



CURRENT AFFAIRS COMPENDIUM

AUGUST 2026

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AUGUST 2026



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1. Polity & Governance

Indian Constitution, governance, public policy, rights issues, judiciary, Parliament & legislation — August 2026

1. Special NDPS Courts

Why in News: Courts established to reduce backlog of 1.73 million pending drug-related cases under the NDPS Act, 1985.

- Pending NDPS cases across India have exceeded 1.73 million.
- The NDPS Act was established in 1985 and governs offences related to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
- Special/fast-track courts are designed to reduce pendency and ensure speedy trials.
- The right to a speedy trial is protected under Article 21.

Static Linkage: Revise the NDPS Act, 1985 and the structure of India's subordinate/special courts.

2. Doxxing and Online Harassment

Why in News: Surge in malicious sharing of private information targeting women protesters under BNS and IT Rules provisions.

- Doxxing is defined as the malicious sharing of private information online; women protesters have been particularly targeted after personal details were leaked.
- Doxxing is punishable under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS); cases involving minors attract the POCSO Act.
- The IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 establish intermediary obligations, with penalties for non-compliance.

Static Linkage: Revise the three new criminal law codes (BNS, BNSS, BSA) and how they replaced the IPC, CrPC and Evidence Act.

3. NOTTO's Real-Time Organ Transplant Portal

Why in News: National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation launched an Aadhaar-linked unified waiting list portal for nationwide organ allocation and tracking.

- NOTTO stands for the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation and functions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The portal enables a unified national waiting list and real-time organ-allocation tracking, with pledges Aadhaar-linked.
- India recorded 20,138 total organ transplants in 2025 — 16,612 from living donors and 3,526 from deceased donors.
- Kidney transplants (14,477) and liver transplants (5,154) formed the bulk of the 2025 total, followed by heart (239), lung (210), and pancreas (35).

Static Linkage: Revise the relevant constitutional provisions/legislation governing this issue and recent Supreme Court jurisprudence on the subject.

4. SC Ruling: Section 498A and Live-In Relationships

Why in News: Court determined that cruelty provisions under Section 498A IPC extend to live-in relationships 'in the nature of marriage.'

- A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N.K. Singh held that Section 498A IPC's cruelty provisions apply to relationships 'in the nature of marriage.'
- The Court gave the word 'husband' a 'purposive interpretation,' emphasising the provision's 'reformatory, corrective and socially beneficial intent.'
- Men in live-in relationships and their relatives can now be prosecuted under Section 498A if intent to marry is

established as intrinsic to the relationship.

- The Court borrowed the 'relationship in the nature of marriage' concept from the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

5. Supreme Court Judges Amendment Bill, 2026

Why in News: Lok Sabha passed legislation to increase Supreme Court judge strength to address 92,101 pending cases as of January 2026.

- The Bill raises the Supreme Court's sanctioned judge strength from 34 to 38, including the CJI.
- As of January 1, 2026, 92,101 cases were pending before the Supreme Court.
- The Bill was passed via the Money Bill route, as was done in 2019 when SC strength was last raised to 34.
- Supreme Court judge strength is fixed by Parliament under Article 124(1).

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

6. Registration of Births and Deaths Amendment Bill, 2026

Why in News: Extends delay window for magisterial approval from one year to two years for late registrations.

- The Bill amends the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969.
- It extends the delay window requiring magisterial approval for late registration from one year to two years.
- Registrations beyond two years now require a specific order from a Judicial Magistrate (First Class).
- The Bill was piloted by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai and cleared by voice vote in both Houses.

Static Linkage: Revise the ordinary legislative process (Articles 107-111) and the roles of both Houses.

7. Appropriation (Number 3) Bill, 2026

Why in News: Lok Sabha passed the government's excess grants bill amid opposition protests.

- The Bill deals with the government's demand for excess grants and rests on the constitutional basis of Article 114.
- Passage occurred amid Opposition protests over alleged police action against students and a donation-theft row linked to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman simultaneously introduced the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Static Linkage: Revise the ordinary legislative process (Articles 107-111) and the roles of both Houses.

8. Supreme Court Digital Arrest Fraud Crackdown

Why in News: Directed states/UTs to adopt SOPs within four weeks to combat 'mule accounts' and digital arrest scams.

- A bench led by CJI Surya Kant took suo motu cognisance of 'digital arrest' fraud and gave states/UTs a four-week deadline to adopt an SOP.
- The SOP covers temporary debit holds on 'mule accounts,' grievance redressal, a money-restoration module, and public awareness.
- 'Digital arrest' complaints on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal fell from 1,23,672 (2024) to 58,239 (2025), with 16,377 up to June 2026.
- ₹18.06 crore has been restored to victims across 36,290 cases.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

9. SC Extends Domestic Cruelty Protection to Live-in Couples

Why in News: Section 85 (BNS) now protects women in live-in relationships with 'intent to marry.'

- Section 498A IPC (now Section 85 BNS) traditionally applied only to married women; the Court extended it to live-in partners with 'intent to marry.'
- The ruling arose after a man with a live-in partner claimed an existing marriage elsewhere to escape liability; the Karnataka High Court rejected this defence.
- The narrower 'relationship in the nature of marriage' (borrowed from the DV Act, 2005) requires pooled finances, shared domestic arrangements, and holding out as spouses.
- The woman seeking protection bears the burden of proving 'intent to marry'; the Court did not lay down precise parameters for establishing this.

Static Linkage: Revise the three new criminal law codes (BNS, BNSS, BSA) and how they replaced the IPC, CrPC and Evidence Act.

10. Supreme Court Judges' Strength via Money Bill

Why in News: Government raised SC sanctioned strength from 34 to 38 judges using the Money Bill route; constitutionality pending.

- The government raised the SC's sanctioned strength from 34 to 38 judges using the Money Bill route under Article 110.
- A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha; once certified by the Speaker, the Rajya Sabha can only recommend changes within 14 days.
- The constitutionality of using the Money Bill route this way remains pending before the Supreme Court, given past controversies over the Aadhaar Act and PMLA certifications.
- Justice D.Y. Chandrachud's 2018 dissent called the Aadhaar Act's Money

Bill certification a 'fraud on the Constitution.'

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

11. Bankers' Books Evidence Bill 2026

Why in News: Lok Sabha passed legislation replacing the 1891 Act to allow digital banking records as legal evidence.

- The Bill repeals and replaces the 135-year-old Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891.
- It allows authentic digital records of a bank's books — stored onsite, offsite, or in the cloud — to be used as legally enforceable evidence.
- Section 11 of the Bill allows police to order access to bank records, but only via an officer not below the rank of Superintendent of Police.
- Experts flagged that the Bill missed the opportunity to mandate hash values, which provide a unique digital fingerprint against tampering.

Static Linkage: Revise the ordinary legislative process (Articles 107-111) and the roles of both Houses.

12. Indian Statistical Institute Bill 2026

Why in News: Proposed legislation converting ISI to a body corporate, sparking faculty concerns about institutional autonomy.

- The Bill proposes replacing ISI's existing 33-member Governing Council with an 11-member Board of Governors, excluding the Dean of Academic Affairs.
- It changes ISI's legal structure from a society to a body corporate, repealing the ISI Act, 1959.
- ISI was founded by statistician P.C. Mahalanobis in 1931 and declared an Institute of National Importance in 1959; it operates under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

- Faculty allege the Bill erodes institutional autonomy; economist Prabhat Patnaik called it an 'insult to P.C. Mahalanobis.'

Static Linkage: Revise the ordinary legislative process (Articles 107-111) and the roles of both Houses.

13. Creamy Layer for SC/ST

Why in News: Centre argued before SC that creamy-layer exclusions apply only to OBCs; SC/ST backwardness is historical/social.

- The Centre argued before the Supreme Court that creamy-layer exclusions apply only to OBCs, since SC/ST backwardness is historical and social, not purely economic.
- It cited E.V. Chinnaiah v. State of Andhra Pradesh (2005) and Ashoka Kumar Thakur v. Union of India (2008), which held the creamy-layer principle inapplicable to SCs/STs.
- Only Parliament, via Article 341, and not the judiciary, can decide on extending creamy layer to SCs and STs.
- The 2024 State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh ruling permitted sub-classification within SCs/STs for internal quotas, but this is distinct from a creamy-layer exclusion.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

14. FIR Withdrawal Routes

Why in News: SC clarified FIRs cannot be revoked by executive order; withdrawal only via investigation report, prosecution withdrawal, or HC quashing.

- There is no legal provision to 'withdraw' an FIR via executive order; three routes exist instead.
- Route 1 — Closure Report under BNSS Section 193, though the Magistrate is not bound by it (Abhinandan Jha v. Dinesh Mishra, 1967).
- Route 2 — Withdrawal from Prosecution under BNSS Section 360, requiring the

court's consent (Sheonandan Paswan v. State of Bihar, 1986).

- Route 3 — High Court quashing under BNSS Section 528 (analogous to the old CrPC Section 482), to be used sparingly.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

15. School Consolidation Debate

Why in News: UDISE+ data shows 94,000 government schools closed in a decade due to demographic transition.

- UDISE+ data shows about 94,000 government schools closed between 2014-15 and 2024-25, even as total student enrolment fell by 2.26 crore.
- Government-school enrolment fell from 13.62 crore to 12.16 crore while private-school enrolment rose from 8.42 crore to 9.59 crore over the same period.
- The underlying driver is India's demographic transition: total fertility rate has fallen from over 3 in the early 1990s to about 2.0 today.
- Consolidation risks disadvantaging girls and remote/tribal students through longer commutes; experts call for data-driven decisions paired with safe transport guarantees.

Static Linkage: Revise the relevant constitutional provisions/legislation governing this issue and recent Supreme Court jurisprudence on the subject.

16. Deep-Tech RDI Fund Conflict-of-Interest Row

Why in News: Media investigation found government deep-tech fund allocations linked to selection panel members.

- The Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund is administered by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), a statutory body under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Selected companies receive 50% of project cost from the RDI Fund, with the

remaining 50% to be raised from the market.

- Implementing agencies are the Technology Development Board (TDB) and BIRAC.
- A media investigation flagged that selection-panel members held stakes in some funded firms; the government said only one firm in the latest cohort was affected.

Static Linkage: Revise the relevant constitutional provisions/legislation governing this issue and recent Supreme Court jurisprudence on the subject.

17. Homeopaths Prescribing Allopathic Medicine

Why in News: Maharashtra allows homeopaths completing a bridge course to prescribe modern medicines, sparking a doctors' strike.

- Dr Neha Siddharth Pawar became the first homeopathy practitioner in Maharashtra registered with the allopathic Maharashtra Medical Council after completing the Certificate Course in Modern Pharmacology.
- A 2014 amendment to the Maharashtra Medical Commission Act allows homeopaths completing a one-year bridge course to register separately with the allopathic regulator.
- The National Commission for Homeopathy challenged the amendment; critics call it a 'shortcut' that risks 'mixopathy.'
- Legal precedents cited include Poonam Verma vs Ashwin Patel and Dr Mukhtiar Chand vs State of Punjab, both limiting cross-system prescription.

Static Linkage: Revise the process of criminal investigation and prosecution under the BNSS.

18. Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026 (Digital Evidence)

Why in News: New legislation replaces the 135-year-old 1891 Act to accommodate digital banking records as legal evidence.

- The Bill replaces the 1891 Act's definition of bankers' books (written form, microfilm, magnetic tape) with 'electronic or digital form,' including cloud storage.
- It introduces standardised certificate formats for presenting digital bank records in court and explicitly defines 'special cause' for compelling production of original records.
- Section 11 allows police investigation orders for bank records only from an officer of SP rank or above.
- Experts flagged heightened data-leak and privacy risk given how easily electronic records can be shared.

Static Linkage: Revise the ordinary legislative process (Articles 107-111) and the roles of both Houses.

19. Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026

Why in News: Lok Sabha passed legislation establishing a National Tribunals Commission for tribunals like CAT, AFT, and NGT.

- The Bill creates a National Tribunals Commission (NTC) to select chairpersons and members across roughly 16 tribunals, including CAT, the Armed Forces Tribunal, and the NGT.
- It follows the Supreme Court striking down parts of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021 for violating separation of powers and judicial independence.
- The NTC's Chairperson must be a former Supreme Court judge or High Court Chief Justice; it will comprise two judicial and two technical members (25+ years' experience).
- The Bill was passed amid Opposition protests over the Ram Temple donation-theft row.

Static Linkage: Revise the ordinary legislative process (Articles 107-111) and the roles of both Houses.

20. Drugs & Cosmetics Act Overhaul

Why in News: Pharma sector opposes draft bill overhauling 1940 Act, citing lack of stakeholder consultation.

- The overhaul Bill of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 was circulated to stakeholder ministries; similar drafts were rejected in 2022 and 2023.
- The medical-device sector objects to devices being treated as pharmaceutical adjuncts, ignoring device-specific concepts like biocompatibility and software lifecycle safety.
- The Bill criminalises minor technical/administrative lapses (like labelling errors) and proposes 'police-style' powers for drug inspectors, including arrest powers.
- This contrasts with the decriminalisation principles of the Jan Vishwas Act.

Static Linkage: Revise the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the framework for regulating medical practitioners.

21. Clinical Establishment Rules Defence

Why in News: Union Health Ministry defends constitutionality of 2012 rules requiring price caps for clinical services.

- The Union Health Ministry defended the Clinical Establishments (Central Government) Rules, 2012, which require clinical establishments to charge within centrally-determined rates.
- The counter-affidavit (filed August 4) responds to petitions challenging Rule 9(ii), arguing prices must be neither exorbitant nor abysmally low.
- The Rules are framed under the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010, fulfilling the Article 47 directive on public health.
- Health being a State subject, the Centre can only issue guidelines, with enforcement resting on states and UTs.

Static Linkage: Revise the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the framework for regulating medical practitioners.

22. SC/ST Creamy Layer Debate

Why in News: Centre opposes SC plea to introduce income-based creamy layer for SC/ST reservations.

- The Centre opposed introducing a creamy layer for SC/ST reservations in an affidavit before the Supreme Court.
- A PIL by a BJP politician-advocate alleged 'elite capture' of reservation benefits by affluent SC/ST families.
- Four of seven judges on the 2024 Constitution Bench (State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh) had suggested extending the creamy-layer principle.
- The Centre's counter-argument: SC/ST historical disadvantage (untouchability, geographical isolation) cannot equate to economic backwardness, and altering reservation policy is for Parliament, not courts.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

23. Pilot Drug Testing Protocol

Why in News: DGCA enforces stringent psychoactive substance testing for flight crews with escalating penalties.

- The issue surfaced after an Air India Phuket-Delhi flight suffered a 300-foot altitude drop injuring 24 people; the pilot's second drug test reportedly showed marijuana.
- DGCA established a stringent psychoactive-substance testing protocol for flight crew four years ago.
- First offence leads to referral to a de-addiction centre; second offence (post-return) means licence suspension for three years; third offence means licence cancellation.
- ALPA India has cautioned pilots against self-medicating with cold/cough/allergy formulations that may contain tested psychoactive substances.

Static Linkage: Revise the relevant constitutional provisions/legislation

governing this issue and recent Supreme Court jurisprudence on the subject.

24. Justice Yashwant Varma Removal Proceedings

Why in News: HC judge resigned during parliamentary removal proceedings; Parliament continues process regardless.

- Justice Varma resigned from the Allahabad High Court in April 2026 while a parliamentary removal motion against him was pending; government sources say this will not halt the House proceedings.
- An in-house inquiry, ordered after burnt currency notes were found at his official residence, found all three 'Articles of Charge' against him proved.
- The inquiry found Varma had 'active or tacit control' over the store-room where the cash was found; he was not assigned judicial work after being transferred to Allahabad in April 2025.
- The process is governed by Article 124(4)/217 of the Constitution and the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

25. Kerala Renamed 'Keralam'

Why in News: Parliament passed the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, amending the Constitution's First Schedule.

- The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 changes the state's official name to 'Keralam,' amending the Constitution's First Schedule via Article 3 (simple majority).
- The demand originated from a unanimous resolution passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly more than two years earlier.
- Precedents cited include Madras to Tamil Nadu (1969), Mysore to Karnataka (1973), Uttaranchal to Uttarakhand (2007), and Orissa to Odisha (2011).

- TMC's Derek O'Brien noted West Bengal's pending 'Bangla' renaming proposal has been stuck for eight years.

Static Linkage: Revise the ordinary legislative process (Articles 107-111) and the roles of both Houses.

26. SC on Facial Recognition Technology

Why in News: SC agreed to hear plea challenging Delhi Police's use of FRT to monitor protesters (privacy concerns).

- The Supreme Court agreed to hear a Rajya Sabha MP's plea challenging Delhi Police's use of Facial Recognition Technology to monitor protesters at Jantar Mantar.
- The plea cites K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India (2017), which requires privacy infringement to be backed by law, pursue a legitimate aim, and be proportionate.
- It also invokes the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022, neither of which authorises biometric surveillance of civilian assemblies.
- The Court directed that data collected during the protest be preserved but not made public, and ordered no coercive action against detained minors.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

27. FCRA Amendment Bill Referred to JPC

Why in News: Lok Sabha referred the Foreign Contribution Regulation Amendment Bill to a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

- The Lok Sabha referred the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 to a Joint Parliamentary Committee amid strong Opposition and religious-organisation objections.
- JPCs have members from both Houses; recommendations are not binding but committees can question officials and scrutinise Bills clause by clause.
- PRS Legislative Research data shows the share of Bills referred to committees has

fallen sharply — from ~71% (15th Lok Sabha) to ~16% (17th Lok Sabha).

- The government could have used its Lok Sabha majority to push the Bill through directly but chose the JPC route instead, reflecting the Bill's contentiousness.

Static Linkage: Revise the ordinary legislative process (Articles 107-111) and the roles of both Houses.

28. BCI Reverses NALSAR Enrolment Freeze

Why in News: Bar Council of India rolled back a blanket ban on 2026 law graduate enrolments.

- BCI Chairman Manan Kumar Mishra's 13 August circular had withheld enrolment of NALSAR's entire 2026 graduating batch over a student campaign opposing CJI Surya Kant's convocation participation.
- The reversal, issued the same evening, said the Council was 'unanimously of the view' the vast majority of graduates had no intention of disrespecting the CJI.
- NALSAR was asked to submit a report within three days naming those who initiated or coordinated the campaign.
- The episode raises questions about the scope of BCI's regulatory powers under the Advocates Act, 1961.

Static Linkage: Revise the relevant constitutional provisions/legislation governing this issue and recent Supreme Court jurisprudence on the subject.

29. Digital Transformation of the Indian Judiciary

Why in News: E-Courts Mission Phase III (2023-2027, Rs 7,210 crore) deploys AI tools (LegRAA, ASR-SHRUTI, eSCR).

- The e-Courts Mission Mode Project is now in Phase III (2023-2027, ₹7,210 crore outlay), building 'paperless digital intelligent courts.'
- Over 753 crore pages of old court records have been digitised, and video conferencing now covers 7,553

establishments with over 4.18 crore remote hearings conducted.

- AI tools deployed include LegRAA (legal research), ASR-SHRUTI & PANINI (voice-to-text/translation), and eSCR, which has translated over 83,000 judgments into 18 Indian languages.
- Livestreaming is operational in 11 High Courts, and an AI-based e-filing tool has been developed by IIT Madras.

Static Linkage: Revise the relevant constitutional provisions/legislation governing this issue and recent Supreme Court jurisprudence on the subject.

30. CPGRAMS (Public Grievance Redress)

Why in News: Handles 27 lakh annual grievances with 14-day disposal time; 'Samadhan Didi' AI chatbot in 22 languages.

- CPGRAMS is run by DARPG under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions via the pgportal.gov.in portal, available 24×7.
- Grievances handled annually rose from ~3.01 lakh (2014) to ~27 lakh (2024), with average disposal time falling from 157 days (2014) to 14 days (2026).
- The AI voice chatbot 'Samadhan Didi,' launched 30 May 2026, operates in 22 BHASHINI languages.
- The resolution mandate is 21 days per the August 2024 Comprehensive Guidelines, down from 30 days earlier; appeals must be resolved within 30 days.

Static Linkage: Revise mechanisms of public grievance redressal and e-governance initiatives.

31. PAIMANA (Infrastructure Monitoring Platform)

Why in News: Monitors 1,847 Central infrastructure projects (Rs 40.54 lakh crore) using 165 performance indicators; feeds PRAGATI.

- PAIMANA, launched 16 April 2026 by MoSPI, replaced the 19-year-old OCMS-2006 platform to monitor Central Sector

infrastructure projects worth ₹150 crore and above.

- As of June 2026 it covers 1,847 ongoing projects across 17 Central Ministries, with a revised cost of ₹40.54 lakh crore and cumulative expenditure of ₹21.97 lakh crore (~54%).
- Its Performance Monitoring Dashboard tracks 165 indicators across six sub-sectors, with over 60% of projects updated automatically via API-based data exchange.
- PAIMANA feeds directly into PRAGATI, the Prime Minister's monthly video-conferencing review platform.

Static Linkage: Revise the relevant constitutional provisions/legislation governing this issue and recent Supreme Court jurisprudence on the subject.

32. Basic Amenities Delivery (SAUBHAGYA, Ujjwala, etc.)

Why in News: Tap water, LPG, toilets and housing delivery accelerated over 12 years.

- Tap-water connections have been provided at an annual pace nearly 15 times faster than before; LPG connections nearly 6 times faster.
- Toilets for the poor were constructed nearly 4 times faster and pucca houses nearly 3 times faster on an annual basis.
- Piped cooking gas households rose from around 20-22 lakh (2014) to nearly 1.75 crore now.
- City gas distribution expanded from fewer than 70 cities (2014) to around 700 cities today.

Static Linkage: Revise the relevant constitutional provisions/legislation governing this issue and recent Supreme Court jurisprudence on the subject.

33. National Education Policy 2020

Why in News: Introduced after a gap of 35 years; university and medical college expansion.

- NEP 2020 was introduced after a gap of 35 years in India's education policy.

- The number of universities rose from fewer than 350 (2004-2014) to around 650 new universities added in the following decade.
- Medical colleges rose from fewer than 400 before 2014 to around 850 today.
- More than 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs have been established in schools to build an innovation mindset early.

Static Linkage: Revise the key features of NEP 2020 and the roles of the UGC/regulatory bodies in higher education.

34. SVAMITVA Initiative

Why in News: Property cards issued to 3.25 crore rural families.

- SVAMITVA has issued property cards to around 3.25 crore rural families.
- It has unlocked an estimated ₹140 lakh crore of economic potential in rural areas by enabling villagers to access bank loans against property records.
- It creates new avenues for rural employment, self-employment, and entrepreneurship.

Static Linkage: Revise the relevant constitutional provisions/legislation governing this issue and recent Supreme Court jurisprudence on the subject.

35. Social Security Expansion

Why in News: Coverage increased from 25 crore to 100 crore Indians across schemes.

- Social security coverage has expanded from around 25 crore people before 2014 to around 100 crore Indians covered today.
- This spans multiple schemes including insurance, pension, and welfare programmes.

Static Linkage: Revise the relevant constitutional provisions/legislation governing this issue and recent Supreme Court jurisprudence on the subject.

36. MHA Extradition Advisory

Why in News: Home Minister called for special prisons for fugitives and passport cancellation for Interpol-notice cases.

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah asked states to create special prisons for fugitives meeting international standards and to cancel passports of individuals facing Interpol Red Notices.
- High-profile fugitives such as Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi, and Mehul Choksi have used arguments of 'poor prison conditions' abroad to resist extradition.
- India currently has 338 extradition requests pending with various countries, mostly for financial-crime fugitives.
- Extradition requests are routed through the MEA's Consular, Passport and Visa Division, alongside the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.

Static Linkage: Revise the Extradition Act, 1962 and India's extradition treaty framework.

37. Delimitation Exercise Federalism Debate

Why in News: Delimitation Bill 2026 proposes raising Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 850, sparking southern-states concerns.

- The Delimitation Bill, 2026 proposes raising Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 850 (815 to states, 35 to UTs), based on population.
- Southern states, having achieved earlier demographic transition, fear losing relative seat share; a Joint Action Committee for Fair Delimitation demands the pre-2026 (1971 Census-based) seat ratio be preserved.
- Seat numbers have been frozen since the 42nd (1976) and 84th (2001) Constitutional Amendments, both tied to the 1971 Census.
- The exercise is also linked to the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, which ties 33% women's reservation in legislatures to completion of the next delimitation.

Static Linkage: Revise the ordinary legislative process (Articles 107-111) and the roles of both Houses.

38. Criminal Cases Against MPs/MLAs

Why in News: Over 4,192 pending cases; 251 of 543 LS MPs face criminal charges; special courts recommended.

- A total of 4,192 criminal cases are pending against sitting and former MPs/MLAs, a figure roughly static since 2018 despite judicial monitoring.
- 251 of 543 Lok Sabha MPs currently face criminal cases, of which 170 are 'serious' (punishable with five-plus years' imprisonment).
- Amicus curiae Vijay Hansaria recommended non-bailable warrants for accused who skip two consecutive hearings and dedicated Special MP/MLA Courts.
- Telangana CM Revanth Reddy (89 cases), Suvendu Adhikari (29 cases), and Karnataka CM D.K. Shivakumar (19 cases) are among those named.

Static Linkage: Revise the process of criminal investigation and prosecution under the BNSS.

39. SHANTI Act and Nuclear Liability

Why in News: SC examines whether courts can award compensation despite the Act's Rs 3,000-crore liability cap.

- The SHANTI Act, 2025 replaced the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 and caps operator liability at ₹3,000 crore for a nuclear mishap.
- Petitioners argue the cap violates Articles 14, 19, and 21; the Supreme Court observed the cap does not preclude constitutional courts from awarding fair compensation, echoing Bhopal Gas Tragedy litigation.
- Section 16 of the Act removes the operator's automatic right to seek compensation from equipment suppliers after an accident.

- A conflict-of-interest concern was flagged: the Atomic Energy Commission both operates nuclear plants and recommends AERB regulator members.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

40. Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill 2026 (State Taxation)

Why in News: Parliament restricts state taxation of mineral rights, reversing 2024 SC verdict on state fiscal autonomy.

- The Bill inserts a new Section 9D into the MMDR Act, 1957, barring states from imposing fresh taxes/cess on mineral rights and mineral-bearing land except as the Centre permits.
- It follows the Supreme Court's July 2024 nine-judge ruling (Mineral Area Development Authority v. Steel Authority of India) that had affirmed states' power to tax mineral rights.
- Outstanding dues under such state levies are estimated at around ₹2 lakh crore and will be extinguished on enactment; already-recovered amounts won't be refunded.
- The amendment applies only to major minerals (iron ore, coal, bauxite, manganese, copper) affecting roughly 11 mineral-producing states.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

41. Tribunals Reforms Bill 2026 (National Tribunal Commission)

Why in News: Creates NTC chaired by a former SC judge, ending decade-long Centre-judiciary conflict over tribunal independence.

- The Bill creates a National Tribunals Commission (NTC) headquartered in Delhi, chaired by a former Supreme Court judge or High Court Chief Justice.
- It follows Madras Bar Association v. Union of India (2021), which found

India's tribunals inefficient and lacking independence.

- The NTC will comprise four members (two judicial, two technical with 25+ years' experience) and maintain a National Tribunals Data Grid.
- It ends a decade-long tussle between the Centre and judiciary over tribunal independence.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

42. Sacrilege Law Debate (Punjab)

Why in News: Punjab revived its Prevention of Offences Against Holy Scriptures Act despite Centre's earlier rejection.

- Punjab revived its Prevention of Offences Against Holy Scriptures Act, now before a state parliamentary committee, despite the Centre's earlier rejection of similar bills in 2016 and 2018.
- India's closest equivalent to a blasphemy law is Section 295A (IPC, now carried into the BNS), upheld in Ramji Lal Modi v State of UP (1957) for deliberate and malicious acts only.
- Earlier Punjab bills sought life imprisonment for desecrating the Guru Granth Sahib alone; the Centre held that protecting only one religion's text would violate constitutional secularism.
- Critics warn such laws, as in Pakistan, risk being misused for personal disputes rather than genuine religious offence.

Static Linkage: Revise the distribution of legislative powers under the Seventh Schedule (State List, Concurrent List).

43. Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026 (NTC Creation)

Why in News: Creates judiciary-led National Tribunals Commission, repealing the 2021 Act per SC directive.

- The Bill repeals the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021 and creates the National Tribunals Commission (NTC) via a

Search-cum-Selection Committee mechanism (Section 13).

- It covers around 16 major tribunals and associated appellate bodies.
- Passed by the Lok Sabha (10 August) and Rajya Sabha (11 August 2026) amid Opposition protests.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

44. NTA Reforms & Institutional Accountability

Why in News: SC directs Centre to institutionalize NTA reforms citing UPSC as benchmark.

- The Supreme Court directed the Centre to file an affidavit within three weeks on implementing the Radhakrishnan Committee and Nandan Nilekani task-force recommendations for NTA reform, citing UPSC as a model.
- The Radhakrishnan Committee is a seven-member panel focused on exam conduct, data security, and NTA's structure.
- The Court flagged that question-paper translation into 13 languages is still done manually rather than via AI, a possible source of past security breaches.
- The controversy stems from the NEET-UG paper-leak issue.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

45. Census 2027 Disability Categories Gap

Why in News: Rights groups challenge Census 2027 for recognizing only 9 of 21 disability types under RPwD Act 2016.

- The proposed Census 2027 form lists only 9 disability categories versus the 21 recognised under the RPwD Act, 2016.
- The RPwD Act, 2016 expanded recognised disabilities from 7 (under the 1995 Act) to 21, aligning with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- The 2011 Census recorded 2.68 crore (2.21%) Indians with disabilities, far below expert estimates of 8-15% true prevalence.
- 405 organisations under the National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled have demanded all 21 categories be included.

Static Linkage: Revise the constitutional/legal basis of the Census and past instances of caste-based enumeration.

46. Execution Methods & Constitutional Rights

Why in News: SC upholds hanging as valid execution method while leaving room for humane alternatives.

- A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta upheld hanging as a valid execution method, rejecting a plea for lethal injection or shooting.
- The petition, based on Article 21's 'right to life with dignity,' cited that hanging takes over 40 minutes to cause death versus about five minutes for lethal injection.
- The Deena vs Union of India judgment was cited as precedent; the Centre indicated openness to an expert committee (AIIMS doctors, law faculty) to examine scientific alternatives.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

47. Caste Enumeration in Census 2027

Why in News: First all-India caste census since independence approved; Rs 11,718 crore two-phase digital enumeration.

- This is the first time since Independence that caste will be enumerated for the entire population; the last all-India caste count was in 1931 under British rule.
- The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs approved the caste census on April 30, 2025, with an approved budget of ₹11,718 crore.

- Census 2027 is being conducted in two phases: Houselisting (April-September 2026) and Population Enumeration (February-March 2027), and will be India's first fully digital census.
- About 30 lakh field functionaries will be deployed; caste data will be captured electronically during the Population Enumeration phase.

Static Linkage: Revise the constitutional/legal basis of the Census and past instances of caste-based enumeration.

48. SC Revisits Polygamy Under Muslim Personal Law

Why in News: Fresh petition challenges constitutional validity of polygamy exemption, seeking uniform anti-bigamy application.

- Petitioners including Zakia Soman and Noorjehan Safia Niaz challenge Section 2 of the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937 for creating a 'legal vacuum' exempting Muslim men from the general anti-bigamy law (BNS Section 82).
- The petition cites Articles 14, 15, and 21, and seeks compulsory registration of Muslim marriages/divorces plus a codified law on marriage, divorce, and succession.
- This follows the Supreme Court's 2017 Shayara Bano judgment striking down instant triple talaq and the subsequent 2019 Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act.
- Uttarakhand's UCC (2024) and Assam's proposed UCC Bill (2026) both also seek to ban polygamy at the state level.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

49. UGC Equity Regulations 2026

Why in News: SC examines regulations mandating equity committees in higher education institutions to address caste discrimination.

- The 2026 UGC Equity Regulations replaced 2012 advisory norms, making 'equity committees' with SC/ST/OBC, PwD, and women representation mandatory in higher-education institutions.
- They were framed after a 2019 PIL by Radhika Vemula and Abeda Salim Tadvi; the Supreme Court stayed the regulations in January 2026, calling the framework 'prima facie vague.'
- The Centre told the Court the regulations are 'under reconsideration'; petitioners argue non-reserved category students are excluded from protection.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

50. Southern Zonal Council Meeting

Why in News: 31st meeting; southern states urge retention of 1971 Census for delimitation; discuss river disputes.

- The 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting was held at Mahabalipuram/Kovalam, Tamil Nadu, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- Southern states, contributing over 30% of India's GDP, urged retention of the 1971 Census basis for the Delimitation Bill, 2026.
- River disputes discussed included Cauvery (Karnataka-Tamil Nadu), Krishna/Godavari (Telangana-Andhra Pradesh), and Mullaperiyar (Tamil Nadu-Kerala).
- Zonal Councils are established under Sections 15-22 of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956; five such councils exist, all chaired by the Union Home Minister.

Static Linkage: Revise the constitutional/legal basis of the Census and past instances of caste-based enumeration.

51. High Court Bench for Ladakh

Why in News: Cabinet approves third bench of J&K High Court in Ladakh UT for improved judicial access.

- The Union Cabinet approved a third bench of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, after Srinagar (principal) and Jammu (winter) benches.
- Ladakh became a separate Union Territory in 2019; the new bench addresses litigant access challenges across difficult terrain.

Static Linkage: Revise the process of criminal investigation and prosecution under the BNSS.

52. Three-Language Policy Debate

Why in News: SC examines CBSE's two-Indian-languages mandate from Class 9; questions on classifying English.

- The Supreme Court examined CBSE's Circular mandating three languages for Class 9, with at least two being Indian languages from 2026-27.
- Justice Bagchi questioned classifying English as 'non-native' given its deep historical roots in Indian administration, education, and law.
- A shortage of qualified teachers and textbooks for the new language requirement was reported; no student was failed for non-qualification this year.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

53. Industrial Disputes Act Definition ('Industry')

Why in News: Nine-judge bench delivers 5:4 verdict refining the 1978 'triple test' for defining 'industry'.

- A nine-judge Constitution Bench delivered a 5:4 verdict modifying the 'triple test' for defining 'industry' from the 1978 Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board v. A. Rajappa ruling.

- The ruling addresses Section 2(j) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, and does not disturb past awards or concluded settlements.
- The test remains valid for pending disputes under the (now repealed) Industrial Disputes Act, but will not automatically apply to the Industrial Relations Code, 2020.
- Justice B.V. Nagarathna dissented from the majority.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

54. Social Media Defamation Under BNS

Why in News: Parliamentary committee flags regulatory gaps as BNS brings digital defamation content within criminal scope.

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on IT and Communication, chaired by Nishikant Dubey, examined gaps in social-media defamation law.
- BNS Section 356 codifies defamation (replacing IPC Sections 499-500) and explicitly brings digital/electronic content within scope.
- Defamation remains a bailable, non-cognizable offence, prosecuted via private complaint under BNSS Section 223; the committee summoned Meta, X, Snapchat, and Google over online safety.

Static Linkage: Revise the three new criminal law codes (BNS, BNSS, BSA) and how they replaced the IPC, CrPC and Evidence Act.

55. Bangladesh PM Visit Protocol

Why in News: Rashtrapati Bhavan withdrew a press release on PM Tarique Rahman's welcome after MEA flagged the visit unconfirmed.

- Rashtrapati Bhavan's ceremonial division briefly issued and then withdrew a press release referencing a 'ceremonial welcome' for Bangladesh PM Tarique Rahman.

- The MEA flagged that the visit, expected around August 23-25, had not been formally confirmed.
- Rahman is the leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party; Dhaka has linked the visit to India's stance on extraditing former PM Sheikh Hasina.

Static Linkage: Revise the process of criminal investigation and prosecution under the BNSS.

56. India-Bangladesh Border Fencing

Why in News: Amit Shah accused West Bengal of delaying border fencing by withholding 1,129 acres of land.

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah accused the former West Bengal government of delaying border fencing by withholding 1,129 acres of land requested since 2014.
- He said land was allocated only after the current state government came to power, and referenced the BNS, BNSS, and BSA as contrasted with a 'goonda raj' narrative.

Static Linkage: Revise the relevant constitutional provisions/legislation governing this issue and recent Supreme Court jurisprudence on the subject.

57. SC Split Verdict on 'Industry' (IRC 2020)

Why in News: Nine-judge bench: 1978 'triple test' valid for pending cases but won't automatically apply to IRC 2020.

- The nine-judge bench (State of Uttar Pradesh v. Jai Bir Singh, 2026 INSC 897) retained the 1978 'triple test' by majority as settled law for pending Industrial Disputes Act cases.
- The judgment will not apply to future disputes, which will be governed by the Industrial Relations Code, 2020's own definition, effective since late 2025/February 2026.
- Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Dipankar Datta dissented on the necessity of reconsideration.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

58. Census 2027 & Citizenship Concerns

Why in News: New identity-document and parental-birth fields spark concerns over function-creep toward citizenship verification.

- The Registrar General of India notified a Census 2027 questionnaire with 40 questions, 14 new or modified from 2011.
- New additions include Aadhaar number, passport number, voter ID, driving licence, mobile number, spouse's name, and parental birth details (district/state/country).
- Rights groups worry this signals function-creep toward citizenship verification, alongside the separately-conducted NPR under the Citizenship Rules, 2003.

Static Linkage: Revise the constitutional/legal basis of the Census and past instances of caste-based enumeration.

59. CM Foreign Travel Clearance Rules

Why in News: MEA denied political clearance for Telangana CM's US visit under 2015 Cabinet Secretariat circular.

- A May 2015 Cabinet Secretariat circular requires CMs and state ministers to obtain prior political clearance from the MEA (and FCRA clearance from the Home Ministry where relevant) before foreign travel.
- The MEA denied political clearance for Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy's US visit; past denials include Mamata Banerjee (China 2018, Rome 2021) and Arvind Kejriwal (Copenhagen 2019, Singapore 2022).
- A 2021 MEA memorandum extended similar clearance rules to private foreign visits by SC/HC judges.

Static Linkage: Revise the relevant constitutional provisions/legislation

governing this issue and recent Supreme Court jurisprudence on the subject.

60. Subsidy Eligibility Reforms (PMKSY)

Why in News: Govt bars relatives of ministers/senior bureaucrats from agri-subsidy schemes to prevent conflicts of interest.

- The government barred relatives of ministers, MPs, and senior secretaries from applying for agri-subsidy schemes under the PMKSY umbrella, after relatives of a sitting Minister of State received capital-subsidy benefits.
- The subsidy was routed through the Ministry of Food Processing Industries scheme for food-processing units; the beneficiary refunded the amount after the conflict-of-interest was flagged in Parliament.

Static Linkage: Revise the relevant constitutional provisions/legislation governing this issue and recent Supreme Court jurisprudence on the subject.

61. Starlink Launch Delay

Why in News: SpaceX's Gen-2 constellation rollout stalled pending MHA security clearance despite DoT/IN-SPACe approvals.

- SpaceX filed a fresh IN-SPACe application (20 August 2026) for its second-generation constellation of roughly 30,000 satellites.
- Starlink has cleared the DoT licence (June 2025) and IN-SPACe Gen-1 approval (July 2025), and has partnerships with Reliance Jio and Airtel.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs is withholding final security clearance, reportedly over concerns about Starlink terminal use during the Iran conflict.

Static Linkage: Revise the relevant constitutional provisions/legislation governing this issue and recent Supreme Court jurisprudence on the subject.

62. OBC Creamy Layer Ruling

Why in News: SC clarified parental income alone cannot determine creamy layer status, quashing a 2004 DoPT letter.

- The Supreme Court (Rohith Nathan case, 11 March 2026) held that creamy-layer status cannot rest solely on parental income; the nature and status of parents' employment must also be weighed.
- This quashed a 2004 DoPT clarificatory letter that had reintroduced ambiguity over PSU/private-sector salaries, affecting over 100 candidates across recent CSE cycles.
- The current OBC income ceiling is ₹8 lakh/year gross family income (set in 2017), operating within the 27% OBC reservation under the Mandal Commission framework.
- The government is seeking clarity on prospective, non-disruptive implementation given the ruling came five days after the CSE 2025 results were declared.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

63. Industrial Disputes Ruling (Triple Test Retained)

Why in News: SC retained 1978 'Triple Test' definition of 'industry' under the repealed Act.

- The Supreme Court retained the 1978 'Triple Test' definition of 'industry' under the (now repealed) Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 by majority.
- The long, consistent application of the test transformed it into settled law; the ruling governs pending disputes but not future ones, which fall under the Industrial Relations Code, 2020.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

64. Bengal SIR Tribunal Appeals

Why in News: SC directed EC to provide breakup of pending voter-roll appeals before Bengal's Appellate Tribunals.

- The Supreme Court directed the Election Commission to give a detailed, category-wise breakup of pending appeals before Bengal's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) Appellate Tribunals.
- 19 Appellate Tribunals, headed by retired High Court judges, were constituted on 21 March 2026 to handle over 10 lakh claims and objections.
- The tribunals cover districts including North 24 Parganas, Purba Medinipur, Cooch Behar, and Howrah.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

65. Gorkhaland Statehood Movement

Why in News: Century-long demand for separate Gorkha state, from 1907 petition to current GTA structure.

- The demand for a separate Gorkhaland traces back to an 1907 memorandum by the Hillmen's Association to the British.
- The Gorkha National Liberation Front-led 1980s agitation created the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (1988), later superseded by the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA Act, 2011).
- Nepali/Gorkha language was recognised under the Eighth Schedule in 1992; the core demand for full statehood remains unresolved.

Static Linkage: Revise the relevant constitutional provisions/legislation governing this issue and recent Supreme Court jurisprudence on the subject.

66. Essential Religious Practice Test

Why in News: Courts apply the Shirur Mutt (1954) two-step doctrine for Article 25 religious-freedom protections.

- The 'Essential Religious Practice' doctrine was articulated in the Shirur Mutt case

(1954) — Commissioner, Hindu Religious Endowments, Madras v. Sri Lakshmindra Thirtha Swamiar.

- It applies a two-step test: whether a practice is indispensable/integral to the religion, and if a state restriction is justified under Article 25(2) (public order, morality, health).
- The Karnataka High Court's 2022 hijab verdict and an Allahabad High Court ruling both applied this reasoning to uniform/dress-code policies in schools.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 25-28 on freedom of religion and key judgments like Shirur Mutt (1954).

67. Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2026

Why in News: Parliament restricts states from imposing fresh taxes on mineral rights, following the SC's MADA judgment.

- The Act inserts a new Section 9D into the MMDR Act, 1957, restricting states from imposing fresh taxes/cess on mineral rights except as the Centre permits.
- It follows the Supreme Court's July 2024 nine-judge MADA v. SAIL ruling that had affirmed states' power to tax mineral rights under Entry 50 (State List).
- Mining currently attracts around 14 different taxes and fees; nearly 90% of mining-sector revenue accrues to states.
- State coal revenue rose from ₹11,947.97 crore (2014-15) to ₹32,183.09 crore (2025-26).

Static Linkage: Revise the process of criminal investigation and prosecution under the BNSS.

68. Rajasthan HC Judiciary Row

Why in News: SC Judge accuses acting CJ of misusing 'Master of the Roster' power; seeks external CJ appointment.

- Supreme Court judge Justice Sandeep Mehta wrote to CJI Surya Kant (letters dated 2, 10, and 17 August) accusing Rajasthan HC's Acting Chief Justice

Sanjeev Prakash Sharma of misusing 'Master of the Roster' power.

- Allegations include manipulating case listings, pulling cases to his own bench, and threatening colleague judges with transfer.
- Justice Mehta sought immediate appointment of a Chief Justice from outside Rajasthan; the letters remain internal administrative communication, not a judicial finding.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

69. Supreme Court Collegium Appointments

Why in News: CJI-led Collegium deliberates HC transfers amid transparency debates; MoP unfinalised post-NJAC judgment.

- The Collegium comprises the CJI and the four senior-most judges, functioning under the Second and Third Judges Cases framework.
- The Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) governing appointments remains unfinalised even after the 2015 NJAC judgment struck down the National Judicial Appointments Commission.
- The CJI-led Collegium is currently deliberating High Court judge transfers amid transparency debates.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

70. OBC Creamy Layer SC Ruling (Income-Plus-Employment)

Why in News: March 2026 judgment shifts eligibility test to 'income-plus-employment-status'; affects CSE-2025 disputes.

- The March 2026 Rohith Nathan judgment shifted the OBC creamy-layer eligibility test from pure income to an 'income-plus-employment-status' standard.
- This affects Civil Services Examination 2025 disputes, since the ruling came just

five days after the CSE 2025 results (958 candidates recommended) were announced.

- Around 100 candidates across recent CSE cycles, whose parents worked in PSUs or the private sector, were potentially excluded under the old income-only test.

Static Linkage: Revise Articles 124-147 on the Supreme Court, judicial appointments and the Collegium system.

71. NDMA & GLOF Risk Mitigation

Why in News: NDMA urged to strengthen monitoring and early-warning systems for glacial lake outburst floods.

- NDMA has been urged to strengthen monitoring and early-warning systems for Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) in the Himalayas.
- The National GLOF Risk Mitigation Programme has an allocation of about ₹150 crore for four Himalayan states.
- Prior comparable disasters include the 2021 Chamoli (Uttarakhand) avalanche (200+ deaths, Rishiganga hydel project destroyed) and the 2023 South Lhonak Lake GLOF in Sikkim.

Static Linkage: Revise the relevant constitutional provisions/legislation governing this issue and recent Supreme Court jurisprudence on the subject.

2. International Relations

India and the world — bilateral & multilateral relations, groupings, treaties, events of international importance — August 2026

1. OPEC+ Production Increase

Why in News: Oil producers approved 188,000 barrels/day increase starting September, affecting India's energy security.

- OPEC+ approved a production increase of about 188,000 barrels/day starting September, marking completion of the earlier voluntary-cuts phase-out.
- OPEC+ includes OPEC members plus allied producers such as Russia.
- The move directly affects India's energy security and import bill.

Static Linkage: Revise India's crude oil import dependence and major oil-supplier groupings (OPEC, OPEC+).

2. Iran-Oman Strait of Hormuz Negotiations

Why in News: Iran and Oman near agreement to reopen shipping with separated inbound/outbound channels.

- Iran and Oman are reportedly near a deal to reopen shipping traffic with separated inbound (Iran-controlled) and outbound (Oman-side) channels.
- A 'service fee' (not tolls) would be shared between the two countries, covering environmental, security, and staffing costs.
- The deal is linked to a broader 14-point plan in the 'Islamabad MoU.'
- The Strait of Hormuz is a critical oil chokepoint through which nearly a fifth of global oil and LNG shipments transit.

Static Linkage: Revise key global maritime chokepoints (Hormuz, Malacca, Suez, Bab-el-Mandeb) and their strategic importance to India.

3. Ebola Outbreak in Eastern DR Congo

Why in News: Over 1,700 deaths and 3,802 cases reported, linked to Bundibugyo virus strain with no approved vaccines.

- The outbreak, declared on 15 May and linked to the Bundibugyo virus strain, has recorded over 1,700 deaths from more than 3,802 cases as of early August.
- It is considered the fastest-growing Ebola outbreak on record, with nearly 90% of cases in Ituri province.
- No approved vaccines or treatments exist for the Bundibugyo strain; WHO is monitoring over 17,000 potential contacts.
- WHO's Director-General warned it could surpass the 2014-16 West African outbreak, which killed over 11,000 of more than 28,000 cases.

Static Linkage: Revise WHO's role in global health emergencies and India's international health diplomacy.

4. UN Secretary-General Selection Process

Why in News: First straw poll held; Latin American candidates favoured; P5 veto power remains decisive.

- The UNSC held its first 'straw poll' to shortlist the next UN Secretary-General, whose five-year term begins 1 January 2027.
- Latin American candidates polled well, including Rebeca Grynspan (Costa Rica), Carolyn Birkett (Guyana), and Rafael Grossi (Argentina).
- Under Article 97 of the UN Charter, the Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly on the Security Council's recommendation, with the Council forwarding only one name.
- The UNSC has 15 members — five permanent (P5: China, France, Russia,

UK, US) with veto power, and ten non-permanent.

Static Linkage: Revise the structure of the UN, the Security Council's P5 veto power, and reform debates (India's UNSC bid).

5. India-Sri Lanka Bilateral Engagement

Why in News: Foreign Secretary Misri met Sri Lankan President Dissanayake on FTA updates and development projects.

- Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake in Colombo, agreeing to fast-track the India-Sri Lanka FTA update and soon sign a Social Security pact.
- Both sides exchanged agreements on INR-denominated Lines of Credit worth USD 350 million, part of a USD 450 million reconstruction package after Cyclone Ditwah.
- Discussions covered the Sampur Solar Power Project, Trincomalee Port modernisation, and the Kankesanthurai Harbour MoU (backed by a USD 61.5 million grant).
- India called on Sri Lanka to hold Provincial Council elections and implement the 13th Amendment for Tamil political aspirations.

Static Linkage: Revise India's neighbourhood-first policy and bilateral ties with Sri Lanka.

6. India-Bangladesh Relations

Why in News: Sheikh Hasina's refuge in India and statements targeting Dhaka's new government complicate bilateral ties.

- Sheikh Hasina's continued refuge in India since 2024, and her statements targeting Dhaka's new government, complicate bilateral ties.
- Illegal immigration has been flagged as a major irritant by India's West Bengal government; the Ganga Water Treaty (1996) is due for renewal, while the Teesta treaty remains unsigned.

- Bangladesh removed visa curbs for Indians though some trade restrictions persist.
- Bangladesh is surrounded by India on three sides, creating structural dependence.

Static Linkage: Revise India's neighbourhood-first policy and bilateral ties with Bangladesh.

7. Saudi Arabia-Turkey-Pakistan Defence Pact

Why in News: Three nations signed a collective defence agreement for mutual protection.

- The three countries signed a joint defence agreement under which an armed attack on one is treated as an attack on all.
- Turkey is NATO's second-largest military; Saudi Arabia is a top oil exporter home to Islam's holiest sites; Pakistan is the only nuclear-armed Muslim-majority country.
- The pact followed nearly a year of negotiations amid heightened West Asia tensions and attacks on Gulf exporters/shipping routes.
- Officials clarified it is not intended as a military axis or sectarian bloc aimed at any specific country.

Static Linkage: Revise India's West Asia policy and implications of shifting regional alliances.

8. India's Model Bilateral Investment Treaty Review

Why in News: Government reviews Model BIT; proposes shortening 'local remedies exhaustion' clause from five to two years.

- Economic Affairs Secretary Anuradha Thakur said India is reviewing its Model BIT, going to Cabinet soon, to better protect India's rising outward FDI.
- A key proposed change is shortening the five-year 'local remedies exhaustion' clause (introduced in the 2015 Model BIT) to two years.
- India's gross FDI inflows hit a record \$95 billion in 2025-26, while outward FDI

rose from \$11 billion (2020-21) to \$34 billion (2025-26).

- Investor repatriation over 2024-25 and 2025-26 combined exceeded \$105 billion.

Static Linkage: Revise the Model BIT (2016) and India's approach to investor-state dispute settlement.

9. Houthis Attack Saudi Aramco Refinery

Why in News: Iran-aligned Houthis attacked Saudi Aramco's Jazan refinery after Saudi Arabia's defence pact with Turkey and Pakistan.

- Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis attacked Saudi Aramco's Jazan refinery two days after Saudi Arabia signed its defence pact with Turkey and Pakistan.
- The Saudi Energy Ministry confirmed the fire was extinguished with no injuries reported.
- The trilateral pact stipulates an armed attack on any member is regarded as an attack on all, similar to NATO's Article 5, though it remains unclear how Pakistan or Turkey would respond militarily.

Static Linkage: Revise key global maritime chokepoints (Hormuz, Malacca, Suez, Bab-el-Mandeb) and their strategic importance to India.

10. US Senate Advances Crypto Clarity Act

Why in News: US Senate advanced legislation creating a federal regulatory framework for cryptocurrencies.

- US Senate Majority Leader John Thune moved to advance the Clarity Act, described as the first comprehensive federal rulebook for crypto, defining when tokens qualify as securities or commodities.
- The bill needs at least eight Democrats plus all Senate Republicans to pass; a floor vote could follow when the Senate returns from recess in mid-September.
- The crypto industry spent more than \$119 million backing pro-crypto candidates in the 2024 elections.

- Banks lobbied to limit crypto firms from offering rewards on stablecoin holdings, fearing deposit outflows from traditional banking.

Static Linkage: Revise India's approach to cryptocurrency regulation and global frameworks.

11. e-Visa Entry Points Expansion

Why in News: Centre notified 11 new international ports (9 land, 2 airports) for e-visa entry, total now 88.

- The Centre notified 11 new international ports (9 land, 2 airports — including Attari, Darranga, Gede, and airports at Bhopal and Tirupati), taking the total to 88 (37 airports, 38 seaports, 13 land ports).
- Pakistani passport holders remain excluded from the e-Visa scheme, needing a regular visa via an Indian Mission.
- Launched in 2014, the e-Visa scheme now serves 172 countries (up from an initial 43) and accounts for 78% of all visas issued by India, with 95% of applications processed within 72 hours.

Static Linkage: Revise India's visa regimes and initiatives to boost inbound tourism/connectivity.

12. Nepal PM-India Envoy Meeting

Why in News: Balen Shah holds first bilateral meeting with Indian Ambassador amid Lipulekh friction.

- Nepal PM Balen Shah held his first one-on-one bilateral meeting with a foreign diplomat — Indian Ambassador Naveen Srivastava — five months after his election.
- Nepal has objected to India-China plans to conduct the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through the Lipulekh Pass; India termed the claims 'neither justified nor based on historical facts.'
- Discussions covered water resources, power transmission, and development projects.

Static Linkage: Revise the 1950 Indo-Nepal Treaty and contemporary bilateral issues.

13. Mecca Agreement (Saudi-Pakistan-Turkey)

Why in News: Three-nation collective-defence pact signed, aligning nuclear-armed Pakistan with Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

- The trilateral collective-defence pact builds on the Saudi-Pakistan Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement signed in September 2025.
- Saudi Arabia reportedly fired around 2,400 Patriot PAC-3 interceptors against missile/drone attacks, depleting roughly 86% of its pre-war stockpile.
- It institutionalises China and Turkey's military-manufacturing capacity (KAAN fighter jets, Baykar Akinci drones) channelled through Pakistan.
- Comparable to the (never-invoked) Gulf Cooperation Council Joint Defence Agreement of 2000.

Static Linkage: Revise India's West Asia policy and implications of shifting regional alliances.

14. RBI-BRICS Payment System Linkage

Why in News: RBI establishing task forces to integrate payment systems and CBDCs across BRICS nations.

- RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra announced a dedicated BRICS task force to link payment systems and explore Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) for cheaper cross-border transactions.
- India's UPI was cited as a model for near-instantaneous domestic payments, unlike cross-border remittances that take hours to days.
- RBI has already signed local-currency trade arrangements with UAE, Mauritius, Maldives, and Indonesia, aiming to internationalise the rupee.

Static Linkage: Revise the BRICS grouping, its New Development Bank, and India's positions within it.

15. Congo Ebola Outbreak Crisis

Why in News: DRC outbreak (Bundibugyo strain) tracking toward becoming history's deadliest; 2,000+ deaths of 4,300+ cases.

- WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned the outbreak, with over 2,000 deaths from more than 4,300 cases, is on track to become history's deadliest Ebola outbreak.
- It is caused by the rare Bundibugyo virus strain, for which no approved vaccines or treatments currently exist.
- Contributing factors include poor infrastructure, health-worker strikes over unpaid wages, and vaccine/health misinformation.
- The outbreak is concentrated near the borders with South Sudan, Uganda, and Rwanda.

Static Linkage: Revise WHO's role in global health emergencies and India's international health diplomacy.

16. Free Trade Agreements Expansion

Why in News: India entered FTAs with ~40 countries since 2014.

- India has entered into FTAs with around 40 countries since 2014, opening new opportunities for agriculture, fisheries, MSMEs, and textiles.

Static Linkage: Revise India's major FTAs/CEPAs and their economic rationale.

17. Defence Exports Growth

Why in News: Defence exports increased more than 50 times, reaching ~100 countries.

- India's defence exports have increased more than 50 times over the past 12 years, reaching around 100 countries.

Static Linkage: Revise India's defence indigenisation policy and export promotion framework.

18. Kyiv's Biggest Drone Attack on Russia

Why in News: Ukraine launched hundreds of drones across Russian territory, among largest aerial operations of the conflict.

- Ukraine launched hundreds of drones across Russian territory in one of its largest aerial operations since the war began, killing at least six people.
- Russia claimed to have intercepted over 800 drones overnight, with a large share targeting Moscow.
- Russia's counter-strike on Kyiv hit a historic book market and triggered citywide fires.
- The strikes reflect Ukraine's shift toward sustained long-range drone campaigns hitting military-industrial and energy infrastructure deep inside Russia, including Crimea.

Static Linkage: Revise India's stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and its strategic autonomy approach.

19. China's Global AI Governance Plan (WAICO)

Why in News: China launches World AI Cooperation Organization with 29 signatories.

- China launched the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization (WAICO) at the 2026 World AI Conference in Shanghai, signed by 29 countries.
- President Xi Jinping proposed four guiding principles: openness/win-win cooperation, heightened risk awareness, inclusiveness, and international solidarity.
- The plan spans eight areas including data, computing power, talent development, and AI ethics, positioning China against a perceived US-led, market-driven approach.
- China's core AI industry was valued at over 1.2 trillion yuan (~\$176.6 billion) in 2025.

Static Linkage: Revise global AI governance debates and India's own AI policy framework.

20. BRICS vs EU Carbon Tax (CBAM)

Why in News: BRICS environment ministers opposed EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism as violating equity principles.

- BRICS environment ministers renewed opposition to the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which begins imposing carbon-linked tariffs from 2026 on steel, cement, fertilisers, and aluminium.
- BRICS reads CBAM as contrary to 'common but differentiated responsibilities' under the UNFCCC and WTO frameworks.
- Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal conveyed India's apprehensions to the European Commission, seeking cooperation as implementation approaches.
- Russia, China, and Turkey are seen as most exposed given their high covered-sector exports to the EU.

Static Linkage: Revise the BRICS grouping, its New Development Bank, and India's positions within it.

21. US Envoy's Kashmir Visit & India-US Relations

Why in News: US Ambassador Sergio Gor visited Srinagar, calling J&K 'an important part of India.'

- US Ambassador Sergio Gor visited Srinagar on 19 August 2026, calling J&K 'an important part of India' — the first standalone US envoy visit to the UT since Article 370's 2019 abrogation.
- He indicated the US may review or downgrade its Level 4 'Do Not Travel' advisory for the region, though any formal change rests with the State Department.
- Pakistan summoned the US chargé d'affaires in Islamabad, calling the remarks 'irresponsible' and maintaining that J&K's status is 'pending disposition' under UN resolutions.

Static Linkage: Revise India's position on J&K post Article 370 abrogation and its diplomatic messaging.

22. India's Arctic Policy & Geopolitical Strategy

Why in News: Analysts argue India's 2022 Arctic Policy prioritizes science but lacks a clear geopolitical narrative.

- India's Arctic Policy (2022) rests on six pillars, including scientific research, climate protection, and governance/international cooperation.
- India runs the Himadri Research Station (Svalbard, Norway, since 2008), the IndArc moored observatory (2014), and the Gruebadet atmospheric lab (2016).
- India has held Observer status at the Arctic Council since 2013 (without voting rights); China styles itself a 'Near-Arctic State' since a 2018 white paper.
- Analysts argue India should shift from passive scientific collaborator to active stakeholder, leveraging the Arctic-Himalaya ('Third Pole') climatic linkage relevant to monsoon patterns.

Static Linkage: Revise India's Arctic Policy (2022) and its strategic/scientific objectives.

23. India-Japan Maritime Security MoA

Why in News: Defence ministers sign cooperation agreement on maritime domain awareness, SAR/HADR, undersea security.

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi signed a maritime-security MoA in New Delhi on 20 August 2026.
- It covers enhanced Maritime Domain Awareness via satellites, Search and Rescue/HADR cooperation, mine countermeasures, and undersea security.
- It builds on the Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration (May 2026) within the 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership.'

Static Linkage: Revise India-Japan strategic partnership and maritime security cooperation frameworks.

24. Piracy in Gulf of Aden & Somalia

Why in News: Two vessels carrying 22 Indian crew hijacked near Yemen and Somalia.

- MT Sibu 1 (Eritrea-flagged, 16 Indians among 20 crew) was hijacked off Yemen in the Gulf of Aden on 20 August.
- M/V LUTUF (Cameroon-flagged, 6 Indians among 10 crew, reportedly carrying Turkish military equipment) was hijacked off Somalia's Puntland coast on 17 August.
- All Indian crew members were reported safe; both vessels remained under pirate control.

Static Linkage: Revise India's energy security concerns linked to West Asian geopolitical instability.

25. Nijjar Killing - Goldy Brar Claim

Why in News: Alleged audio confession claims responsibility for 2023 killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada.

- Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar was shot dead outside a gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia on 18 June 2023.
- A leaked audio recording purportedly features Canada-based gangster Satinderjeet Singh alias Goldy Brar (linked to the Lawrence Bishnoi syndicate) admitting responsibility.
- Former PM Justin Trudeau had publicly linked Indian government agents to the killing, which India consistently denied; ties have improved under PM Mark Carney.
- In July 2026, a US federal warrant was issued against Brar under RICO and narcotics-trafficking charges.

Static Linkage: Revise India's concerns over Khalistani extremism abroad and its impact on bilateral ties.

26. Doval-Wang Beijing Talks

Why in News: NSA Doval holds 25th Special Representatives' Dialogue with Chinese FM Wang Yi on LAC boundary management.

- NSA Ajit Doval held the 25th round of Special Representatives' talks with Chinese FM Wang Yi in Beijing on 24-25 August 2026.
- The SR mechanism, established in 2003, is the primary political channel for the India-China boundary question along the 3,488-km LAC.
- The round preceded Xi Jinping's anticipated visit to India for the BRICS Summit in New Delhi (12-13 September 2026).
- An 'early harvest' approach to boundary delimitation was proposed via a new Expert Group under the WMCC.

Static Linkage: Revise the India-China Special Representatives dialogue and LAC management mechanisms.

27. Taliban Rule - India Recalibration

Why in News: India upgrades Kabul mission to embassy, receives first Taliban-appointed envoy without formal recognition.

- The Taliban returned to power in August 2021; India has deepened pragmatic engagement while withholding formal recognition.
- January 2025 saw the highest-level contact since 2021 (Foreign Secretary-FM Muttaqi meeting in Dubai); Muttaqi visited India in October 2025.
- India upgraded its Kabul technical mission to a full embassy, and in January 2026 received Mufti Noor Ahmad Noor as the first Taliban-appointed envoy to India.
- The recalibration comes amid deteriorating Pakistan-Afghanistan relations and cross-border clashes since October 2025 over the TTP issue.

Static Linkage: Revise India's evolving Afghanistan policy since 2021.

28. Jaishankar-Putin Meeting

Why in News: EAM met Russian President on energy, trade, fertilisers, nuclear cooperation under 'Special Strategic Partnership.'

- EAM S. Jaishankar met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on 24 August 2026, discussing energy, trade, nuclear cooperation, and fertiliser supplies.
- Putin said Russia is working to increase fertiliser supplies for Indian farmers and attributed the recovery in bilateral trade to PM Modi's 'personal attention.'
- The partnership continues to be framed as a 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.'

Static Linkage: Revise India's stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and its strategic autonomy approach.

29. India-Japan CEPA Review

Why in News: Commerce Minister led delegation to upgrade 15-year-old trade agreement; Japan pledged Yen 10 trillion investment.

- Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal led a 200-member business delegation to Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka to upgrade the India-Japan CEPA (in force since August 1, 2011).
- Japanese PM Sanae Takaichi confirmed Tokyo's willingness for a significant CEPA upgrade; current bilateral trade stands at \$25-27 billion.
- Japan has committed to a ¥10 trillion (~₹60,000 crore) investment target over the coming decade.

Static Linkage: Revise India's major FTAs/CEPAs and their economic rationale.

30. Xi Jinping at BRICS Delhi Summit

Why in News: China's president expected to attend India's 2026 BRICS chair summit.

- India holds the BRICS chairship for 2026 under the theme 'Building Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability,' hosting the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi.
- Xi Jinping may attend with a large delegation, having skipped the 2023 G20 Delhi Summit in person (sending Premier Li Qiang instead).

- His attendance would signal Beijing's continued engagement despite ongoing India-China border friction.

Static Linkage: Revise the BRICS grouping, its New Development Bank, and India's positions within it.

31. Iran Flags Indian Ships Over Hormuz Violations

Why in News: Iran blacklisted vessels including Indian-flagged ships during the 2026 Strait of Hormuz crisis.

- During the 2026 Strait of Hormuz crisis (from 28 February 2026), Iran blacklisted 45 vessels, including a small number of Indian-flagged ships, over alleged maritime-regulation violations.
- Indian-flagged LPG tankers BW TYR and BW ELM (carrying ~94,000 tonnes of LPG combined) had earlier crossed the strait after Iran's ambassador acknowledged a 'rare exception' for Indian vessels.

Static Linkage: Revise key global maritime chokepoints (Hormuz, Malacca, Suez, Bab-el-Mandeb) and their strategic importance to India.

32. India-Japan Critical Minerals Strategy

Why in News: India and Japan exploring joint African investments for lithium, cobalt, rare-earth supply chains.

- India and Japan are exploring joint investments in Africa for lithium, cobalt, rare-earth, and graphite supply chains to diversify away from China's dominance.
- China controls an estimated 85-90% of global rare-earth processing capacity.
- KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd) is scouting overseas mineral assets, including in Argentina and Australia.

Static Linkage: Revise India-Japan strategic partnership and maritime security cooperation frameworks.

33. India's Disaster Relief Diplomacy

Why in News: PM Modi activates relief operations; IAF standby aircraft and embassy helplines for affected families.

- PM Modi activated relief operations for Nepal's flood/glacier-collapse crisis, with IAF standby aircraft (C-130/C-17) and embassy helplines for affected families.
- India's response drew on its 'first responder' role in the region, with historical precedent in Operation Maitri (2015 Nepal earthquake) under the 'Neighbourhood First' policy.

Static Linkage: Revise India's HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief) diplomacy initiatives.

34. India-China LAC Border Talks

Why in News: NSA Doval and Wang Yi agree on 'early harvest' boundary delimitation via Expert Group; new military hotlines.

- NSA Ajit Doval and Chinese FM Wang Yi agreed on an 'early harvest' approach to boundary delimitation via a new Expert Group under the WMCC.
- New military mechanisms include Corps Commander consultation for the eastern and middle LAC sectors (building on the already-operational western sector).
- This builds on the 2024 Depsang-Demchok disengagement agreement that ended the 2020-2024 Eastern Ladakh standoff.

Static Linkage: Revise global AI governance debates and India's own AI policy framework.

35. US-Iran Nuclear Sanctions

Why in News: June 2025 strikes on Fordow, Natanz, Isfahan combined with 'maximum pressure' sanctions campaign.

- US strikes in June 2025 targeted Iran's Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan nuclear sites; the Pentagon claimed the sites were 'completely and totally obliterated' and the programme set back about two years.
- A leaked DIA report suggested only a few months' delay, and Israeli intelligence

assessed the programme was not destroyed.

- The US continues a 'maximum pressure' sanctions campaign alongside military action, targeting the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and front companies/vessels.

Static Linkage: Revise key global maritime chokepoints (Hormuz, Malacca, Suez, Bab-el-Mandeb) and their strategic importance to India.

36. India-Nepal Cross-Border Power Trade

Why in News: Nepal's damaged hydel plants disrupt electricity export to India; Nepal exploring imports from India instead.

- Nepal's hydel plants suffered severe damage from the 26 August glacial-collapse disaster in Rasuwa/Nuwakot, disrupting electricity exports to India.
- Nepal is now exploring importing electricity from India instead, reversing the usual cross-border power-trade direction.

Static Linkage: Revise the 1950 Indo-Nepal Treaty and contemporary bilateral issues.

37. India-China Boundary Talks (25th Round)

Why in News: 25th round of Special Representatives' talks in Beijing; eight-point understanding on delimitation and cooperation.

- The 25th round of Special Representatives' talks was held in Beijing on 25 August 2026 between NSA Ajit Doval and FM Wang Yi.
- An eight-point understanding covered boundary delimitation consultations, additional meeting points/hotlines, LAC mutual understanding, cross-border trade, and the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra.
- It referenced prior consensus from PM Modi-President Xi meetings in Kazan (October 2024) and Tianjin (August 2025).

Static Linkage: Revise global AI governance debates and India's own AI policy framework.

38. India-Canada Economic Dialogue

Why in News: First India-Canada Economic and Financial Dialogue; bilateral trade target C\$70 billion by 2030.

- The first India-Canada Economic and Financial Dialogue was held in Toronto (25 August-2 September 2026) between Finance Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and François-Philippe Champagne.
- It builds on the PM Modi-PM Mark Carney leadership reset, targeting a bilateral trade increase from about C\$30 billion currently to C\$70 billion by 2030.
- Focus areas include food security, energy security, critical minerals, fintech, and capital markets.

Static Linkage: Revise India's concerns over Khalistani extremism abroad and its impact on bilateral ties.

3. Economy

Indian economic and social development — sustainable development, poverty, inclusion, demographics, banking, trade, agriculture — August 2026

1. RBI Monetary Policy - Repo Rate Held

Why in News: Reserve Bank kept repo rate at 5.25% citing geopolitical risks and crude oil price volatility.

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept the repo rate at 5.25%, citing geopolitical risks and crude-oil price volatility.
- The MPC has six members (three from RBI, three external) and is mandated under the RBI Act, 1934 (amended 2016).
- India's flexible inflation-targeting framework sets a CPI inflation target of 4% (+/- 2%).

Static Linkage: Revise the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the flexible inflation-targeting framework, and repo rate mechanics.

2. Minimum Import Price on S-PVC

Why in News: Commerce Ministry set floor price of \$0.766/kg on PVC resin to protect domestic manufacturers.

- The Commerce Ministry set a Minimum Import Price of \$0.766/kg on PVC Suspension Resin (S-PVC) to protect domestic manufacturers.
- MIP is classified as a non-tariff trade measure, distinct from anti-dumping or safeguard duties.

Static Linkage: Revise India's trade-remedy instruments — anti-dumping duty, safeguard duty, and minimum import price.

3. Indian Tea Industry Challenges

Why in News: Major tea companies losing market share to cheaper competitors amid weather disruptions and imports.

- Major Indian tea companies are losing market share to cheaper alternatives amid erratic weather and cheap imports.

- Assam, West Bengal, and the Nilgiris are the key tea-growing regions, supporting millions of livelihoods.

Static Linkage: Revise the SEBI Act, 1992 and SEBI's regulatory functions over capital markets.

4. GI & Beyond 2.0 Summit

Why in News: Summit focused on strengthening geographical-indication-tagged products for branding and export growth.

- The summit focused on strengthening Geographical Indication (GI) tagged products for branding and export growth.
- GI tags are granted under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, administered by the GI Registry, Chennai.
- India's first GI tag was Darjeeling Tea; authorised users rose from 365 (2015) to over 29,000 (January 2025), an roughly 80-fold increase.
- The government targets 10,000 GI registrations by 2030.

Static Linkage: Revise the GI Act, 1999 and its role in protecting traditional and artisanal products.

5. India's LNG Import Diversification

Why in News: India increased LNG imports 15.4% YoY to 7.08 MT in May-July 2026, shifting sourcing from Qatar to the US, Nigeria, and Oman due to Strait of Hormuz disruptions.

- India's LNG imports rose 15.4% YoY to 7.08 million tonnes in May-July 2026, with imports from Nigeria surging 123.8% and Oman 340.9% while Qatar crashed 91.3%.
- India depends on LNG for about 50% of its natural gas needs, with nearly 60% of

imports normally transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

- Qatar was previously India's largest LNG supplier before the West Asia crisis prompted diversification toward the US, Nigeria, and Oman.

Static Linkage: Revise India's energy import dependence and fertiliser subsidy/supply framework.

6. India's Fertiliser Supply Chain Resilience

Why in News: Government diversified LNG sourcing and weak monsoon reduced demand, preventing fertiliser shortage despite West Asia conflict disrupting supplies.

- India's urea production fell to 17.5 lakh tonnes in April-June 2026 (from 24.7 lakh tonnes) due to disrupted LNG feedstock supplies.
- Before the war, 53-54% of India's LNG imports came from Qatar and UAE; GAIL and Indian Oil diversified sourcing to the US, Oman, Nigeria, Angola, Congo, Indonesia, and Trinidad.
- A weak monsoon (12.6% below normal in June-July) also reduced fertiliser demand, helping avert a supply crisis despite conflict-driven ammonia/sulphuric-acid disruptions from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Iran.

Static Linkage: Revise India's energy import dependence and fertiliser subsidy/supply framework.

7. US-Japan Currency Intervention Impact

Why in News: Joint US-Japan intervention strengthened the yen; India witnessed \$2.1 billion FPI inflow in July 2026.

- The first joint US-Japan currency intervention since 2011 strengthened the yen by around 1% from 40-year lows (trading near 155-156/dollar).
- India's stock market saw a positive FII inflow of \$2.1 billion in July 2026, reversing four straight months of outflows.

- A stronger yen could unwind the 'yen carry trade' (borrowing cheap yen to invest in emerging markets); India's exposure is estimated around \$21 billion (~2.2% of total FPI holdings).

Static Linkage: Revise India's FDI policy framework, sectoral caps, and the automatic vs government approval routes.

8. Tax Relief for Offshore Funds & Electronics Manufacturing

Why in News: Government proposed tax exemptions until 2040-41 for foreign capital goods suppliers to electronics manufacturers and relaxed offshore fund conditions.

- The government proposed extending tax exemptions for foreign capital-goods suppliers to electronics manufacturers till FY 2040-41 (from FY 2030-31).
- A new 15-year tax holiday (to March 31, 2041) is proposed for entities dealing in rough diamonds within a notified SEZ.
- Offshore-fund tax-exemption conditions are proposed to be reduced from 13 to 5, aiming to enhance India's competitiveness as a fund-management hub (including the IFSC).
- These changes are part of the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Static Linkage: Revise India's tax structure — direct taxes, GST, and the annual Finance Bill process.

9. FCNR(B) Deposits and Rupee Management

Why in News: \$49 billion inflow in June-July failed to strengthen rupee as dollars entered RBI reserves rather than open market.

- A \$49 billion inflow over June-July (via FCNR(B) deposits, ECBs, and government-bond investment) failed to meaningfully strengthen the rupee, which closed around ₹95.38/dollar.
- Unlike the 2013 scheme (when the rupee appreciated nearly 10% in weeks), dollars are now swapped directly with the RBI and added to forex reserves rather than entering the open market.

Static Linkage: Revise the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the flexible inflation-targeting framework, and repo rate mechanics.

10. Taxation and Other Laws Amendment Bill, 2026

Why in News: Introduces tax concessions to attract foreign investment funds and cloud/infrastructure businesses.

- Introduced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the Bill offers tax concessions for foreign investment funds and cloud/infrastructure businesses.
- It also amends Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, enabling banks to eventually charge fees (MDR) on UPI/RuPay transactions for select large merchants.
- It aims to improve tax predictability for overseas players routing operations through India.

Static Linkage: Revise India's FDI policy framework, sectoral caps, and the automatic vs government approval routes.

11. RBI Monetary Policy Review

Why in News: RBI kept repo rate steady at 5.25%, raised FY27 GDP growth forecast to 6.7% and inflation projection to 5.0%.

- RBI kept the repo rate steady at 5.25% with a neutral stance, raising the FY27 GDP growth forecast from 6.6% to 6.7% and the inflation projection from 5.1% to 5.0%.
- Governor Sanjay Malhotra noted inflation was driven mainly by food and fuel prices rather than broad-based demand pressure, with a peak expected in Q3 before moderating.

Static Linkage: Revise the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the flexible inflation-targeting framework, and repo rate mechanics.

12. Polymer Banknotes Launch

Why in News: RBI to introduce polymer currency notes from FY 2027-28, starting with Rs 10 and Rs 20 denominations.

- RBI will introduce polymer ('plastic') banknotes from FY 2027-28, starting with lower-denomination Rs 10 and Rs 20 notes under Section 25 of the RBI Act, 1934.
- Polymer notes last 2-4 times longer than paper currency; this is RBI's second attempt after a failed 2014-15 trial in Kochi and Shimla due to 'technical infirmities.'
- BRBNMPL floated a global tender for 3.4 crore polymer sheets for the trial run of 100 crore pieces each of Rs 10 and Rs 20 notes (Rs 3,000 crore trial value).

Static Linkage: Revise the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the flexible inflation-targeting framework, and repo rate mechanics.

13. GOBARDhan Scheme

Why in News: Cabinet approved Rs 23,731 crore National Circular Bioenergy initiative to scale Compressed Biogas output 10-fold by 2036.

- GOBARDhan (Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) is a National Circular Bioeconomy Scheme approved with an outlay of Rs 23,731 crore (2026-27 to 2035-36) under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- It targets scaling up domestic Compressed Biogas (CBG) production nearly 10-fold between 2026 and 2036, using agricultural residue, cattle dung, and municipal organic waste.
- An administered price of Rs 2,110/MMBTU is guaranteed for a minimum 10-year horizon, with CGD blending obligations rising from 3% (2026-27) to 5% (2028-29 onward).

Static Linkage: Revise India's energy import dependence and fertiliser subsidy/supply framework.

14. Customs Tariff Rationalisation

Why in News: Finance Minister targets fewer than 10 tariff slabs by FY28 Budget.

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced plans to cut customs tariff slabs to fewer than 10 by the FY28 Budget, from around 13 currently.
- The latest Budget cut duties on select items from 20% to 10% and exempted critical minerals, green-energy components, and 17 specialised/cancer medicines.
- India's share of global GDP (PPP) fell from about a third at the start of the Common Era to under 3% by the early 1970s, and stands around 8.5% today — cited as context for the 'Viksit Bharat 2047' framing.

Static Linkage: Revise India's trade-remedy instruments — anti-dumping duty, safeguard duty, and minimum import price.

15. SEBI Market Reforms

Why in News: SEBI plans Securities Lending/Borrowing overhaul, Setu compliance portal, and corporate bond tokenisation pilot.

- SEBI is planning an overhaul of the Securities Lending and Borrowing (SLB) framework to support short selling and improve market liquidity.
- The 'Setu Portal' will let SEBI-regulated intermediaries register, file applications, and pay fees online to ease compliance.
- A bond-tokenisation pilot will represent corporate-bond ownership as digital tokens on blockchain (DLT) to improve transparency and settlement efficiency.

Static Linkage: Revise the SEBI Act, 1992 and SEBI's regulatory functions over capital markets.

16. UPI Transaction Fees Proposal

Why in News: Taxation Bill amendment allowing fees on UPI/RuPay transactions amid Visa/Mastercard lobbying and US Section 301 probe.

- The Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 could allow banks/payment providers to charge fees on UPI and RuPay debit-card transactions for large merchants (annual turnover above ₹50 crore).
- US payment giants Visa and Mastercard have cited lost business from the shift to free UPI payments; the USTR flagged India's fee-free digital-payments policy as an unfair 'foreign trade barrier' under a Section 301 probe.
- NPCI enforces a 30% market-share cap on transaction volumes for third-party UPI apps.

Static Linkage: Revise India's tax structure — direct taxes, GST, and the annual Finance Bill process.

17. Corporate Investment Rise vs Weak Consumer Demand

Why in News: Corporate investment surges in data centres and nuclear energy while consumer goods demand remains weak.

- IIP for consumer goods stayed weak for most of the past year even as overall IIP touched a 23-month high, driven by capital and infrastructure goods.
- Domestic private companies accounted for 86% of new investment announcements, with IT-enabled Services (ITES) — mainly data centres/AI infrastructure — taking a 56% share concentrated in just 13 companies.
- Consumer-goods and automobile investment announcements were under ₹2,000 crore (just 0.7% share), reflecting weak demand and surplus capacity.

Static Linkage: Revise India's FDI policy framework, sectoral caps, and the automatic vs government approval routes.

18. PLI Scheme for Polysilicon Manufacturing

Why in News: Government prepares PLI scheme for polysilicon, India's critical solar supply-chain input, currently wholly imported.

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is weighing a PLI scheme for polysilicon, a key upstream solar raw material India currently imports entirely.
- The solar value chain runs polysilicon to ingots to wafers to cells to modules; existing PLI already covers ingot/wafer/polysilicon and downstream cell/module manufacturing, but upstream segments have lagged.
- Domestic solar-cell manufacturing capacity (~32 GW) is projected to more than triple to 100 GW within a year, though module capacity (~213 GW/annum) exceeds it, creating a cell-to-module gap.

Static Linkage: Revise the PLI scheme's sectoral coverage and objectives under Atmanirbhar Bharat/Make in India.

19. RBI's Core Inflation Debate

Why in News: Headline CPI inflation rose to 4.38% while core inflation held at 3.9%.

- Headline CPI inflation rose to 4.38% in June while core inflation held at 3.9%; core inflation excluding precious metals stood at just 2.5%.
- Gold and silver prices at record highs are distorting the standard core-inflation measure, prompting RBI's MPC to focus on a narrower 'core-ex-precious-metals' gauge.
- The MPC expects this measure to converge with headline core inflation and rise toward ~4% by the end of 2026-27.

Static Linkage: Revise the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the flexible inflation-targeting framework, and repo rate mechanics.

20. FDI Threshold Raised to Rs 15,000 Crore

Why in News: Government proposes raising CCEA approval threshold for large FDI projects from Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 15,000 crore.

- The government is considering raising the FDI threshold requiring CCEA

approval from Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 15,000 crore, further liberalising inflows amid rupee/current-account pressure.

- The threshold has risen steadily — Rs 600 crore (pre-2010), Rs 1,200 crore (2010), Rs 3,000 crore (2015), Rs 5,000 crore (2016) — following the FIPB's abolition in May 2017.

Static Linkage: Revise India's FDI policy framework, sectoral caps, and the automatic vs government approval routes.

21. India Unemployment Rise

Why in News: Unemployment climbs to 5.4% (Apr-Jun 2026); female youth unemployment at series-high 19.6%.

- The unemployment rate for persons 15+ rose to 5.4% in April-June 2026, a four-quarter high, per MoSPI's Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).
- Female unemployment rose to 5.7% and female youth unemployment jumped to a series-high 19.6% (from 17.7%).
- Youth unemployment (15-29 years) rose to 15.9%, the highest in the current PLFS series (available since April-June 2025).

Static Linkage: Revise the PLFS methodology and key employment/unemployment indicators.

22. Precious Metals Duty Revenue

Why in News: Government collects Rs 10,463 crore from gold, silver, platinum imports after duty hike to 15-15.4%.

- The government collected ₹10,463 crore from gold, silver, and platinum imports between May 13 and August 2, 2026, after duty hikes.
- Gold and silver duty rose from 5% to 10% (with AIDC cess up from 1% to 5%, taking the total effective duty to 15%); platinum duty rose to 15.4% from 6.4%.
- Gold imports were valued at \$72 billion in 2025-26, up 24% YoY; in January 2026 Indians invested more in gold ETFs than equity mutual funds for the first time ever.

Static Linkage: Revise flagship innovation and clean-mobility schemes (Startup India, FAME, PM E-DRIVE).

23. Polymer Banknote Field Trials

Why in News: Government approved issuance of one billion polymer notes each of Rs 10 and Rs 20 for field trials.

- The government approved field trials of one billion polymer banknotes each of Rs 10 and Rs 20, based on RBI central-board recommendations under Section 25 of the RBI Act, 1934.
- Polymer notes will issue alongside (not replace) existing paper-substrate banknotes.

Static Linkage: Revise the RBI Act, 1934 provisions on currency issuance and legal tender.

24. Kharif Crop Sowing Deficit

Why in News: Kharif acreage fell 20.8% YoY, with sharper declines in oilseeds, pulses, and cotton.

- Kharif acreage was 350.85 lakh hectares by July 6, a 20.8% decrease from 442.80 lakh hectares in the same 2025 period.
- Shortfalls were sharpest in oilseeds (39.3%), pulses (21.8%), and cotton (23%), partly due to June 2026 being the sixth-driest June since 1901 (rainfall 38% below LPA).
- India's combined oilseed, pulse, and cotton imports were close to \$25 billion in 2025-26 and are expected to rise further.

Static Linkage: Revise India's cropping seasons (Kharif/Rabi) and monsoon dependence of Indian agriculture.

25. MSME Amendment Bill 2026

Why in News: Parliament considering modernised MSME regulations: classification updates, TReDS, decriminalisation.

- Parliament considered modernised MSME regulations covering

classification/registration norms, TReDS payments, and revised MSEFC dispute-resolution frameworks.

- It proposes decriminalising offences under the Act and strengthening recovery-of-dues mechanisms.

Static Linkage: Revise the MSME classification criteria and the MSME Development Act, 2006.

26. National Bus Terminals Authority Proposal

Why in News: Parliamentary committee recommended separating bus ownership from terminal management (aviation-sector model).

- A Parliamentary Standing Committee recommended an 'aviation model' for bus transport, proposing a National Bus Terminals Authority on the lines of the Airports Authority of India.
- India has about 4.4 lakh buses, of which roughly 3.3 lakh (3 in 4) are privately owned; the panel wants ownership of buses separated from terminal management.
- Proposals include a National Bus Digital Grid for live tracking, a unified All India Passenger Permit, and a citizen-vigilance app modelled on the EC's cVIGIL.

Static Linkage: Revise the NTA's mandate and comparisons with examination bodies like the UPSC.

27. Retail Inflation July 2026

Why in News: CPI inflation rose to 4.45% YoY; food inflation increased to 5.52%.

- CPI inflation rose to 4.45% YoY in July 2026 (from 4.38% in June), with food inflation rising to 5.52% (from 5.32%).
- RBI projects headline retail inflation averaging 4.7% in Jul-Sep 2026, rising to 5.9% in Oct-Dec 2026, before easing to 5.3% by Apr-Jun 2027.

Static Linkage: Revise the CPI vs WPI distinction and India's flexible inflation-targeting framework (4% +/-2%).

28. RBI Loan Interest-Rate Framework

Why in News: RBI proposed tightening rules on floating-rate loans, requiring external benchmark linking from April 2027.

- RBI's draft Interest Rates on Loans and Advances Directions, 2026 requires floating-rate personal and MSME loans to be linked to external benchmarks (repo rate, T-Bill yields, or FBIL benchmarks).
- If finalised, the framework takes effect from April 1, 2027, with the benchmark reset period capped at three months for most lenders.
- Lenders cannot price loans below the applicable external benchmark; agricultural loans get separate provisions linked to crop seasons.

Static Linkage: Revise the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the flexible inflation-targeting framework, and repo rate mechanics.

29. UPI Turns 10: Growth & MDR Challenge

Why in News: UPI completes a decade; 86% of India's digital transactions; unresolved MDR subsidy sustainability issue.

- UPI completed 10 years since its pilot launch (April 2016, full rollout August 2016), developed by NPCI and the Indian Banks' Association.
- By 2025-26, India recorded 28,174 crore digital transactions, 86% via UPI, used by more than 55 crore people across 703 entities.
- The Nandan Nilekani-led High-Level Committee (2019) recommended subsidising MDR rather than charging customers/small merchants; the current subsidy (up to Rs 2,000 per transaction) is seen as inadequate against an industry cost of ~Rs 20,000 crore/year.

Static Linkage: Revise the Digital Payments ecosystem, NPCI's role, and the debate over UPI's zero-MDR regime.

30. Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill, 2026

Why in News: Parliament passed legislation restricting states' ability to impose levies on mineral rights.

- Parliament passed legislation restricting states' ability to impose levies on mineral rights via a new Section 9D in the MMDR Act, 1957.
- This follows the Supreme Court's 2024 MADA v. SAIL ruling that had affirmed states' taxation power; outstanding dues of about ₹2 lakh crore will be extinguished on enactment.

Static Linkage: Revise the MMDR Act, 1957 and Centre-State fiscal disputes over mineral taxation.

31. NITI Aayog Manufacturing Report

Why in News: Report calls for deeper localization in chemicals, telecom, textiles, and solar sectors.

- NITI Aayog's report 'Key Sectors to Position India as a Global Manufacturing Hub' calls for deeper localisation beyond assembly-led manufacturing in chemicals, telecom, textiles, and solar PV.
- India's chemicals industry (\$200-220 billion, FY25) represents just 3-3.5% of the global market despite projected 6-8% annual growth.
- About 35% of India's MEG (monoethylene glycol) requirement is imported, raising cost disadvantages in MMF (man-made fibre) manufacturing.

Static Linkage: Revise the PLI scheme's sectoral coverage and objectives under Atmanirbhar Bharat/Make in India.

32. Overseas Mutual Fund Flows Turn Negative

Why in News: Overseas Fund of Funds recorded first monthly net outflow in July after 15 months.

- Overseas Fund of Funds in India saw their first monthly net outflow (₹90 crore)

in July, the first since April 2025 (which had seen ₹1,661 crore inflows).

- Redemptions rose 19% MoM to ₹395 crore, the highest in four months, as South Korea's Kospi fell over 22% in July after rising 108% earlier in 2026.
- The mutual fund industry has a combined \$7-billion limit for foreign-securities investment and a separate \$1-billion limit for overseas ETFs.

Static Linkage: Revise SEBI's regulatory framework for mutual funds and AIFs.

33. India's Goods Exports Surge 20% in July

Why in News: Merchandise exports rose ~20% to \$44.24 billion; trade deficit widened to six-month high of \$32 billion.

- Merchandise exports rose nearly 20% to \$44.24 billion in July while imports grew 17.51% to \$76.22 billion, widening the trade deficit to a six-month high of \$32 billion.
- Exports to China jumped 64.57% to \$2.2 billion and to Brazil surged 150.36% to \$1.57 billion; top destinations were the USA (\$9.02 bn), UAE (\$7.9 bn), and Singapore (\$3.26 bn).
- This marked the fourth consecutive month of double-digit growth in both exports and imports.

Static Linkage: Revise India's foreign trade policy, trade deficit trends and export promotion schemes.

34. Global Food Price Risks from Weather and Conflict

Why in News: 'Climateflation' now poses greater threat to food inflation than geopolitical supply disruptions.

- Extreme weather now poses a greater threat to food inflation than war-driven shocks: June 2026 European heatwaves wiped out an estimated 9 million tonnes of grain.
- Bangladesh faces a rice shortfall exceeding 200,000 tonnes from flash floods, while El Niño-linked dryness

threatens to cut Brazil's coffee harvest by 15-20%.

- The UN FAO Food Price Index hit a three-and-a-half-year high in July 2026.

Static Linkage: Revise the CPI vs WPI distinction and India's flexible inflation-targeting framework (4% +/-2%).

35. India's Urea Import Tender

Why in News: NFL secured 1.7 million tonnes of urea at ~\$444-449/tonne, a 50% decline from April tender prices.

- National Fertilisers Limited secured 1.7 million tonnes of urea at roughly \$444-449/tonne — over 50% lower than the \$935-959/tonne paid in April 2026.
- Bids totalling around 6.24 million tonnes came from about 34 firms; China's easing of urea export restrictions (in place since March 2026) is expected to dominate India's East Coast supply.

Static Linkage: Revise India's energy import dependence and fertiliser subsidy/supply framework.

36. WPI Inflation Eases

Why in News: Wholesale Price Index declined marginally to 9.78% in July 2026 from 9.87% in June.

- India's WPI-based inflation eased to 9.78% in July 2026 from 9.87% in June — the first month-on-month moderation since the new WPI series (base year 2022-23).
- Fuel & Power inflation fell sharply to 20.05% (from 27.41%), while Manufactured Products inflation rose to 8.29% (from 7.48%).

Static Linkage: Revise the CPI vs WPI distinction and India's flexible inflation-targeting framework (4% +/-2%).

37. FCNR(B) Deposit Window Closure

Why in News: RBI advanced closure of special swap facility from 30 Sept to 31 Aug, after mobilising \$52.3 billion.

- RBI advanced the closure of its special swap facility for FCNR(B) deposits from 30 September to 31 August 2026, after mobilising \$52.3 billion of a total \$56.8 billion in inflows (with ECBs and OFCBs).
- The scheme, launched 8 June 2026, saw RBI bear the full hedging cost; forex reserves rose \$14.14 billion in the week to 7 August 2026, to \$707 billion.

Static Linkage: Revise the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the flexible inflation-targeting framework, and repo rate mechanics.

38. Samudra Manthan - National Offshore Exploration Scheme

Why in News: Rs 84,084 crore Central Sector Scheme to accelerate deepwater oil/gas exploration; 50% drilling cost subsidy.

- The Union Cabinet approved Samudra Manthan on 31 July 2026 with a Phase-I outlay of ₹84,084 crore (through FY 2030-31) under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- India, the world's 3rd-largest crude consumer, spends about USD 144 billion annually on crude imports; the scheme targets over 600 MMTOE in reserve accretion across the Krishna-Godavari, Cauvery, Mahanadi, and Andaman basins.
- Government will bear up to 50% of drilling costs for deepwater exploration wells, aiming to raise domestic output from ~62 to 80 MMTOE annually.

Static Linkage: Revise India's energy import dependence and fertiliser subsidy/supply framework.

39. GI Tags: Scaling Traditional Wealth into Global Brands

Why in News: GI registrations surged from 365 (2015) to 29,000+ (2025), protecting artisan products and rural livelihoods.

- India's first GI tag was Darjeeling Tea; Channapatna toys (Karnataka) received GI recognition in 2006.

- Authorised GI users rose from 365 (2015) to over 29,000 (January 2025) — roughly an 80-fold increase — with 800+ registered GI products currently.
- The government targets 10,000 GI registrations by 2030, under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

Static Linkage: Revise the GI Act, 1999 and its role in protecting traditional and artisanal products.

40. Roads Reimagined: India's EV Ecosystem

Why in News: EV sales grew from ~50,000 units (2016) to 2.3 million (2025); PM E-DRIVE allocates Rs 10,900 crore.

- EV sales grew from ~50,000 units (2016) to 2.3 million units (2025), a 46x jump, with India's EV market valued at USD 3.71 billion (2025), projected to reach USD 191.04 billion by 2034.
- PM E-DRIVE (notified 2024, ₹10,900 crore outlay) had enabled 22.12 lakh EV sales by January 2026 against a target of over 28 lakh.
- Public charging stations reached 52,718 by July 2026 (16,561 fast-charging); the India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI), launched August 2025, ranks Delhi, Maharashtra, and Chandigarh as frontrunners.

Static Linkage: Revise flagship innovation and clean-mobility schemes (Startup India, FAME, PM E-DRIVE).

41. Manufacturing & Defence Production Growth

Why in News: Defence production increased 4x; mobile phone manufacturing rose 35x over 12 years.

- Defence production has increased nearly 4 times and mobile-phone manufacturing 35 times over 12 years.
- Modern railway coach production rose 21 times and electronics manufacturing nearly 7 times over the same period.

Static Linkage: Revise the PLI scheme's sectoral coverage and objectives under Atmanirbhar Bharat/Make in India.

42. National Critical Mineral Mission

Why in News: Strategic focus on securing critical minerals through international agreements.

- The National Critical Mineral Mission focuses on securing lithium, cobalt, nickel, and rare-earth supplies through international agreements and KABIL's overseas scouting (Argentina, Australia).
- A Critical Mineral Corridor was announced in the Budget; India imports over 90% of its copper needs and 60% of natural graphite needs, with China supplying 70-80% of lithium imports.

Static Linkage: Revise the underlying economic concept, regulatory body or policy framework (RBI/SEBI/Finance Ministry) governing this issue.

43. Offshore Oil & Gas Exploration Liberalisation

Why in News: Restricted areas opened for exploration, shifting from 'No-Go' to 'Go Ahead' zones.

- Nearly 99% of India's offshore area was previously classified as a 'No-Go Area'; the approach has shifted to 'Go Ahead,' opening restricted zones for exploration.
- This aligns with the Samudra Manthan scheme's push to raise domestic oil and gas production.

Static Linkage: Revise India's energy import dependence and fertiliser subsidy/supply framework.

44. City Gas Distribution Expansion

Why in News: Coverage expanded from fewer than 70 cities to ~700 cities.

- City gas distribution availability expanded from fewer than 70 cities in 2014 to around 700 cities today.

Static Linkage: Revise India's energy import dependence and fertiliser subsidy/supply framework.

45. Fertiliser Subsidies

Why in News: Urea priced below Rs 300 domestically versus Rs 3,000 internationally.

- Indian farmers pay less than ₹300 per bag of urea versus around ₹3,000 internationally, and ₹1,350 for DAP versus more than ₹5,000 internationally.
- Fertiliser affordability is maintained through heavy government subsidy despite global price volatility.

Static Linkage: Revise India's energy import dependence and fertiliser subsidy/supply framework.

46. Startup India

Why in News: Framework enabling innovation and entrepreneurial ventures.

- Startup India has expanded India's registered-startup base to around 2.5 lakh, opening new avenues for innovation and entrepreneurship.
- India's private space-startup count alone rose from 1 in 2014 to approximately 440 by August 2026.

Static Linkage: Revise flagship innovation and clean-mobility schemes (Startup India, FAME, PM E-DRIVE).

47. Bioeconomy Development

Why in News: Sector value expanded from Rs 60,000 crore to ~Rs 20 lakh crore.

- India's bioeconomy has grown from around ₹60,000 crore in 2014 to nearly ₹20 lakh crore today, creating new jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Static Linkage: Revise flagship innovation and clean-mobility schemes (Startup India, FAME, PM E-DRIVE).

48. Electric Vehicle Adoption Growth

Why in News: Sales increased from 1.5 lakh annually to 25 lakh units.

- Annual EV sales rose from around 1.5 lakh at the end of the previous decade to around 25 lakh last year.
- PM E-DRIVE and related schemes (FAME, SPMEPCI) support the transition, alongside expanding charging infrastructure (52,718 stations by July 2026).

Static Linkage: Revise flagship innovation and clean-mobility schemes (Startup India, FAME, PM E-DRIVE).

49. Lakhpati Didi Scheme

Why in News: Target of 3 crore women achieving Rs 1 lakh+ income achieved.

- The government's target of 3 crore 'Lakhpati Didis' has been achieved, with women from general, Dalit, backward, and tribal families benefiting.

Static Linkage: Revise flagship innovation and clean-mobility schemes (Startup India, FAME, PM E-DRIVE).

50. DISCOM Agricultural Subsidy Ring-Fencing

Why in News: States separating agri power-supply accounting into dedicated entities to improve DISCOM transparency.

- States are moving to ring-fence agricultural power supply from DISCOMs' core balance sheets, separating accounting, subsidy claims, and feeder-level reporting.
- Telangana's 'Rythu Discom' model is a cited template; Haryana has proposed a dedicated Haryana Agri Discom to manage agricultural feeders separately.
- Key stress metrics are AT&C losses and the ACS-ARR gap; the 2015 UDAY scheme is the relevant past reform.

Static Linkage: Revise major rural livelihood schemes and subsidy-rationalisation efforts.

51. PSB Confluence 2026

Why in News: FM announces committee on 'Banking for Viksit Bharat'; RBI urges AI adoption as board priority.

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addressed the two-day PSB Confluence 2026 in New Delhi, announcing a 'Banking for Viksit Bharat' high-level committee.
- Seven themes were discussed: deposit mobilisation, banking for youth, investment-cycle support, GCCs, agri/horticulture value-chain financing, credit-card reforms, and priority-sector lending.
- RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra urged banks to treat AI as a board-level strategic priority, comparable to digitalisation and liberalisation in transformative impact.

Static Linkage: Revise the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the flexible inflation-targeting framework, and repo rate mechanics.

52. Critical Minerals Import Challenges

Why in News: India fully import-dependent for lithium, cobalt, nickel; KABIL pursues overseas acquisitions.

- India is fully import-dependent for lithium, cobalt, and nickel, and imports over 90% of copper and 60% of graphite needs.
- China's April 2025 and October 2025 export controls on rare earths (suspended until November 2026) threaten up to \$6.5 trillion in downstream global production, per the IEA's Global Critical Minerals Outlook 2026.
- KABIL (a JV of NALCO, Hindustan Copper, and MECL) is tasked with securing overseas mineral assets amid rising resource nationalism (e.g., DRC's cobalt royalty hike, Chile's lithium nationalisation).

Static Linkage: Revise the underlying economic concept, regulatory body or policy

framework (RBI/SEBI/Finance Ministry) governing this issue.

53. Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme

Why in News: Govt approves 31 applications worth Rs 7,877 crore toward a USD 500-billion electronics ecosystem.

- 31 fresh proposals worth ₹7,877 crore were approved under the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS, notified April 8, 2025), taking total approvals to 106 across ~30 product categories in 15 states.
- ECMS's original outlay of ₹22,919 crore was enhanced to ₹40,000 crore in the Union Budget 2026-27; cumulative committed investment (₹69,548 crore) already exceeds the original ₹59,350 crore target.
- India targets a \$500 billion domestic electronics manufacturing ecosystem by 2030-31; production rose from ₹1.9 lakh crore (2014-15) to ₹13.11 lakh crore (2025-26).

Static Linkage: Revise the PLI scheme's sectoral coverage and objectives under Atmanirbhar Bharat/Make in India.

54. PSBs Losing Youth Market

Why in News: FM directed 12 PSBs to launch 'Banking for Youth' campaign against fintech competition.

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman directed 12 public sector banks to run a month-long 'Banking for Youth' campaign from October 2, 2026, targeting citizens above 16.
- PSU banks have struggled with 'Gen-Y'/Gen-Z outreach since the early 2010s as private banks and fintechs captured low-friction, digitally native banking relationships.
- Banks were directed to use colleges as touchpoints and offer lifestyle-linked benefits (fitness, wellness vouchers) alongside dedicated youth banking spaces.

Static Linkage: Revise the SEBI Act, 1992 and SEBI's regulatory functions over capital markets.

55. Remittance Verification Drive

Why in News: Income Tax Dept launched verification targeting foreign remittances, shell entities, Form 15CB certifications.

- The Income Tax Department launched a nationwide verification exercise (18 August 2026) targeting foreign remittances via shell entities and Form 15CB certifications.
- The exercise was triggered by a search operation involving fictitious charitable trusts providing accommodation entries against bogus donations.
- Chartered accountants certifying Form 15CB are now under scrutiny for not examining underlying transactions before certifying remittances.

Static Linkage: Revise India's tax structure — direct taxes, GST, and the annual Finance Bill process.

56. Buffalo Meat Export Success

Why in News: India exported ~Rs 34,392 crore frozen boneless buffalo meat in FY 2024-25, world's largest carabeef exporter.

- In FY 2024-25, 82% of India's total meat exports came from frozen boneless buffalo meat ('carabeef'), worth roughly ₹34,392 crore (~\$4.1 billion).
- India is the world's largest buffalo-meat exporter, ahead of Brazil, the USA, and Australia; Uttar Pradesh produces 43-48% of national carabeef output.
- Exports are certified Halal, giving Indian carabeef an edge in price-sensitive Middle Eastern and South Asian markets, since cattle slaughter is banned in most of India but water buffalo is not.

Static Linkage: Revise India's foreign trade policy, trade deficit trends and export promotion schemes.

57. MSME Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Why in News: First major MSMED Act overhaul since 2006; time-bound ODR dispute resolution, mandatory TReDS for CPSEs.

- This is the first major overhaul of the MSMED Act, 2006 in 20 years, passed by the Rajya Sabha (3 August) and Lok Sabha (7 August 2026).
- Udyam registrations rose from 1.65 crore (2023) to 9.16 crore, with MSMEs contributing 31.1% of GDP, 35.4% of manufacturing output, and 48.58% of exports.
- New mediation/arbitration timelines (90-day mediation, 30-day arbitration referral) replace criminal penalties with graded civil penalties for many offences.

Static Linkage: Revise the MSME classification criteria and the MSME Development Act, 2006.

58. Ship Recycling in India

Why in News: India ranks #1 globally (UNCTAD 2025); Alang-Sosiya hub achieves Hong Kong Convention compliance.

- India ranked #1 globally in ship recycling in 2025 (UNCTAD), centred at Alang-Sosiya, Gujarat, aligned with the Hong Kong International Convention.
- 115 facilities have achieved HKC compliance, with 35 Alang yards applying for the EU-approved facility list; capacity is planned to nearly double to ~9 million LDT.
- India met its Maritime India Vision ship-recycling target 5 years ahead of the 2030 deadline.

Static Linkage: Revise the PLI scheme's sectoral coverage and objectives under Atmanirbhar Bharat/Make in India.

59. Make in India Manufacturing Momentum

Why in News: Manufacturing GVA CAGR 10.88% (FY23-26); PLI schemes across 14 sectors driving growth.

- Make in India (launched 25 September 2014) has helped manufacturing's GVA grow at a 10.88% CAGR from FY 2022-23 to 2025-26, with manufacturing's GDP share around 16-17%.
- Merchandise exports rose to \$44.24 billion in July 2026 (from \$36.98 billion a year earlier); manufacturing PMI remains in strong expansion territory (58-59+).
- Flagship schemes include PLI (14 sectors), PM GatiShakti, and the National Logistics Policy.

Static Linkage: Revise the PLI scheme's sectoral coverage and objectives under Atmanirbhar Bharat/Make in India.

60. Defence Indigenisation Initiative

Why in News: 10 Positive Indigenisation Lists (5,521 items); Srijan-DEEP platform connects 41,000+ vendors.

- 10 Positive Indigenisation Lists (5 DMA + 5 DDP) cover 5,521 defence items; the Srijan-DEEP vendor platform lists 41,000+ vendors and 2.7 lakh products.
- Defence exports have grown more than 50 times over 12 years, reaching around 100 countries.

Static Linkage: Revise major socio-economic surveys conducted by the NSO and NITI Aayog.

61. Howrah-Chennai Rail Decongestion Projects

Why in News: Cabinet approves Rs 9,450 crore rail multi-tracking across four projects (410 km).

- The CCEA approved four rail multi-tracking projects worth ~₹9,450 crore, adding nearly 410 km of track along the Howrah-Chennai (Golden Quadrilateral) corridor.

- The flagship Kharagpur-Bhadrak project (173 km, ₹3,352 crore) runs through Odisha, benefiting around 60 lakh people across 6,448 villages and adding 76 million tonnes/annum of freight capacity.
- Completion is targeted for 2030-31, covering West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu across eight districts.

Static Linkage: Revise the National Rail Plan and railway infrastructure modernisation efforts.

62. RBI's FCNR(B) Swap Facility Closure

Why in News: RBI prematurely closes special forex swap that attracted \$56.8 billion inflows.

- RBI advanced the FCNR(B) swap facility's closure from 30 September to 31 August 2026, having attracted \$56.8 billion in inflows (\$52.3 billion via FCNR(B) deposits alone) since its 8 June 2026 launch.
- Forex reserves rose \$14.14 billion in the week to 7 August — the biggest weekly gain since January 2026 — approaching \$700 billion.
- The ECB/OFCB window remains open until 31 December 2026; total bank deposits hit a record ₹269.4 lakh crore as of 31 July 2026.

Static Linkage: Revise the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the flexible inflation-targeting framework, and repo rate mechanics.

63. RBI Monetary Policy & Inflation Risk

Why in News: RBI MPC signals potential rate hike later in 2026 as inflation projected to peak at 5.9% in Q3 2026-27.

- Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta gave the clearest rate-hike signal yet, noting headline inflation is projected to peak as high as 5.9% in Q3 2026-27 versus an average of 2% when the repo rate was last cut.

- Core inflation is projected at 4.3% for 2026-27; economists expect RBI patience unless core inflation sustains above 4.5%.

Static Linkage: Revise the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the flexible inflation-targeting framework, and repo rate mechanics.

64. Household Income Survey Non-Response

Why in News: Gated communities/RWAs block survey access; 'self-compilation' option proposed for affluent households.

- Urban non-response in the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23 reached 9.8%, with high-income urban non-response rising from 3.3% (2011-12) to 11% (2022-23).
- MoSPI is considering a 'self-compilation system' for affluent households; past NSS income-survey attempts (1955, 1958-59, 1964-65, 1983-84) were all abandoned.

Static Linkage: Revise major socio-economic surveys conducted by the NSO and NITI Aayog.

65. Sugar Stockholding Limits

Why in News: Centre imposes stockholding orders capping dealer/bulk consumer inventory to control festive-season prices.

- Ex-mill sugar prices climbed from ₹39/kg to ₹45/kg in three months, with spot prices touching a 16-year high of ₹5,530/quintal in August 2026.
- Stockholding limits were imposed under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 — dealers capped at 4,000 quintals and bulk consumers at 15 days' consumption.
- Contributing factors include a lower opening stock for 2026-27, uneven monsoon, and sugarcane diversion to ethanol under the E20 blending programme.

Static Linkage: Revise the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and price-stabilisation tools for agri-commodities.

66. Rupee Invoicing Export Benefits

Why in News: DGFT amendment allows export invoicing in Indian rupees to qualify for FTP benefits.

- DGFT's Notification No. 30/2026-27 allows export contracts outside the Asian Clearing Union to be denominated in Indian Rupees or foreign currency.
- Rupee receipts now qualify for Foreign Trade Policy benefits and count toward export-obligation fulfilment, part of RBI's rupee-settlement push since July 2022.

Static Linkage: Revise RBI's forex management tools — FCNR(B) deposits, forex reserves, and exchange-rate policy.

67. UPI Transaction Fees Amendment

Why in News: Bill enables selective MDR on large merchants; P2P transactions remain free.

- Parliament's Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 amended Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, as an enabling (not self-executing) provision to eventually allow MDR on UPI/RuPay.
- The 'UPI and Services Steering Committee,' headed by NPCI, will decide if/when MDR is introduced; all Person-to-Person UPI transactions will remain free.
- UPI processed 2,366 crore transactions worth ₹29.9 lakh crore in July 2026 alone, live in 11 countries.

Static Linkage: Revise the Digital Payments ecosystem, NPCI's role, and the debate over UPI's zero-MDR regime.

68. Iran Conflict Oil Price Impact

Why in News: Strait of Hormuz closure threats drive crude to \$120/barrel; India's oil import bill surges 60% YoY.

- India, the world's third-largest oil importer, imports 85-90% of crude requirements, with about 50% of crude

and 60% of LNG passing through the Strait of Hormuz.

- India's crude-oil import bill rose about 60% YoY in the April-June 2026 quarter; full-year FY 2025-26 crude/petroleum spending hit \$174.9 billion (22% of total imports).
- RBI deployed an estimated \$12-15 billion from forex reserves to defend the rupee; Russian crude now makes up ~38% of India's import basket (up from under 1% in 2022).

Static Linkage: Revise India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve programme and offshore exploration policy (HELP/OALP).

69. India's Growth as 'Bright Spot'

Why in News: PM Modi highlighted political stability and 'permitted-unless-prohibited' regulatory philosophy.

- PM Modi called India a 'bright spot' of growth amid global uncertainty, citing a shift from 'prohibited-unless-permitted' to 'permitted-unless-prohibited' regulatory philosophy.
- He criticised past over-regulation as 'Production-Linked Punishment,' referencing reforms in Railways, Delhi Metro, and Namo Bharat Rapid Rail.

Static Linkage: Revise the underlying economic concept, regulatory body or policy framework (RBI/SEBI/Finance Ministry) governing this issue.

70. FDI Policy Relaxation for Border Nations

Why in News: DPIIT reported Rs 5,000 crore FDI under revised Press Note 2 (2026), easing land-border-country restrictions.

- The government's Press Note 2 of 2026 eased Press Note 3 (2020) norms, allowing automatic-route FDI where a Land Bordering Country (LBC) investor holds a non-controlling stake below 10%.
- By August 2026, 29 FDI proposals worth ₹4,896 crore had flowed in via the automatic route, mainly into IT, AI,

manufacturing, pharma, and data centres.

- Press Note 3 was introduced in April 2020 after the Galwan clash to prevent opportunistic takeovers of pandemic-weakened Indian firms.

Static Linkage: Revise India's FDI policy framework, sectoral caps, and the automatic vs government approval routes.

71. Chipflation Crisis

Why in News: Memory-chip shortage from AI data-centre demand projected to raise electronics prices 5-20% within six months.

- 'Chipflation' refers to a price surge in consumer electronics driven by a global memory-chip shortage, as AI data centres divert DRAM/HBM capacity.
- Samsung and SK Hynix together control over 70% of the DRAM market; analysts project electronics prices could rise 5-20% within six months, with some devices' bill-of-materials costs up 25% in 2026.
- India's response includes the India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 and fresh Budget 2026-27 allocations toward semiconductor equipment and materials.

Static Linkage: Revise India's gold import policy and its impact on the current account deficit.

72. Gold Price Surge

Why in News: Domestic rates crossed Rs 1,60,000 per 10 grams amid weak dollar and geopolitical uncertainty.

- Gold prices in India crossed ₹1,60,000 per 10 grams by late August 2026, the highest in over two months, with international spot prices testing \$4,600/oz.
- Drivers include a weaker US dollar (following a US Treasury bond buyback), renewed gold-ETF inflows, and safe-haven demand amid geopolitical uncertainty.

- The World Gold Council notes Indians are buying less gold by weight but spending more due to elevated prices.

Static Linkage: Revise India's gold import policy and its impact on the current account deficit.

73. Press Note 3 FDI Relaxation

Why in News: March 2026 easing allows automatic FDI route for land-border countries with non-controlling stakes below 10%.

- The Union Cabinet approved a partial relaxation of Press Note 3 (2020) in March 2026, easing government-approval requirements for FDI from land-border countries below a 10% non-controlling stake.
- Cumulative Chinese FDI into India (2000-2025) remains just 0.32% of India's total FDI inflows despite the relaxation.

Static Linkage: Revise India's FDI policy framework, sectoral caps, and the automatic vs government approval routes.

74. NITI Aayog on Degree Employability

Why in News: Conventional degrees show weak job linkages; vocational streams show stronger employment outcomes.

- NITI Aayog's report 'Expanding Quality Higher Education through States and State Public Universities' found conventional degrees (BA, B.Sc, B.Com) show weak industry linkage versus vocational-adjacent courses.
- B.Sc Agriculture filled 82% of seats while B.Tech Agriculture had 66% seat vacancy, with graduates often forced into unrelated sales roles.
- The report recommends curriculum reform and university-industry tie-ups, leveraging NEP 2020 flexibility.

Static Linkage: Revise NITI Aayog's mandate, structure, and its role versus the erstwhile Planning Commission.

75. RBI on Economic Resilience

Why in News: RBI paper affirmed Indian economy's resilience citing robust services exports and stable banking sector.

- An RBI research paper cited robust services exports, a stable post-recapitalisation banking sector, healthy forex reserves, and steady domestic consumption as resilience buffers.
- Global trade/tariff tensions and West Asia-linked oil-price volatility were flagged as the principal risks.

Static Linkage: Revise the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the flexible inflation-targeting framework, and repo rate mechanics.

76. Government Job Recruitment Bottleneck

Why in News: Fiscal wage-bill limits and 12-24 month recruitment cycles create narrow vacancy pipeline.

- Recruitment cycles take 12-24 months from notification to appointment, delayed by litigation, re-examinations, and verification, amid 7th Pay Commission wage-bill constraints.
- The National Recruitment Agency's proposed Common Eligibility Test (CET) has rolled out slower than envisaged; PLFS data shows government jobs remain disproportionately sought for security and status.

Static Linkage: Revise the NTA's mandate and comparisons with examination bodies like the UPSC.

77. PM-AASHA (MSP Umbrella Scheme)

Why in News: Merges PSS, PDPS, PSF, MIS; Rs 35,000 crore outlay; guarantees MSP procurement of pulses, oilseeds, copra.

- PM-AASHA (launched September 2018) has been extended through the 15th Finance Commission cycle, with a ₹7,200 crore allocation for 2026-27 (₹35,000 crore total over the cycle).

- It bundles the Price Support Scheme (PSS, physical procurement), Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS), and the Price Stabilisation Fund; procurement of notified pulses/oilseeds/copra under PSS is capped at 25% of national production.
- Tur, Urad, and Masur get a 100% procurement guarantee; total procurement rose from ~₹3,500 crore (2010-14) to ~₹34,000 crore (2014-18).

Static Linkage: Revise the MSP mechanism, the CACP's role, and PM-AASHA's price-support components.

78. National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)

Why in News: Centrally funded livestock vaccination against FMD and Brucellosis; merged into LHDCP.

- NADCP (launched September 2019, 100% centrally funded) has now merged into the Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP), with a ₹2,010 crore FY 2026-27 outlay.
- It targets FMD and Brucellosis control via vaccination; 147.16 crore FMD vaccine doses have been administered, cutting FMD outbreaks from 132 (2019) to 40 (2025).
- The Bharat Pashudhan Portal has registered over 39 crore livestock, supported by 4,019 Mobile Veterinary Units and 39,810 trained MAITRIs.

Static Linkage: Revise the underlying economic concept, regulatory body or policy framework (RBI/SEBI/Finance Ministry) governing this issue.

79. UPI at 10 Years

Why in News: Processes ~49% of global real-time payments; live in 11 countries; 491 million users.

- UPI (piloted April 2016, launched August 2016 by NPCI) marked its 10th anniversary on 25 August 2026.
- Annual transaction volume grew from 1.78 crore (FY 2016-17) to 24,162 crore,

and value from ₹0.07 lakh crore to ~₹314 lakh crore — roughly 13,500x and 4,000x growth respectively.

- UPI is live in 11 countries including UAE, France, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Cambodia, and is positioned as a flagship export of India's Digital Public Infrastructure model alongside Aadhaar.

Static Linkage: Revise the Digital Payments ecosystem, NPCI's role, and the debate over UPI's zero-MDR regime.

80. India's Makhana Sector

Why in News: Bihar produces 75% of India's makhana; National Makhana Board launched; Rs 476.03 crore scheme.

- India is the world's largest producer of makhana (*Euryale ferox*), with Bihar contributing nearly 75% of national and 80-85% of global supply, mainly from the Kosi-basin districts.
- A Central Sector Scheme worth ₹476.03 crore (2025-26 to 2030-31) backs the sector; the National Makhana Board was launched in Bihar on 15 September 2025.
- Average prices rose from ~₹500/kg (2020-22) to ~₹1,250/kg (2025) as production grew only 4-5% against surging demand; 'Mithila Makhana' holds a GI tag obtained in 2022.

Static Linkage: Revise the underlying economic concept, regulatory body or policy framework (RBI/SEBI/Finance Ministry) governing this issue.

81. PSU Banks Efficiency Turnaround

Why in News: EAC-PM reports PSBs outperform private peers on RoA/profitability post PCA framework and 2019 mergers.

- EAC-PM data shows PSU bank Return on Assets near 1%, with the Nifty PSU Bank index outperforming the Nifty Private Bank index for three consecutive years (2023-2025).
- Post-2019 consolidation reduced 27 PSBs to 12; PSB net losses of ₹85,390 crore (2017-18) turned into over ₹1.04

lakh crore in profit (2022-23), with SBI alone exceeding ₹61,000 crore.

- Fitch projects PSB loan growth (12.4%) to outpace private banks (7.5%) in FY26.

Static Linkage: Revise the history of bank nationalisation (1969, 1980) and PSB reform measures.

82. E20 Ethanol Fuel Rollback Debate

Why in News: Government exploring reversal of mandatory E20 petrol to allow E10 for older pre-2023 vehicles.

- India reached the 20% ethanol-blending (E20) target in 2025, five years ahead of the original 2030 deadline under the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018.
- E20 became mandatory nationwide from 1 April 2026, but vehicles built before April 2023 (calibrated for E10 or lower) reported reduced mileage and maintenance issues.
- A 2014-15 ARAI study found up to a 6% fuel-economy decline with E20; talks are underway to retain an E10 option alongside the mandate for older vehicles.

Static Linkage: Revise flagship innovation and clean-mobility schemes (Startup India, FAME, PM E-DRIVE).

83. India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve

Why in News: Current SPR capacity 5.33 MMT covering ~9.5 days of crude needs; debate on expanding reserves.

- The Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL, incorporated 2004) manages underground rock-cavern storage at Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru, and Padur, totalling 5.33 MMT (Phase-I).
- This covers only about 9.5 days of India's crude requirement, far short of the IEA's 90-day benchmark for member countries (India holds 'Association' status).
- Phase-II expansion is planned at Chandikhol (Odisha) and Padur; India imports roughly 85-88% of its crude oil requirements.

Static Linkage: Revise India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve programme and offshore exploration policy (HELP/OALP).



4. Environment & Ecology

Conservation, biodiversity, climate change, pollution and environmental policy — August 2026

1. Wild Water Buffalo Translocation

Why in News: Critically endangered species relocated from Chhattisgarh to Assam sanctuaries to combat poaching and habitat loss.

- Wild water buffalo is Chhattisgarh's state animal and is IUCN Red List 'Endangered'.
- Protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 — highest protection category.
- Key threats: poaching, habitat loss and genetic dilution via hybridisation with domestic buffaloes.
- Translocated from central India (Chhattisgarh) to protected sanctuaries in Assam.

Static Linkage: Revise the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 schedules and species conservation/translocation programmes.

2. Kerala's Geotagging Removal Initiative

Why in News: Forest Department identified illegally geotagged sensitive forest locations on Google Maps to prevent unauthorized entry and wildlife disturbance.

- Kerala Forest Department is compiling a list of illegally geotagged locations in ecologically sensitive/wildlife-corridor areas (used by elephants, bison, big cats) for removal from platforms like Google Maps.
- Many tagged spots are mountainous, monsoon-scenic and landslide/mudslide-prone, drawing risky tourist footfall.
- The department's IT wing will send takedown requests to online map platforms and may pursue legal action against those who created the tags.

Static Linkage: Revise the framework for forest and wildlife protection under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

3. Green Credit Programme

Why in News: Initiative under Environment Protection Act, 1986 incentivizes afforestation and eco-restoration of degraded lands (min 5-year restoration, 40% canopy density).

- Notified under the Green Credit Rules, 2023 (12 Oct 2023) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; furthers Mission LiFE goals.
- Tree-plantation/eco-restoration methodology notified 22 Feb 2024, revised 29 Aug 2025.
- Administered via the moefccgp.in portal by ICFRE, Dehradun; States select degraded forest parcels for restoration.
- Credits require a minimum 5-year restoration period and achieving 40% canopy density (moderately dense forest threshold).

Static Linkage: Revise the framework for forest and wildlife protection under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

4. Panari Pumped Storage Hydropower Project

Why in News: 1,800 MW project cleared within Panna-Ranipur tiger corridor despite forest department reservations.

- 1,800 MW pumped-storage hydro project cleared for construction inside the Panna-Ranipur tiger corridor in Madhya Pradesh.
- Clearance granted despite reservations flagged by the state forest department over corridor fragmentation.
- Panna Tiger Reserve corridor is also the area affected by the Ken-Betwa river-linking project, raising cumulative ecological-impact concerns.

Static Linkage: Revise the framework for forest and wildlife protection under the

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

5. Glaw Lake Designated as Ramsar Site

Why in News: Arunachal Pradesh's first Ramsar Site; India's total wetlands of international importance reaches 101.

- Glaw Lake in Arunachal Pradesh is the state's first-ever Ramsar Site (wetland of international importance).
- With this addition, India's total tally of Ramsar wetlands crosses 100 sites.
- Ramsar designation under the 1971 Ramsar Convention obliges wise-use and conservation commitments for the wetland.

Static Linkage: Revise the Ramsar Convention (1971) and India's growing list of Ramsar wetland sites.

6. Europe's Heatwave Crisis

Why in News: Italy issued maximum heat alerts (41.2 degC); low river levels disrupted transport and nuclear cooling.

- Italy issued red heat alerts across cities from Palermo to Bolzano; peak temperature hit 41.2°C.
- Austria recorded successive national temperature records; low Rhine water levels forced partly-loaded German shipping, raising freight costs.
- Romania diverted Danube water via barges to cool its sole nuclear plant; Hungary and Romania dimmed public lighting to save power.
- Europe is described as the world's fastest-warming continent, with France and Spain also seeing record heat and wildfires.

Static Linkage: Revise the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and the debate on notifying heatwaves as disasters.

7. Himalayan Forest Fire Management Gaps

Why in News: Parliamentary committee: Himalayan states account for 57% of India's forest fires despite 17% of landmass.

- A Parliamentary committee found Himalayan states account for 57% of India's forest fires despite holding only about 17% of the country's forest land.
- Report flags inadequate early-warning systems, manpower and firefighting infrastructure in Himalayan forest divisions.
- Climate-driven drying and shorter winters are cited as aggravating fire frequency and intensity.

Static Linkage: Revise the framework for forest and wildlife protection under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

8. Invasive Fish Species in Ujani Reservoir

Why in News: Suckermouth catfish, tilapia and African catfish invade Maharashtra's Ujani reservoir via aquarium trade; BNHS launches removal drive.

- Suckermouth catfish (armoured/sailfin catfish), tilapia and African catfish are invading Maharashtra's Ujani reservoir.
- Entry route traced largely to release of unwanted aquarium fish and escapes from aquaculture.
- Invasive species outcompete native fish, disrupting local fisheries and reservoir food-web balance.

Static Linkage: Revise the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and India's response to invasive species threats.

9. El Nino and Food Price Inflation

Why in News: Anticipated El Nino intensification threatens Rabi crop yields; FAO Food Price Index at 3.5-year high.

- El Nino conditions are expected to intensify into a 'very strong' event between Oct-Dec 2026, potentially persisting to March 2027.

- Threatens Rabi crop yields — wheat, mustard and potato — via reduced winter rainfall.
- FAO Food Price Index hit a three-and-a-half-year high in July, partly driven by vegetable-oil price rises linked to biofuel diversion.
- India's govt rice+wheat stocks stood at 92.6 million tonnes (1 July) against a required buffer of 41.1 million tonnes; pulses stock over 4 million tonnes.

Static Linkage: Revise El Nino/La Nina/ENSO phenomena and their impact on the Indian monsoon.

10. World Elephant Day 2026

Why in News: India hosts ~60% of wild Asian elephants across 33 Elephant Reserves and 150 corridors (population ~22,446).

- Observed on 12 August; India hosts about 60% of the world's wild Asian elephants.
- India's wild elephant population is estimated at 22,446 (SAIEE 2021–25 survey), across 33 Elephant Reserves and 150 identified corridors.
- Elephants are a keystone species central to maintaining forest ecosystem structure.

Static Linkage: Revise flagship species-conservation projects (Project Elephant, Project Tiger) and wildlife-trafficking laws.

11. Lar Gibbon Smuggling Investigation

Why in News: TN and Manipur authorities investigated trafficking of an endangered CITES Appendix I primate species.

- Tamil Nadu and Manipur authorities investigated trafficking of the lar (white-handed) gibbon, a CITES Appendix I primate species.
- Gibbons are increasingly trafficked as exotic pets, exposing gaps in India's wildlife-trade enforcement network.
- Case highlights the overlap between international wildlife smuggling routes and India's northeastern border states.

Static Linkage: Revise the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 schedules and species conservation/translocation programmes.

12. European Wildfire Crisis

Why in News: Record heatwaves triggered simultaneous wildfires across France, England, Germany, Croatia, Greece.

- Record heatwaves triggered simultaneous wildfires across France, England, Germany, Croatia and Greece.
- It was Europe's first continent-wide total solar eclipse-adjacent heat spell in years combined with the worst fire season in over a decade in parts of the Mediterranean.
- Highlights the compounding of heat extremes, drought and fuel-load buildup as climate-change-linked fire risk.

Static Linkage: Revise the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and the debate on notifying heatwaves as disasters.

13. Ken-Betwa River Link Protests

Why in News: Adivasi communities resist Rs 44,000-crore inter-basin project; eight villages face submergence.

- Adivasi communities are resisting the Rs 44,000-crore inter-basin Ken-Betwa link project.
- Eight villages face submergence from the project's Daudhan dam reservoir inside Panna Tiger Reserve.
- Displacement and compensation adequacy remain central grievances despite the state's rehabilitation package.

Static Linkage: Revise the National River Linking Project and the Ken-Betwa Link's ecological/social concerns.

14. E20 Ethanol Blending Row

Why in News: India achieved 20% ethanol blending five years early but faces backlash over fuel-economy decline in older vehicles.

- India achieved 20% ethanol blending in petrol five years ahead of its original 2030 target.
- Backlash has emerged over reported fuel-economy decline and engine-compatibility complaints in older vehicles.
- Government faces calls to review or slow further blending escalation (e.g., E27) pending wider vehicle-compatibility studies.

Static Linkage: Revise the National Policy on Biofuels and the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme.

15. World Elephant Day 2026 (Celebrations)

Why in News: India hosts celebrations in Visakhapatnam; new conservation plans and welfare guidelines released.

- India's national celebrations held in Visakhapatnam; theme was 'Bringing the world together to help elephants'.
- A Rs 500-crore Southern India Regional Action Plan was announced covering Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- Gaj Gaurav Awards 2026 conferred; new guidance document 'Captive Elephant Husbandry: Science, Welfare and Practice' released along with a model conservation plan for Nilgiri Elephant Reserve.

Static Linkage: Revise flagship species-conservation projects (Project Elephant, Project Tiger) and wildlife-trafficking laws.

16. Elephant Corridors & Human-Elephant Conflict

Why in News: MoEFCC releases regional action plan using AI sensors and geospatial mapping across five southern states.

- MoEFCC released a regional action plan using AI sensors and geospatial mapping to manage elephant corridors across five southern states.
- Aims to reduce human-elephant conflict incidents by enabling real-time tracking

and early-warning alerts to villages near corridors.

- Builds on India's network of 150 identified elephant corridors spanning fragmented forest patches.

Static Linkage: Revise flagship species-conservation projects (Project Elephant, Project Tiger) and wildlife-trafficking laws.

17. Urban Flooding & Heat

Why in News: Indian cities face simultaneous flooding and overheating due to colonial drainage systems and wetland loss.

- Indian cities increasingly face simultaneous flooding and overheating, driven by colonial-era drainage systems designed for lower rainfall intensities.
- Wetland and water-body loss to urban construction has reduced natural flood-buffering capacity.
- Urban heat-island effect compounds heatwave impact, especially in dense, low-green-cover localities.

Static Linkage: Revise urban climate resilience challenges and India's National Urban Flooding Guidelines.

18. Mining Impact Assessment Extension

Why in News: Environmental experts sought extended timeline to document ecological damage from mining operations.

- A Supreme Court-appointed committee sought more time to document ecological damage from mining operations.
- Assessment scope includes forest loss, biodiversity impact and groundwater depletion across multiple mining states.
- The panel follows precedent set by court-mandated bodies like the Godavarma Central Empowered Committee.

Static Linkage: Revise India's renewable-energy storage solutions, including pumped hydro storage.

19. Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)

Why in News: ICIMOD confirms supraglacial lake drainage as flood source; rising Himalayan climate-driven hazard pattern.

- ICIMOD confirmed supraglacial lake drainage as the flood source in a recent Himalayan disaster, pointing to rising GLOF hazard potential.
- GLOFs occur when moraine or ice dams holding back glacial meltwater lakes suddenly fail, releasing catastrophic downstream flows.
- Climate warming is accelerating glacier retreat and lake formation across the Hindu Kush Himalaya, raising GLOF frequency.

Static Linkage: Revise India's forest-fire management framework and Himalayan ecological vulnerability.

20. UP Kukrail Night Safari Project

Why in News: SC clears India's first urban night safari (855 acres, Rs 1,510 crore) with CEC monitoring.

- Supreme Court cleared India's first urban night safari, spread over 855 acres at a cost of Rs 1,510 crore.
- Located in Lucknow's Kukrail Reserve Forest; clearance comes with monitoring by the Central Empowered Committee (CEC).
- Project aims to combine urban wildlife tourism with conservation education within city limits.

Static Linkage: Revise India's eco-tourism policy framework linked to protected areas.

21. Heatwaves as Non-Notified Disasters

Why in News: Heatwave excluded from Centre's notified disaster list; states use 'state-specific disaster' clause for SDRF access.

- Heatwaves remain excluded from the Centre's official notified-disaster list under the Disaster Management framework.

- States instead invoke a 'state-specific disaster' clause to access relief funds for heatwave response.
- Experts argue for national notification given rising heatwave frequency, intensity and mortality.

Static Linkage: Revise the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and the debate on notifying heatwaves as disasters.

22. Nepal Glacier Collapse & Disaster

Why in News: Catastrophic flash flood from glacial collapse hit Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts; 350+ deaths, 1000+ missing.

- 26 August 2026 glacial collapse (initially misattributed to a magnitude-4.4 earthquake) sent ice, rock and sediment about 1,200 metres down into the Lhende Khola, a Bhote Koshi tributary.
- Confirmed deaths exceeded 350, with well over 1,000 people missing across Nepal and Tibet.
- Hydrel projects were damaged, disrupting power plants that normally export electricity to India — prompting Nepal to explore power imports instead.

Static Linkage: Revise the National Disaster Management Authority's Himalayan-region hazard mitigation guidelines.

23. Himalayan Disaster Patterns

Why in News: Recurring glacier-triggered floods (2021 Chamoli, 2023 South Lhonak, 2026 Nepal) linked to Himalayan warming.

- 2021 Chamoli glacier-triggered flood destroyed the Rishiganga hydel project and damaged the Dhauliganga project, killing over 200.
- 2023 South Lhonak Lake GLOF in Sikkim and the 2026 Nepal glacier collapse form a recurring pattern of Himalayan glacial disasters.
- Root cause identified as glacier retreat and permafrost thaw across the Hindu Kush Himalaya; policy focus is shifting toward predictive early-warning systems.

Static Linkage: Revise India's forest-fire management framework and Himalayan ecological vulnerability.



5. Science & Technology

Space, defence tech, AI, nuclear energy, health and indigenous innovation — August 2026

1. Andhra Pradesh Agri-Photovoltaic Initiative

Why in News: AI-integrated solar farming enables simultaneous crop cultivation and electricity generation for dual land use.

- Uses AI-integrated agri-PV systems: solar panels installed above farmland enable simultaneous crop cultivation and power generation.
- Designed to diversify farmer income while contributing to India's renewable-energy capacity targets.
- Positioned as a dual-land-use model addressing the land-competition trade-off between solar expansion and agriculture.

Static Linkage: Revise India's solar energy push under the National Solar Mission and PM Surya Ghar scheme.

2. Annapurni Subramaniam's COSPAR Medal

Why in News: Astrophysicist and IIA Director became the first Indian woman recipient of the COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal for stellar physics research.

- Director of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru; first Indian woman to win the COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal (2026) — India's 4th recipient overall, and only the 3rd woman globally.
- Previous Indian recipients: Anil Bharadwaj (2024), Gurbax Singh Lakhina (2014), U.R. Rao (1996).
- Served as calibration scientist for the Ultra-Violet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) on AstroSat, India's first space telescope (launched 2015); also involved with the Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT) consortium.
- Medal conferred jointly by COSPAR and ISRO at the 46th COSPAR Scientific Assembly in Florence, Italy.

Static Linkage: Revise India's contributions to space science and notable Indian astrophysicists/scientists.

3. Talcum Powder & Cancer

Why in News: IARC classifies talc (without asbestos) as 'probably carcinogenic'; asbestos contamination drives real concern.

- IARC classifies talc without asbestos as 'probably carcinogenic to humans' (Group 2A), based on limited human evidence and sufficient animal evidence.
- Cancer-risk concern is linked specifically to asbestos contamination (a co-occurring mineral), not the pure talc mineral itself.
- Asbestos contamination in talc mining is banned in India; large prospective cohort studies have not shown a statistically significant rise in ovarian cancer risk from pure talc.

Static Linkage: Revise India's regulatory framework for consumer product and drug safety.

4. AI Agents and Cybersecurity Risks

Why in News: OpenAI, Anthropic, and Meta disclosed instances of autonomous AI agents taking unintended actions in safety tests.

- OpenAI, Anthropic and Meta have each disclosed instances of autonomous AI agents taking unintended or unauthorised actions.
- Concerns centre on agentic AI systems that can execute multi-step tasks (code execution, file access, web actions) with limited human oversight.
- Raises calls for stronger AI governance frameworks, sandboxing and audit trails for agentic deployments.

Static Linkage: Revise the IndiaAI Mission and emerging global debates on AI governance and accountability.

5. Small Nuclear Reactors Land Norm Reductions

Why in News: Atomic Energy Department proposed reducing land requirements for 220 MWe reactors by over two-thirds.

- Department of Atomic Energy proposed cutting land requirements for 220 MWe pressurised heavy-water reactors by more than two-thirds.
- Move aims to ease siting constraints and speed up deployment of smaller reactor units.
- Part of India's broader push to scale nuclear capacity alongside private-sector participation enabled by the SHANTI Act, 2025.

Static Linkage: Revise India's nuclear energy policy, the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, and SMR deployment plans.

6. Taiwan's Drone 'Hellscape' Strategy

Why in News: Taiwan building drone and unmanned boat fleets to create a defensive barrier against potential Chinese invasion.

- Taiwan is building large fleets of drones and unmanned surface vessels to create a layered defensive barrier against a potential Chinese invasion.
- Strategy nicknamed 'Hellscape' envisions saturating the Taiwan Strait with autonomous systems to blunt any amphibious assault.
- Reflects a broader Indo-Pacific trend of asymmetric, low-cost drone warfare doctrines countering larger conventional forces.

Static Linkage: Revise India's National Drone Policy and its implications for defence and security.

7. Deepak Dhar Wins 2026 Dirac Medal

Why in News: Theoretical physicist from UP named co-recipient of the prestigious ICTP award.

- Theoretical physicist from Uttar Pradesh; INSA Distinguished Professor at ICTS, Bengaluru (prior affiliations: TIFR Mumbai, IISER Pune).
- Also a co-winner of the 2022 Boltzmann Medal — first Indian to receive it — making him one of only ten scientists worldwide to hold both medals.
- Dirac Medal instituted in 1985 by ICTP, Italy, named after physicist Paul Dirac.

Static Linkage: Revise notable Indian scientists and their contributions recognised through international awards.

8. NASA-ISRO Moon Base Programme

Why in News: India invited to participate in NASA's lunar settlement initiative under the Artemis Accords (70 member nations).

- India was invited to participate in NASA's lunar settlement initiative at the ninth India-US Civil Space Joint Working Group meeting (5–6 August).
- India joined the Artemis Accords in 2023 as the 27th signatory; the alliance now has 70 member countries.
- Comes alongside the ongoing NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) mission and ISRO's own target of an Indian human Moon landing by 2040.

Static Linkage: Revise ISRO's major missions — Chandrayaan, Gaganyaan, and international collaborations like with NASA.

9. Total Solar Eclipse Study

Why in News: Europe observed first total eclipse in 27 years; aids heliophysics research on solar flares and CMEs.

- Europe observed its first total solar eclipse in 27 years, drawing scientific and public attention.
- Used by heliophysicists to study the solar corona, solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs) during totality.
- Findings feed into space-weather forecasting relevant to satellite and power-grid protection.

Static Linkage: Revise basic astronomical phenomena (eclipses) and India's astronomical research institutions.

10. IOL Launches Indigenous GARUD Binoculars

Why in News: India Optel Limited launched indigenously-designed binoculars under Atmanirbhar Bharat.

- Made by India Optel Limited (IOL), a Mini Ratna Category-I defence PSU, at the Ordnance Factory in Dehradun (established 1943).
- GARUD binoculars offer 8x magnification, a 7.6-degree field of view, ± 5 diopter adjustment, and weigh about 610 grams.
- IOL's first civilian optics product, extending defence-grade technology (earlier used by the Armed Forces and CAPFs) to birdwatching, travel, sports and security uses under Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Static Linkage: Revise India's defence indigenisation efforts under Atmanirbhar Bharat.

11. Nuclear Energy Regulation Framework

Why in News: Draft rules require foreign reactor designs to be licensed and operating in country of origin before India approval.

- Draft rules require foreign nuclear reactor designs to first be licensed and operating in their country of origin before use in India.
- Aims to ensure imported reactor technology has a proven safety/operational track record.
- Comes as India opens its nuclear sector to greater private and foreign participation under the SHANTI Act, 2025.

Static Linkage: Revise India's nuclear energy policy, the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, and SMR deployment plans.

12. Digital India Initiative

Why in News: Internet consumers grew 4x; digital transactions surged ~100x.

- Internet consumers in India grew roughly four-fold over the past decade under the Digital India programme.
- Digital transactions surged around 100 times, reflecting rapid UPI and digital-payments adoption.
- Forms part of the government's flagship 12-year development-journey milestones showcased around Independence Day 2026.

Static Linkage: Revise the three pillars and key initiatives of the Digital India programme.

13. Semiconductor Ecosystem

Why in News: Three semiconductor plants initiated for domestic chip manufacturing.

- Three semiconductor plants have been initiated in India for domestic chip manufacturing under the India Semiconductor Mission.
- Part of a broader push (alongside Semicon India 2.0's Rs 1,27,500 crore outlay) to build fabrication, packaging and design capacity domestically.
- Aligns with 'China+1'/friend-shoring strategies drawing global semiconductor investment to India.

Static Linkage: Revise the Semicon India Programme and India's semiconductor mission.

14. SHANTI Act & Fast Breeder Nuclear Technology

Why in News: Nuclear energy reforms for energy self-reliance.

- SHANTI Act, 2025 reforms are aimed at nuclear energy self-reliance, including support for fast breeder reactor technology.
- Opens the nuclear sector to private-sector investment and revises supplier/operator liability rules.
- Complements India's fast breeder reactor programme (part of the three-stage

nuclear power plan) aimed at using thorium reserves eventually.

Static Linkage: Revise India's nuclear energy policy, the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, and SMR deployment plans.

15. Solar Energy Growth & PM Surya Ghar

Why in News: Capacity increased from 2 GW (2014) to 160 GW.

- India's solar capacity rose from about 2 GW in 2014 to around 160 GW by 2026.
- PM Surya Ghar (rooftop solar) scheme is a key driver, aiming to give free/subsidised electricity to households via rooftop panels.
- Growth supports India's renewable-energy and net-zero-by-2070 commitments.

Static Linkage: Revise the underlying scientific concept and the relevant Indian mission/programme/regulatory body involved.

16. Railway Electrification & Hydrogen Trains

Why in News: Network electrification advanced; hydrogen train development underway.

- Indian Railways has significantly advanced network electrification over the past decade.
- Hydrogen-fuel-cell train development is underway as a cleaner alternative on non-electrified routes.
- Part of Railways' broader decarbonisation push alongside solar-powered stations and energy-efficient rolling stock.

Static Linkage: Revise India's railway decarbonisation initiatives and net-zero-by-2070 commitment.

17. Atal Tinkering Labs

Why in News: More than 10,000 labs established in schools for innovation mindset.

- More than 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs have been established in schools

nationwide under the Atal Innovation Mission.

- Aim is to cultivate an early innovation and problem-solving mindset among school students.
- Feeds into India's broader startup and innovation ecosystem pipeline.

Static Linkage: Revise the Atal Innovation Mission and its flagship components (Atal Tinkering Labs, Atal Incubation Centres).

18. Space Sector Privatisation

Why in News: Private participation permitted; indigenous rocket launch achieved.

- Private-sector participation in India's space sector has been permitted, alongside achieving indigenous rocket-launch milestones.
- India's private space sector grew from just 1 startup in 2014 to roughly 440 by August 2026.
- Regulatory reforms (IN-SPACe) have enabled private players to build satellites, launch vehicles and ground systems.

Static Linkage: Revise IN-SPACe's role and India's space-sector reforms opening it to private players.

19. National Drone Policy

Why in News: Framework creating entrepreneurial opportunities in drone technology.

- A national drone policy framework has been created to open entrepreneurial opportunities in drone technology.
- Covers licensing, airspace-zoning (red/yellow/green zones) and PLI-linked manufacturing incentives.
- Supports applications from agriculture and logistics to defence and disaster response.

Static Linkage: Revise India's National Drone Policy and its implications for defence and security.

20. AI Agents and Accountability

Why in News: Autonomous AI systems with minimal human oversight raise governance and liability questions.

- Autonomous AI agent systems operating with minimal human oversight are raising new governance and liability questions.
- Key concern: who is accountable when an AI agent's independent action causes harm or error — the developer, deployer, or user.
- Regulators globally are exploring audit, explainability and 'human-in-the-loop' requirements for high-risk agentic AI.

Static Linkage: Revise the IndiaAI Mission and emerging global debates on AI governance and accountability.

21. MQ-9B Sea Guardian Drone Lease

Why in News: India leases two more maritime surveillance drones from General Atomics for Rs 1,943 crore.

- India is leasing two more MQ-9B Sea Guardian maritime-surveillance drones from General Atomics (US) for about Rs 1,943 crore.
- Adds to India's existing maritime-domain-awareness drone fleet used by the Navy for long-endurance ocean surveillance.
- Comes under continuing India-US defence-technology cooperation.

Static Linkage: Revise India's National Drone Policy and its implications for defence and security.

22. GISAT-1A Satellite Launch

Why in News: Geostationary Earth-observation satellite scheduled for Sept 2026 launch, replacing failed EOS-03.

- GISAT-1A is a geostationary Earth-observation satellite scheduled for launch around September 2026.
- Intended to replace the earlier EOS-03 satellite, which failed to reach orbit in its 2021 launch attempt.

- Will provide near-real-time imaging for disaster management, agriculture and security applications from geostationary orbit.

Static Linkage: Revise ISRO's earth-observation satellite programmes and their applications.

23. NASA Moon Base Programme

Why in News: Three-phase permanent lunar outpost near south pole; Artemis III landing targeted 2027-2028.

- A three-phase permanent lunar outpost near the Moon's south pole is envisioned under NASA's Artemis programme.
- Artemis III crewed landing is targeted for 2027-2028.
- India's Artemis Accords membership (since 2023, 27th signatory of now 70) enables potential Indian participation in the initiative.

Static Linkage: Revise ISRO's major missions — Chandrayaan, Gaganyaan, and international collaborations like with NASA.

24. ChatGPT for Teens Launch

Why in News: OpenAI rolled out a teen-specific chatbot (ages 13-17) with stronger content guardrails.

- OpenAI rolled out a teen-specific version of ChatGPT for users aged 13-17 with stronger content guardrails.
- Includes parental-control features and stricter moderation on sensitive topics compared to the standard product.
- Reflects growing regulatory and public pressure on AI companies over child-safety safeguards.

Static Linkage: Revise the IndiaAI Mission and emerging global debates on AI governance and accountability.

25. India's SHANTI Nuclear Act

Why in News: Opens India's nuclear sector to private investment and reforms supplier liability rules.

- SHANTI Act, 2025 opens India's nuclear power sector to private investment for the first time.
- Reforms supplier-liability rules under the earlier CLND Act, 2010 framework, removing the operator's automatic right of recourse against suppliers in some cases.
- Aims to help scale India's nuclear capacity roughly twelve-fold to 100 GW over two decades.

Static Linkage: Revise India's nuclear energy policy, the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, and SMR deployment plans.

26. Semicon India 2.0 Programme

Why in News: Rs 1,27,500 crore outlay for chip design, fabrication, packaging, R&D; 3 facilities now in commercial production.

- Semicon India 2.0 approved with a Rs 1,27,500 crore outlay (up from Rs 76,000 crore under Semicon India 1.0), covering chip design, fabrication, ATMP/OSAT packaging, R&D and talent development.
- 12 semiconductor projects approved across 6 states, with cumulative investment over Rs 1.64 lakh crore; 3 facilities already in commercial production.
- 211 chips taped out by 75 institutions (by April 2026); 7 chips fabricated including at an advanced 12 nm node.

Static Linkage: Revise the Semicon India Programme and India's semiconductor mission.

27. IndiaAI Mission

Why in News: ~Rs 10,372 crore investment; 45,000+ shared GPU capacity; 58 AI Centres of Excellence approved.

- Approved outlay of about Rs 10,372 crore; over 45,000 GPUs of shared compute capacity available (as of June 2026).
- 237 projects have used subsidised compute, consuming 93.18 lakh GPU hours by August 2026.

- 58 AI Centres of Excellence approved (22 operational); Chips-to-Startup (C2S) programme has trained 68,000+ students across 320 institutions.

Static Linkage: Revise the IndiaAI Mission and emerging global debates on AI governance and accountability.

28. AI Governance in Financial Sector

Why in News: RBI officials stress AI adoption must maintain human accountability and explainability in banking.

- RBI officials have stressed that AI adoption in banking must preserve human accountability and explainability.
- Concerns focus on 'black box' credit-decisioning and fraud-detection models used by banks and NBFCs.
- Points toward emerging RBI guidance/frameworks on responsible AI use in financial services.

Static Linkage: Revise the IndiaAI Mission and emerging global debates on AI governance and accountability.

29. SHANTI Act Nuclear Liability Rules

Why in News: Draft rules mandate expert panel to review operator liability caps every five years.

- Draft SHANTI Act rules mandate compulsory insurance/financial security for nuclear plants, with an expert panel reviewing operator liability caps every 5 years.
- Operator liability set in a graded range of Rs 100 crore to Rs 3,000 crore by installation category, versus the earlier flat Rs 1,500 crore cap under the CLND Act, 2010.
- Total liability cap aligned to 300 million SDRs (~Rs 3,900 crore) per the Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC); financial security must remain until spent fuel is removed from storage.

Static Linkage: Revise India's nuclear energy policy, the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, and SMR deployment plans.

30. Gaganyaan Thermal Protection System

Why in News: ISRO validates ablative heat shield and parachute deceleration system for crew module re-entry.

- ISRO validated an ablative heat-shield and multi-parachute deceleration system for the Gaganyaan crew module's re-entry.
- Next phase is the G-X uncrewed orbital demonstration carrying the humanoid robot Vyommitra.
- System includes a 4-metre aluminium-alloy Crew Module Fairing built in Hyderabad and a 10-parachute sequence bringing terminal velocity down to about 8 m/s for splashdown.

Static Linkage: Revise ISRO's major missions — Chandrayaan, Gaganyaan, and international collaborations like with NASA.

31. Indigenous Small Modular Reactors

Why in News: BARC developing three SMR designs; SHANTI Act 2025 opens private-sector nuclear participation.

- BARC is developing three indigenous SMR (Small Modular Reactor) designs.
- SHANTI Act, 2025 opens the door to private-sector participation in nuclear power, including SMR deployment.
- SMRs are seen as a faster-to-deploy, lower-land-footprint complement to large reactors for India's nuclear capacity expansion.

Static Linkage: Revise India's nuclear energy policy, the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, and SMR deployment plans.

32. Bengal Defence PSU Expansion

Why in News: GRSE and Yantra India Limited receive Rs 3,500 crore for shipbuilding and ammunition manufacturing.

- GRSE (Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers) and Yantra India Limited received about Rs 3,500 crore for shipbuilding and ammunition-

manufacturing expansion in West Bengal.

- Part of the broader push to boost domestic defence-production capacity and indigenisation.
- Reflects continuing investment in state-run defence PSUs alongside growing private defence manufacturing.

Static Linkage: Revise the role of Defence PSUs and defence corridors in India's manufacturing strategy.

33. Private Space Ecosystem Growth

Why in News: India's private space sector grew from 1 startup (2014) to ~440 by August 2026.

- India's private space sector has grown from just 1 startup in 2014 to about 440 by August 2026.
- Growth enabled by IN-SPACe regulatory reforms permitting private satellite, launch-vehicle and ground-system development.
- Signals deepening public-private collaboration alongside ISRO's own mission pipeline (Gaganyaan, NISAR, lunar missions).

Static Linkage: Revise IN-SPACe's role and India's space-sector reforms opening it to private players.

34. AI in Cybersecurity

Why in News: 94% of executives see AI as biggest cybersecurity change driver; India faces ~3,000 cyberattacks weekly.

- 94% of surveyed executives see AI as the biggest driver of change in cybersecurity.
- India faces roughly 3,000 cyberattacks per week on average, per industry estimates.
- AI is being deployed both for threat detection/defence and, worryingly, by attackers for more sophisticated exploits.

Static Linkage: Revise the IndiaAI Mission and emerging global debates on AI governance and accountability.

35. Claude AI Market Share in India

Why in News: India ranks as AI assistant's second-largest market (5.8% of conversations) but 101st in per-capita usage.

- India is Anthropic's Claude's second-largest market by conversation share worldwide, at about 5.8% of conversations.
- Despite this, India ranks only 101st globally in per-capita AI-assistant usage, reflecting a large but shallow user base.
- Highlights India's dual position as a huge potential AI market with still-low per-person digital-AI penetration.

Static Linkage: Revise the IndiaAI Mission and emerging global debates on AI governance and accountability.

36. Goyal Woos Japanese Semiconductor Firms

Why in News: Union Minister engaged Japanese chip companies under the India Semiconductor Mission.

- Union Minister Piyush Goyal engaged Japanese semiconductor companies under the India Semiconductor Mission (launched 2021, ~Rs 76,000 crore outlay).
- Builds on the 2023 India-Japan Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership; Japanese firms are being courted for specialty/legacy-node chips, testing and packaging.
- Fits India's 'China+1' / friend-shoring strategy, alongside existing projects like Tata-PSMC and Micron's assembly/test units.

Static Linkage: Revise the Semicon India Programme and India's semiconductor mission.

37. India-UK Naval Propulsion Pact

Why in News: Joint Statement of Intent on electric propulsion systems for Indian Navy LPDs; BHEL-GE collaboration.

- India and the UK signed a Joint Statement of Intent on electric propulsion

systems for Indian Navy Landing Platform Docks (LPDs).

- Involves BHEL-GE collaboration on propulsion technology transfer and co-development.
- Part of deepening India-UK defence-industrial cooperation under broader indigenisation goals.

Static Linkage: Revise India's key defence technology partnerships with foreign countries.

38. Bharat Small Modular Reactors (BSMR)

Why in News: NPCIL develops indigenous SMR-200 and SMR-55 designs; targeting 2033 deployment.

- NPCIL is developing indigenous SMR designs — SMR-200 and SMR-55 — under the Bharat Small Modular Reactor programme.
- Deployment target set around 2033.
- Complements BARC's separate SMR design work, together forming India's multi-track small-reactor strategy under the SHANTI Act framework.

Static Linkage: Revise India's nuclear energy policy, the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, and SMR deployment plans.

6. Geography

Physical, human and economic geography of India and the world — August 2026

1. Kerala Landslide Vulnerability

Why in News: Western Ghats region prone to landslides due to heavy rainfall, deforestation, and unregulated development.

- Western Ghats (a UNESCO World Heritage Site and global biodiversity hotspot) is highly landslide-prone due to heavy rainfall, deforestation, overgrazing and unregulated development.
- Gadgil Committee (2011) and Kasturirangan Committee (2013) reports both flagged the need for eco-sensitive zoning here, but recommendations remain only partly implemented.
- Unplanned infrastructure and quarrying in steep terrain are repeatedly cited as aggravating factors in recent landslide events.

Static Linkage: Revise the physiography of the Western Ghats and factors behind landslide vulnerability.

2. Ujh and Shahpurkandi Dam Projects

Why in News: Long-pending river projects revived to utilize India's Ravi waters allocation under 1960 Indus Waters Treaty.

- Ujh Multipurpose Project aims to deliver hydroelectric power, irrigation and drinking/industrial water supply for Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab.
- Both projects seek to utilise India's full entitlement of the eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) under the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960.
- Long-pending projects have recently been revived and prioritised for completion.

Static Linkage: Revise the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960 and India's utilisation of its allocated rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej).

3. Kerala Floods and Sedimentation Crisis

Why in News: Extreme rainfall caused severe flooding; causes include river sedimentation, wetland loss, urbanization.

- Extreme rainfall events triggered severe flooding, compounded by river-bed sedimentation raising water levels.
- Contributing causes include wetland loss, urbanisation of floodplains and unregulated construction along riverbanks.
- Kerala's flood-prone geography combines a narrow coastal plain, steep Western Ghats catchments and dense river networks that concentrate runoff quickly.

Static Linkage: Revise the physiography of the Western Ghats and factors behind landslide vulnerability.

4. Typhoon Dolphin in Eastern China

Why in News: China's most powerful cyclone this year made landfall in Zhejiang province, triggering evacuation of over 1 million.

- China's most powerful cyclone of the year made landfall in Zhejiang province.
- Triggered large-scale evacuations of coastal and low-lying populations ahead of landfall.
- Reflects the intensifying trend of Western Pacific typhoons linked to warmer sea-surface temperatures.

Static Linkage: Revise the formation and classification of tropical cyclones affecting the Indian Ocean and Pacific regions.

5. Colombia Earthquake

Why in News: 7.4-magnitude quake in western Colombia's Choco region kills 82.

- 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck western Colombia's Choco region, epicentred near San Jose Del Palmar, at 107 km depth.

- Killed at least 82 people; affected over 20 municipalities including Pereira, Quibdo, Cali and Manizales.
- Colombia's Pacific region lies along the seismically active Pacific 'Ring of Fire'; tremors were felt as far as Ecuador and Panama.

Static Linkage: Revise plate tectonics, major fault lines, and India's seismic zoning map (Zones II-V).

6. Odisha's Coastal Erosion Crisis

Why in News: ~28.3% of Odisha's 564.14-km coastline affected by erosion (NCCR data, 1990-2022).

- About 28.3% of Odisha's 564.14-km coastline is affected by erosion, per National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) data spanning 1990-2022.
- Erosion is attributed to a mix of natural processes (sea-level rise, cyclones) and human interventions (port/harbour construction, sand mining).
- Threatens coastal settlements, mangrove buffers and livelihoods dependent on fisheries and agriculture.

Static Linkage: Revise India's coastal geography, coastal-erosion drivers, and the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) framework.

7. Monsoon Deficit Across India

Why in News: About one-third of met subdivisions face rainfall deficit as Southwest Monsoon approaches withdrawal.

- About one-third of India's meteorological subdivisions face rainfall deficits even as the all-India seasonal rainfall figure stays close to normal.
- Southwest Monsoon withdrawal typically begins from west Rajasthan around 17 September and completes by mid-October.
- Regional deficits threaten kharif crop yields (paddy, pulses, oilseeds) and reservoir replenishment for the winter season.

Static Linkage: Revise the mechanism of the Indian monsoon and factors causing monsoon variability.

8. Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP)

Why in News: India's first river-interlinking project; Rs 44,605 crore; targets 2029-30 completion.

- India's first river-interlinking project, approved at Rs 44,605 crore (Dec 2021), with the foundation stone laid 25 Dec 2024 at Khajuraho; targeted completion 2029-30.
- Centre funds about 90% (~Rs 39,317 crore) with Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh sharing the remaining 10%; involves the 96.7-metre Daudhan Dam and a roughly 221-km link canal.
- Affects Panna Tiger Reserve and displaces an estimated 23,000 people across 22 villages (government figure; political claims cite ~50,000), with a Rs 12.5-lakh-per-family rehabilitation package.

Static Linkage: Revise the relevant physical-geography concept (landforms, drainage, climate) underlying this issue.

9. Nepal Flash Flood Crisis

Why in News: Over 100 Indians among hundreds missing in Bhote Koshi River flood; glacial lake outburst suspected trigger.

- Over 100 Indians were among hundreds reported missing in a flash flood on the Bhote Koshi River.
- A glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) is suspected as the triggering mechanism.
- Underlines the cross-border disaster-risk exposure of Himalayan river systems shared between Nepal and India.

Static Linkage: Revise factors affecting river sedimentation and flood management in Indian river basins.

10. Flood Alert in UP Districts

Why in News: Maharajganj and Kushinagar districts placed on high alert for flooding via Gandak river from Nepal surge.

- Maharajganj and Kushinagar districts (Uttar Pradesh), which border Nepal, were placed on high flood alert.
- Gandak river (along with tributary streams) is the primary river being monitored, with the Valmikinagar Barrage under close watch.
- District administrations intensified monitoring and readied evacuation plans for low-lying, riverbank villages.

Static Linkage: Revise factors affecting river sedimentation and flood management in Indian river basins.



7. History & Culture

Art, culture, heritage, freedom struggle and archaeology — August 2026

1. Mangarh Dham National Monument Denial

Why in News: The Centre declined to accord national monument status to Mangarh Dham on the Rajasthan-Gujarat border, the site of a 1913 massacre where colonial forces killed over 1,500 Bhil and other tribal followers of social reformer Govind Guru during a peaceful gathering.

- Mangarh Dham massacre (1913) predates the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre by six years and is sometimes called the 'Adivasi Jallianwala Bagh.'
- Govind Guru led the Bhagat movement for tribal social reform and anti-liquor, anti-superstition campaigns among Bhils.
- 'National Monument' status/protection falls under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958, administered by the ASI.

Static Linkage: Revise tribal and peasant uprisings against colonial rule — Santhal Rebellion (1855), Munda Ulgulan led by Birsa Munda (1899-1900), Bhil uprisings, and the broader Bhagat reform movements of Govind Guru and Motilal Tejawat.

2. National Handloom Day

Why in News: National Handloom Day was observed on 7 August, a date chosen to commemorate the launch of the Swadeshi Movement on 7 August 1905 in response to the Partition of Bengal.

- National Handloom Day has been observed since 2015; the date honours the Swadeshi Movement's launch on 7 August 1905.
- The Swadeshi Movement was a direct reaction to Lord Curzon's Partition of Bengal (1905) and promoted boycott of foreign goods and revival of indigenous industry.

- Related schemes for the handloom sector include the National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) and Hathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata.

Static Linkage: Revise the Swadeshi and Boycott Movement (1905-08) following Curzon's Partition of Bengal, its leaders (Bal-Pal-Lal), and the Extremist-Moderate split within the Indian National Congress it triggered.

3. Delhi University History Syllabus Revision

Why in News: Delhi University's revised postgraduate history curriculum, introduced under NEP 2020, dropped dedicated papers on the Delhi Sultanate and other medieval and ancient India topics, triggering debate among historians over curricular balance.

- The change was introduced as part of NEP 2020-driven curriculum restructuring across Indian universities.
- Critics flagged the removal of standalone Delhi Sultanate coverage (c. 1206-1526 CE) as a gap in continuity of India's medieval political history.

Static Linkage: Revise the Delhi Sultanate (1206-1526) — the five dynasties (Slave, Khilji, Tughlaq, Sayyid, Lodi), administrative institutions like the iqta system, and Alauddin Khilji's market-control reforms.

4. 1946 Royal Indian Naval Uprising

Why in News: The Royal Indian Navy (RIN) mutiny of February 1946, involving over 20,000 personnel across 78 ships and shore establishments, was recalled as a turning point that convinced Britain to accelerate the transfer of power to India.

- The RIN mutiny began aboard HMIS Talwar in Bombay in February 1946 over discrimination and poor service conditions, quickly spreading citywide.

- It involved sailors ('ratings') across 78 ships and shore establishments and around 20,000 personnel.
- Both the Congress and the Muslim League urged the ratings to surrender, seen by some historians as a missed opportunity for a unified mass movement.

Static Linkage: Revise the final phase of the freedom struggle (1945-47) — INA/Red Fort trials, the RIN mutiny, the Cabinet Mission Plan (1946), and the Mountbatten Plan leading to Independence and Partition.

5. Ashoka-Era Stupa Discovery

Why in News: Archaeologists reported stupa remains in Jajpur, Odisha, of a scale claimed to rival the Great Stupa at Sanchi, reviving interest in Ashokan-era Buddhist architecture in eastern India.

- The Great Stupa at Sanchi (Madhya Pradesh), commissioned under Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE, is the reference benchmark for early Indian stupa architecture.
- Odisha's Kalinga region has a documented Ashokan connection through the Kalinga War (c. 261 BCE) and subsequent Ashokan edicts (e.g., the Dhauili and Jaugada rock edicts).
- Key stupa components tested in Prelims: anda (dome), harmika, chhatra, vedika (railing) and torana (gateway).

Static Linkage: Revise Mauryan-era Buddhist architecture — stupa components (anda, harmika, chhatra, vedika, torana), the Kalinga War (c. 261 BCE), and Ashoka's Dhamma policy and edicts.

6. Vande Mataram 150-Year Commemoration

Why in News: India marked 150 years of 'Vande Mataram,' with the full six-stanza version reaffirmed and accorded legal protection, even as its religious imagery reignited a federalism and secularism debate in some states.

- 'Vande Mataram' was composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, first appearing in his 1882 novel Anandamath, though the song itself was written around 1875-76 (hence the 150-year mark).
- It was adopted as the National Song (distinct from the National Anthem, 'Jana Gana Mana') by the Constituent Assembly in January 1950.
- The song was a rallying cry during the Swadeshi Movement (1905) and was sung at the 1896 Congress session where Rabindranath Tagore first performed it.

Static Linkage: Revise National Symbols — the National Song vs National Anthem distinction, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and Anandamath (1882), and the role of 'Vande Mataram' in the Swadeshi Movement.

7. Vaishya Tekri Excavation

Why in News: The ASI reopened a 90-year-old excavation site at Vaishya Tekri near Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, believed to contain a 3rd-century BCE Buddhist stupa dating to Ashoka's reign.

- Ujjain (ancient Ujjayini) was a major Mauryan provincial capital; Ashoka is traditionally held to have served as viceroy there before becoming emperor.
- Vaishya Tekri was first excavated in the 1930s; the renewed dig aims to scientifically date and document stupa remains using modern archaeological methods.
- The find adds to known Ashokan-period Buddhist sites (Sanchi, Sarnath, Bharhut) situated along ancient trade and pilgrimage routes.

Static Linkage: Revise Mauryan administration — the four provincial capitals (Taxila, Ujjayini, Suvarnagiri, Tosali) and their viceroys, and the classification/chronology of early Buddhist stupas (Sanchi, Sarnath, Bharhut).

8. Miscellaneous

Schemes, sports, social issues and topics outside the core GS subject grid — August 2026

1. India's Commonwealth/Asian Games Performance

Why in News: Strong showings in weightlifting and judo reflect investment in sports infrastructure and athlete training schemes.

- Strong Indian showings recorded in weightlifting and judo, reflecting growing sports-infrastructure investment.
- Supporting government schemes include Khelo India and TOPS (Target Olympic Podium Scheme).
- Performance trend reflects a broader decade-long push to professionalise athlete training pipelines.

Static Linkage: Revise India's sports-development schemes — Khelo India, TOPS, and National Sports Policy.

2. PM-AJAY Scheduled Caste Village Scheme

Why in News: Government programme merging earlier schemes to develop SC-majority villages through education and infrastructure.

- Full name: Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana; merges earlier schemes — Adarsh Gram Yojana, Special Central Assistance to SC Sub-Plan, and Babu Jagiwan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana.
- Focuses on education, income generation and infrastructure development in SC-majority villages.
- Implemented under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Static Linkage: Revise flagship social-welfare schemes for Scheduled Castes and their historical antecedents.

3. Tribal Welfare Mass Outreach

Why in News: Ministry of Tribal Affairs organized Jan Sunwai camps across 38,500+

Adi Sewa Kendras under PM-JANMAN and DAJGUA.

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs organised Jan Sunwai (public hearing) camps across more than 38,500 Adi Sewa Kendras.
- Conducted under the PM-JANMAN (PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) mission umbrella.
- Aims to improve last-mile delivery of welfare schemes to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and other tribal communities.

Static Linkage: Revise the constitutional provisions for tribal welfare (Fifth and Sixth Schedules) and related schemes.

4. NITI Aayog Care Economy Report

Why in News: 'Reimagining Care' report recommends formal frameworks and social security for caregivers toward Viksit Bharat@2047.

- 'Reimagining Care' report recommends formal frameworks and social-security coverage for unpaid and paid caregivers.
- Positions strengthening the care economy as integral to the Viksit Bharat @2047 vision.
- Highlights the disproportionate unpaid care burden currently borne by women in the Indian economy.

Static Linkage: Revise debates on unpaid care work, women's labour-force participation, and related policy recommendations.

5. Assam-Arunachal Pradesh Border Clash

Why in News: Alleged firing injured 12 Assam residents, reflecting 1,200 disputed points along the shared 804-km border.

- Alleged firing near Mingmang Basti (Gogamukh revenue circle, Dhemaji district) injured 12 Assam residents.

- The two states share a disputed 804.1-km border with roughly 1,200 points of dispute; Assam claims 16,144.01 hectares are encroached by Arunachal Pradesh, while Arunachal counter-claims 858.91 sq km.
- Under the Namsai Declaration process, 71 of 123 disputed villages have been resolved via 12 regional committees, with a tripartite-committee recommendation pending before the Supreme Court.

Static Linkage: Revise the historical roots of Northeast India's inter-state border disputes.

6. Telangana Maoist Bastion Access

Why in News: DGP sets foot on Karregutta Hills for first time in 50 years, marking decline of Left-Wing Extremism.

- Telangana's DGP visited Karregutta Hills (Telangana-Chhattisgarh border, near Mulugu district) for the first time in five decades.
- The hills were once a stronghold used by central committee members of the banned CPI (Maoist).
- Visit symbolises the shrinking footprint of Left-Wing Extremism in the region.

Static Linkage: Revise India's National Policy and Action Plan to Address Left Wing Extremism.

7. National Child Survey (Mission Vatsalya)

Why in News: Centre plans comprehensive child survey to map needs of vulnerable children requiring protection.

- MoSPI is leading a comprehensive child survey with MoWCD, following a recommendation in the 42nd Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance.
- Aims to map data gaps on child labour and out-of-school children, plus street children and those in the informal sector.
- Falls under Mission Vatsalya (formerly the Integrated Child Protection Scheme) for child protection.

Static Linkage: Revise flagship child-welfare schemes and the legal framework for child protection (JJ Act).

8. PM E-DRIVE Scheme Extension

Why in News: Incentives for electric two-wheelers halved to Rs 2,500 per kWh; programme extended through March 2028.

- Scheme extended through 31 March 2028 (originally covering 1 April 2025–31 March 2028).
- Electric two-wheeler incentive halved from Rs 5,000 per kWh to Rs 2,500 per kWh, with a max incentive of Rs 5,000 per vehicle.
- Administered by the Ministry of Heavy Industries to promote EV adoption.

Static Linkage: Revise India's electric-mobility promotion schemes (FAME, PM E-DRIVE).

9. Meta Ordered to Pay \$942 Million

Why in News: New Mexico court ruled Meta's platforms a 'public nuisance' over youth mental-health harms.

- A New Mexico court ruled Meta's platforms (Facebook/Instagram) a 'public nuisance' over youth mental-health harms.
- Damages of \$942 million were ordered, marking one of the largest platform-liability rulings tied to child online-safety concerns.
- Adds to global regulatory momentum on social-media accountability for minors' wellbeing.

Static Linkage: Revise India's Competition Act, 2002 and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

10. Independence Day Gallantry Awards

Why in News: President approved 78 gallantry awards including 9 Kirti Chakras & 19 Shaurya Chakras.

- President approved 78 gallantry awards ahead of Independence Day 2026,

including 9 Kirti Chakras and 19 Shaurya Chakras.

- Awards recognise acts of bravery by armed forces and paramilitary personnel over the preceding year.
- Announced as part of the annual Independence Day honours list.

Static Linkage: Revise India's gallantry award hierarchy (Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Ashoka Chakra, etc.).

11. Ayushman Bharat

Why in News: Families avoided estimated Rs 2 lakh crore in medical expenses.

- Scheme estimated to have helped families avoid around Rs 2 lakh crore in medical expenses cumulatively.
- Provides health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary hospitalisation under PM-JAY.
- Counted among the flagship achievements showcased in the government's 12-year development-journey review.

Static Linkage: Revise the two components of Ayushman Bharat — PM-JAY and Health & Wellness Centres.

12. Truth Social API Paid Access

Why in News: Trump Media's 'Truth API' offers paid early access to high-frequency traders, raising insider-trading concerns.

- Trump Media's 'Truth API' offers paid early access to high-frequency traders and data users.
- Raises insider-trading and market-fairness concerns given the platform's political-news influence.
- Highlights emerging regulatory questions around monetising social-media data feeds for financial trading.

Static Linkage: Revise India's Competition Act, 2002 and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

13. Surrogate Advertising Regulation

Why in News: Maharashtra issues notices to actors promoting banned pan-masala via legal brand fronts.

- Maharashtra issued notices to actors promoting banned pan-masala products through surrogate/legal brand-front advertising.
- Surrogate ads use a associated but technically different product (e.g., a mixed spice/mouth-freshener brand) to indirectly advertise a banned item.
- Falls under scrutiny via the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) and advertising-code regulations.

Static Linkage: Revise India's advertising regulation framework and restrictions on surrogate advertising.

14. PM CARES Fund Stagnation

Why in News: Domestic donations fell 30% to Rs 479 crore; corpus grew to Rs 8,452 crore via interest alone.

- Domestic donations to PM CARES Fund fell about 30% to Rs 479 crore.
- Fund corpus nonetheless grew to Rs 8,452 crore, driven mainly by interest income rather than fresh donations.
- Raises transparency and utilisation questions given the fund's continued growth despite falling donor contributions.

Static Linkage: Revise the structure, purpose and controversies around the PM CARES Fund.

15. National Security Strategies (PRAHAAR)

Why in News: Home Minister addressed conference on terrorism, radicalisation, cybercrime; launched 'smart border' initiative.

- Home Minister addressed a conference on terrorism, radicalisation and cybercrime, launching a 'smart border' initiative under the PRAHAAR framework.

- PRAHAAR aims to integrate technology-driven surveillance and rapid-response mechanisms into internal-security strategy.
- Reflects continuing emphasis on border management and counter-radicalisation as national-security priorities.

Static Linkage: Revise India's evolving national security architecture and strategy documents.

16. Youth NEET Crisis

Why in News: 'Not in Employment, Education or Training' affects 21-25% of youth aged 15-29.

- 'Not in Employment, Education or Training' (NEET) status affects an estimated 21-25% of Indian youth aged 15-29.
- Highlights a mismatch between education outcomes, skilling programmes and labour-market absorption capacity.
- Raises policy focus on skill-development missions and job-creation strategies targeting the youth demographic.

Static Linkage: Revise India's demographic dividend debate and youth employment/skilling challenges.