and Manekshaw

Sci/Tech (1)

• CSIR-NAL unveils indigenous micro gas turbine engines

Body: CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories, Bengaluru; chief guest **Air Marshal Tejinder Singh (CISC)**; DG CSIR **Dr N. Kalaiselvi**; Director **Dr Abhay A. Pashilkar**

Detail: Three engines — **NJ-05 (5 kg thrust) · NJ-50 (50 kg) · NJ-100 (100 kg)** — for **tactical UAVs, drone interceptors and compact missiles**. Advances claimed in **high-RPM turbomachinery** and **high-temperature combustion**

Detail: A gas turbine runs the **Brayton cycle** — intake, compression, combustion at roughly constant pressure, expansion and exhaust. Thrust follows **Newton's third law**: a lot of air slowly (**turbofan**) or a little very fast (**turbojet**)

Lineage: Shrinking a gas turbine is **harder**, not easier — RPM must rise, **tip clearances grow proportionally**, and a higher surface-to-volume ratio makes stable combustion difficult. Small turbines are **not scaled-down large ones**

Exam hook: GTRE is DRDO; CSIR-NAL is CSIR — different bodies. The **Kaveri** engine missed thrust and weight targets, so **Tejas flies on an imported engine**: India now has small-engine capability while the **large-engine gap remains open**

Culture/Sport (1)

• National Sports Day and Major Dhyan Chand's 121st

Body: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; main event at the **Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium**, New Delhi, with **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya**. Theme '**Ek Ghanta Khel Ke Maidan Mein**'

Detail: Born **29 August 1905**; served in the **Indian Army (Punjab Regiment)**, rising from sepoy to **Major**. **Three Olympic golds** — **Amsterdam 1928, Los Angeles 1932, Berlin 1936** (captain in 1936); the 1932 final was 24–1 against the United States. **Padma Bhushan 1956**

Detail: The **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna** was renamed the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award** in 2021 — a separate, older **Dhyan Chand Award** exists for **lifetime achievement**

Lineage: **Fit India Movement** launched **29 August 2019**; **Khelo India** is grassroots; **TOPS** supports elite medal prospects; **SAI** established **1984** after the 1982 Asian Games

Exam hook: **MAKA Trophy** goes to a **university**, not an individual. India won **eight Olympic hockey golds**, last at **Moscow 1980**; decline is associated with the shift from **grass to artificial turf**; bronze at **Tokyo 2020** and **Paris 2024** ended a **41-year drought**