



— Discipline, Consistency and Right Direction —



PRiSM - Short Notes

(**P**olicy, **R**eforms, **I**mpact, **S**taories and **M**ission)



Useful for UPSC Prelims and Mains



September Month



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PRISM - POLICY, REFORMS, IMPACT, STORIES & MISSION



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1. India's GDP Performance: A Strong Start to 2026-27 with 7.8% Real GDP Growth

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Indian Economy: Growth, National Income, Economic Indicators)

Relevance

India's strong Q1 2026-27 growth reflects broad-based expansion supported by investment, consumption, manufacturing, services and exports.

Overview

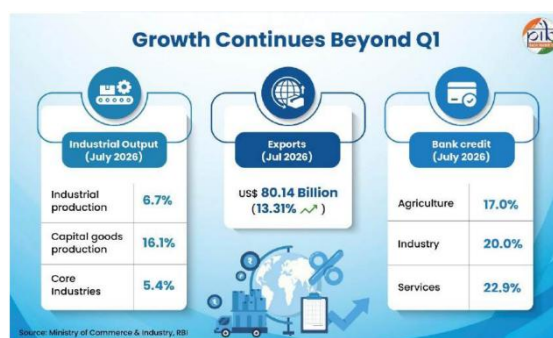
1. Real GDP grew 7.8% in Q1 2026-27 (6.9% a year ago): the highest Q1 growth in 2023-24 to 2026-27 and above RBI's 7.0% estimate.
2. Real GDP: ₹81.36 lakh crore. Real GVA: ₹73.82 lakh crore. Nominal GDP: ₹88.27 lakh crore.
3. Revised estimates use new price and production indices (base year 2022-23), including the Output PPI and Banking Services Price Index (BkSPI).

Definition

GDP is the value of final goods and services produced in the domestic economy in an accounting period; GVA measures the contribution of individual producers, industries or sectors. Real GDP is at constant prices; nominal GDP is at current prices.

Key Aspects

1. **Real GDP growth:** 7.3% (2023–24) → 7.2% (2024–25) → 7.8% (2025–26).
2. Q1 comparison (2025–26 → 2026–27):
3. **Investment (GFCF):** 5.8% → 11.9%
4. **People's spending (PFCE):** 6.8% → 7.1%
5. **Exports:** 6.0% → 12.0%
6. **Tertiary sector** +10.0%, **secondary** +8.6%; **manufacturing** +9.2%;
7. **2026 measures:** Semicon 2.0, Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme, ECLGS 5.0, India–UK CETA, PM-KISAN continued for 2026-31.



Recent Indicators Signal Continued Momentum

Significance

1. Reflects stronger domestic demand and broad-based economic momentum.
2. Higher investment, manufacturing and exports strengthen growth and competitiveness.
3. IMF (July 2026): one of the fastest-growing economies; S&P affirmed 'BBB/A-2' (August 2026) after the 2025 upgrade.

Keywords

GDP, GVA, GFCF, PFCE, IIP, MoSPI, Base Year 2022-23, ECLGS 5.0

PYQ:

1. 2021, GS-III — "Explain the difference between computing methodology of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) before the year 2015 and after the year 2015."
2. 2019, GS-III — "Do you agree with the view that steady GDP growth and low inflation have left the Indian economy in good shape? Give reasons in support of your arguments."

2. Understanding Q1 2026-27 GDP Estimates (FAQ)

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Indian Economy: National Income Accounting)

Relevance

Explains the new GDP series and why real and nominal growth can diverge.

Overview

1. On 31 August 2026, MoSPI released the updated GDP series with base year 2022-23 (replacing 2011-12). It uses the new Output PPI and Banking Services Price Index.
2. Manufacturing now uses double deflation: output and inputs are deflated separately, so real GVA = real output – real input.

Definition

The base year provides the reference prices used to calculate real growth and is revised periodically. Deflation removes the effect of price changes between two periods, converting a nominal value into a real (constant-price) value.

Note

A negative inflation in implicit deflators in manufacturing does not mean that manufacturing prices have fallen.

Key Aspects

1. **Manufacturing, Q1:** real GVA +9.2%, so the implicit deflator is –1.5%. Input prices rose faster than output prices (textiles, basic metals, rubber and plastics).
2. **Mining:** nominal GVA +22.3% against real –2.4%, driven by high prices of crude, gas and metal ores.
3. **PFCE** does not use double deflation, because final demand has no intermediate consumption.
4. **The GDP deflator (2.5%)** differs from CPI (3.9%) and WPI (9%+). It is an implied price of net value added for the whole economy.
5. **Q1 2025-26 nominal GDP:** ₹86.05 lakh cr (old series) → ₹80.00 lakh cr (new series). The two series are not comparable.
6. **Statistical discrepancy:** the balancing item between production-side and expenditure-side GDP. It is near zero in final estimates.

Significance

Gaps between nominal and real growth reflect relative price movements, not data inconsistency. Double deflation is the IMF-preferred method.

Keywords

Base Year, Double Deflation, Implicit Deflator, PPI, Statistical Discrepancy

PYQ

1. 2020, GS-III — “Define potential GDP and explain its determinants. What are the factors that have been inhibiting India from realizing its potential GDP?”



Understanding Different Price Measures			
Category	CPI	WPI	Implicit GDP Deflator
Coverage	Household consumption basket of goods and services	Bulk commodities, raw materials and manufactured goods excluding services	Entire economy: government spending, corporate investments, exports, and financial and non-financial services
Measurement Basis	Price changes at the final consumer's end	Price changes at the wholesale level	Derived from current-price and constant-price GDP

Source: Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

3. Data Centres in India: Infrastructure for the Digital Age

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Infrastructure, IT and Digital Public Infrastructure, Energy)

Relevance

Data centres underpin UPI, e-Governance, cloud and AI. Their growth depends on policy support, clean power and water efficiency.

Overview

1. A **data centre** is a secure facility housing computing, storage and networking equipment that stores, processes and distributes large volumes of data.
2. **Investment:** ~USD 70 bn already underway, plus USD 90 bn in announced projects.
3. **NIC runs National Data Centres** at Delhi, Pune, Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar, plus 37 smaller centres in State capitals.

Key Aspects

1. **Core systems:** power (UPS, generators), cooling (HVAC, liquid cooling), IT (servers, HDD/SSD storage, routers, fibre-optic links) and management software. Virtualisation lets one physical server run multiple virtual machines.
2. **What it does:** stores → processes → distributes
3. **Request flow:** security layer → load balancer → application server (via API) → database server → response, in 1–2 seconds.
4. **What it powers:** Banking, e-governance, payments, AI, cloud.
5. **Policy:** Budget 2022-23 added data centres to the Harmonized List of Infrastructure, which gives easier credit. Budget 2026-27 gave foreign cloud providers a tax holiday till 2047.
6. **Linked schemes:** Semicon 2.0; IndiaAI Mission; PLI 2.0 for IT hardware (servers).
7. **Energy:** CEA projects a demand of 17 GW by 2031-32. Support comes from Green Energy Open Access Rules, Green Energy Corridor, NGHM and solar schemes. The SHANTI Act enables nuclear power, including SMRs and micro reactors, for AI and data centres.
8. **Water:** groundwater extraction is regulated under Ministry of Jal Shakti guidelines. AI is driving direct-to-chip, adiabatic, immersion and closed-loop cooling.



Significance

1. Strategic infrastructure for data sovereignty, digital trust and technological self-reliance.
2. Cloud and AI expansion creates opportunities for innovation and growth.

Way Forward

Responsible technology governance to balance innovation with security, sustainability and accountability. It needs strong standards, cybersecurity, responsible data practices and more domestic capability in computing, semiconductors and energy.

Keywords

Data Centre, Infrastructure Status, Semicon 2.0, IndiaAI, PUE, WUE, Virtualisation, Data Sovereignty

PYQ:

1. 2023, GS-III — “What is the status of digitalization in the Indian economy? Examine the problems faced in this regard and suggest improvements.”
2. 2020, GS-II — “The emergence of Fourth Industrial Revolution (Digital Revolution) has initiated e-governance. Examine the impact of this development.”
3. 2015, GS-III — “Discuss the advantage and security implications of cloud hosting of server vis-a-vis inhouse machine-based hosting for government businesses.”

4. India Building Semiconductor Future

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Science & Technology; Indigenisation of technology; Electronics manufacturing; Infrastructure)

Relevance

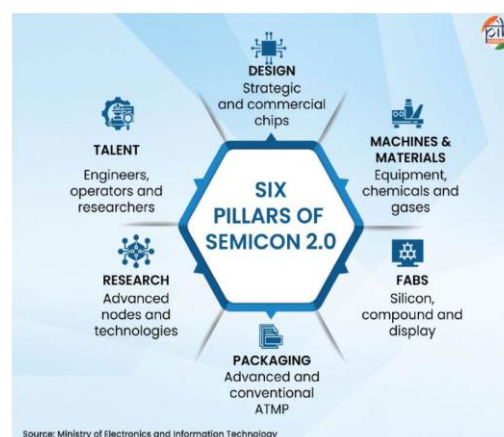
India is moving beyond semiconductor fabrication towards a complete electronics and semiconductor value chain, supported by Semicon 2.0 and the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS).

Overview

1. Semicon 2.0: Outlay of ₹1,27,500 crore to build a comprehensive semiconductor ecosystem.
2. India is developing capabilities across design, fabrication, packaging, equipment, materials and R&D.
3. ECMS provides targeted support for critical electronics components and aims to reduce import dependence.
4. India aims for \$500 billion domestic electronics production and \$150 billion electronics exports by 2030.

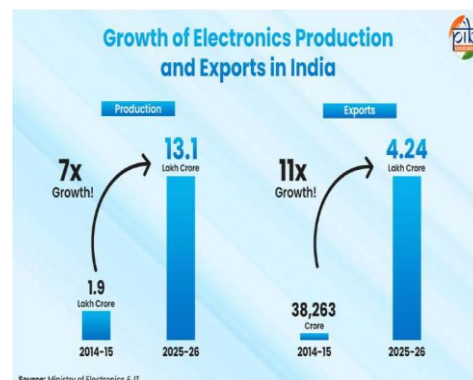
Key Aspects

1. Semiconductor value chain:
 - Chip design
 - Wafer fabrication
 - Assembly, Testing, Marking & Packaging (ATMP)
 - Equipment and materials
 - R&D and skilled manpower
2. ECMS components:
 - Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs)
 - Camera and display modules
 - Connectors
 - Capacitors
 - Lithium-ion cells
 - Rare-earth permanent magnets



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3. **Semicon 2.0:** Focuses on expanding the ecosystem beyond individual fabs and creating domestic capabilities across the value chain.
4. **Employment & skills:** Promotes semiconductor design, advanced manufacturing and high-skilled employment.
5. **Strategic importance:** Reduces dependence on imported components and strengthens India's technological and supply-chain resilience.
6. 5 of the 12 approved **semiconductor units** are already in commercial production.
7. **Semiconductor demand** is projected at USD 110 bn by FY2030 and above USD 200 bn by FY2035. India imported nearly USD 150 bn of semiconductor products in FY17–FY25.
8. **Taiwan** makes over 60% of global chips and about 90% of advanced chips.
9. **SEMICON India 2026:** 17–19 Sept 2026, New Delhi; theme "Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem".
10. **ECMS:** initial outlay ₹22,919 crore, raised to ₹40,000 crore (Budget 2026-27). As of Aug 2026: 106 projects, 15 States, ₹69,548 crore investment, expected production ₹5.34 lakh crore, 74,628 direct and 2.5 lakh indirect jobs.



Significance

1. **Strategic autonomy:** Reduces vulnerability to global semiconductor supply-chain disruptions.
2. **Import substitution:** Builds domestic capability in critical components as India's 90-95% chip consumption depends on imports
3. **Manufacturing:** Strengthens India's position as a global electronics manufacturing hub.
4. **Innovation:** Promotes indigenous chip design, R&D and technology development.
5. **Exports:** Supports India's transition from an electronics assembler to a higher-value manufacturing and design ecosystem.
6. **National security risk:** UAVs, naval and airborne systems depend on semiconductors
7. **Reduces drain on forex:** USD 150 billion spent on chip imports, FY17 to FY25.
8. **Societal upliftment:** affordable 5G and 6G for all.

Keywords

Semicon 2.0, ECMS, Semiconductor Value Chain, Fab, ATMP, Chip Design, PCB, Rare-earth Magnets, Electronics Manufacturing, Supply-chain Resilience

PYQ

1. 2025, GS-III — "India aims to become a semiconductor manufacturing hub. What are the challenges faced by the semiconductor industry in India? Mention the salient features of the India Semiconductor Mission."
2. 2021, GS-III — "What are the key challenges faced by the electronics industry in India? Discuss the government initiatives to promote electronics manufacturing."

5. Vibrant Villages Programme: Strengthening India's Frontiers Through Inclusive Development

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Government Schemes, Border Management, Inclusive Development), GS-III (Internal Security, Infrastructure)

Relevance

VVP combines border development with national security by improving infrastructure, livelihoods and connectivity in frontier villages.

Overview

1. **VVP has two phases:** VVP-I for northern borders and VVP-II for the remaining international land borders.
2. Together, they aim to cover 2,616+ villages with a combined outlay of ₹11,639 crore.
3. The programme treats border villages as “**first villages**” and **strategic partners** in national security and development.



Key Aspects

1. **VVP-I:** Announced in Budget 2022-23; launched at Kibithoo, Arunachal Pradesh (10 April 2023). Covers 46 blocks in 4 States + 1 UT; 662 strategic villages prioritised. VVP-I is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme
2. **Focus:** all-weather roads, drinking water, electricity, telecom, healthcare, education, tourism and livelihood opportunities.
3. **VVP-II:** Approved 2 April 2025, launched 20 February 2026; Central Sector Scheme, fully Centre-funded and implemented by MHA. It covers 1,954 villages in 334 blocks across 15 States + 2 UTs.
4. **VVP-II promotes** infrastructure, SHGs/cooperatives, SMART classrooms, tourism circuits, healthcare, financial inclusion, skills and sustainable livelihoods.
5. **Convergence approach:** Village Action Plans + saturation of existing schemes; roads through PMGSY-IV.
6. **As of July 2026:** MHA sanctioned 1,248 projects (₹3,020.32 cr); another 1,655 projects sanctioned through convergence; ₹953.47 cr released; 283 projects completed.
7. **Security impact:** stronger border communities → reduced out-migration, better livelihoods and stronger support to border-guarding forces.
8. **The earlier Border Area Development Programme (BADP)** began in 1986-87 on the western border. A High-Powered Committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary can recommend relaxations in scheme guidelines for border villages.

Significance

1. Links development with border security and strengthens India's frontier population.
2. Promotes reverse migration, local employment, tourism and economic activity.
3. Helps transform remote border settlements into vibrant, resilient and self-reliant communities.

Case study

1. VVP-I led to 111 projects connecting 134 villages, 528 villages connected to 4G, piped drinking water to 625 villages, electricity to 621 villages, school infrastructure projects of 146 and over 8800+ community outreach activities.
2. In Arunachal Pradesh, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) procures milk, vegetables, eggs and grains directly from vibrant villages. A border post thereby becomes a dependable customer for the farms beside it.

Keywords

Vibrant Villages Programme, VVP-I, VVP-II, MHA, Border Management, Convergence, PMGSY-IV, Village Action Plan, Border Security

PYQ:

1. 2024, GS-III — "India has a long and troubled border with China and Pakistan fraught with contentious issues. Examine the conflicting issues and security challenges along the border. Also give out the development being undertaken in these areas under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) and Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) Scheme."
2. 2020, GS-III — "For effective border area management, discuss the steps required to be taken to deny local support to militants and also suggest ways to manage favourable perception among locals."

6. World Tourism Day 2026: India's tourism growth and the digital transformation

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Tourism, Services Sector, Technology)

Relevance

AI and digital platforms are transforming tourism by improving accessibility, personalisation, efficiency and sustainability.

Overview

1. **World Tourism Day 2026:** 27 September, El Salvador; theme — "Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism."
2. **Tourism contributed** 5.22% of India's GDP and supported 8.46 crore jobs in 2023-24.
3. In 2025: Domestic Tourist Visits – 428.55 crore; Foreign Tourist Visits – 2.53 crore; FEE – ₹2,76,831 crore.

Key Aspects

1. **Incredible India Digital Platform:** AI-powered personalised travel experience, virtual experiences and integrated travel services.
2. **NIDHI+:** digital platform for registration, recognition and classification of tourism service providers with 15,000+ tourism service providers
3. **National Digital Tourism Stack:** open digital public infrastructure to make tourism offerings more discoverable, accessible and trustworthy.



4. **Dekho Apna Desh 2.0:** promotes lesser-known, tourism-ready destinations and balanced tourist footfall.
5. **Swadesh Darshan 2.0 follows a destination-** and tourist-centric approach focused on sustainable and responsible tourism, experiences and amenities, while PRASHAD supports infrastructure and visitor amenities at pilgrimage and religious destinations.
6. **Sea cruise passenger** traffic rose from 1.08 lakh (2014-15) to 4.62 lakh (2025-26), a 328% increase; international cruise terminals at Visakhapatnam, Mumbai and Chennai have been upgraded and made operational.

Significance

1. Strengthens India's digital tourism ecosystem and ease of travel.
2. Promotes sustainable, inclusive and community-based tourism.
3. Creates opportunities for AI-driven innovation in the tourism sector.

Case study

Paryatan mitra/didi initiative (2024) trains local service providers in hospitality, cleanliness, safety and sustainability. Around 4,382 candidates have been trained

Keywords

World Tourism Day, AI in Tourism, e-Visa, NIDHI+, Incredible India Digital Platform, National Digital Tourism Stack, Dekho Apna Desh 2.0

PYQ:

1. 2024, GS-III — "What is the need for expanding the regional air connectivity in India? In this context, discuss the government's UDAN Scheme and its achievements."
2. 2019, GS-I — "Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment, Discuss."

7. Districts as Export Hubs: Taking India's Exports to Every District

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Indian Economy, Exports, MSMEs, Manufacturing)

Relevance

DEH seeks to make export growth more inclusive by connecting district-level products and services with global markets.

Overview

1. **Districts as Export Hubs (DEH)** builds on the One District One Product (ODOP) approach.
2. As of January 2026, **DEH covers 770+ districts**.
3. **India's total exports** reached US\$825.25 bn in 2024-25 and an estimated US\$863.11 bn in 2025-26.

Key Aspects

1. **DEH is a convergence framework**, not a separate funding scheme; it leverages existing Central and State schemes.



2. **District Export Promotion Committees (DEPCs)** identify export opportunities and prepare District Export Action Plans (DEAPs).
3. **As of March 2026:** DEAPs drafted for 590 districts, with 249 formally adopted.
4. **Focus areas:** product identification, quality standards, testing, packaging, branding, certification logistics and market access.
5. **Dak Ghar Niryat Kendras** provide postal export facilities for documentation, packaging and small consignments.
6. **From 1 June 2026,** focused implementation covers districts across 27 States/UTs, supported by 24 DGFT Regional Authorities and 11 partner agencies.

Significance

1. Decentralises export growth beyond traditional industrial and port centres.
2. Strengthens MSMEs, local employment and district-level competitiveness.
3. Converts local strengths such as GI products and clusters into global market opportunities.

Case study

ODOP began as a Uttar Pradesh initiative in 2018, built around Moradabad's brass industry, before it was scaled nationally. Tiruppur, India's knitwear capital, recorded exports of ₹46,000 crore in FY2025-26.

Way Forward:

Stronger Centre–State–district coordination is fundamental to the USD 1 trillion export goal, turning local economies into engines of trade, investment and employment.

Keywords

Districts as Export Hubs, ODOP, DEPC, DEAP, DGFT, GI Products, Dak Ghar Niryat Kendra, MSMEs

PYQ:

1. 2025, GS-III — “What are the challenges before the Indian economy when the world is moving away from free trade and multilateralism to protectionism and bilateralism? How can these challenges be met?”
2. 2017, GS-III — “Account for the failure of the manufacturing sector in achieving the goal of labour-intensive exports rather than capital-intensive exports. Suggest measures for more labour intensive rather than capital-intensive exports.”

8. The Last-Mile Architects of Rural Transformation

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Government Schemes, Rural Development, Social Justice); GS-III (Inclusive Growth)

Relevance

Community-based frontline workers act as the link between government programmes and rural households, improving last-mile delivery.

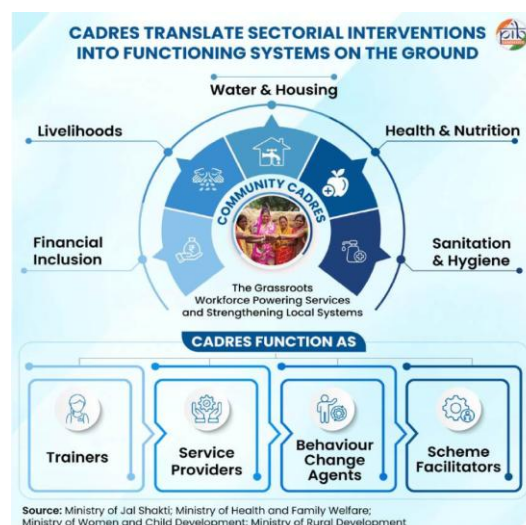
Overview

1. **The Community Cadre Approach** uses trained grassroots workers as trainers, service providers, behaviour-change agents and scheme facilitators.

2. **DAY-NRLM** has mobilised 10+ crore rural households into around 92 lakh SHGs.
3. **More than 9 lakh community cadres** support agriculture, livestock, fisheries, enterprise, banking, financial literacy and social development.

Key Aspects

1. **Key cadres** include Krishi Sakhi, Pashu Sakhi, Matsya Sakhi and CRP-EP.
2. **Health:** 10.40 lakh+ ASHAs serve as the first point of contact; Anganwadi Workers support nutrition and ECCE.
3. **Water:** Village Water & Sanitation Committees/Pani Samitis and Jal Sakhis support village-level water planning and management; 5.33 lakh+ VWSCs/Pani Samitis are operational.
4. **Housing:** Awaas Mitras support beneficiary identification, documentation and construction under PMAY-G.
5. **Sanitation:** Swachhagrahis promote behaviour change and sustained sanitation practices.
6. **Continuous training**, field mentoring and handholding strengthen service delivery and convergence.



Significance

1. Converts government schemes into household-level outcomes.
2. Strengthens women-led institutions, social inclusion and rural self-reliance.
3. Improves convergence across livelihoods, health, nutrition, sanitation, water and housing.

Case study

1. Debashree Gogoi Bora (BC Sakhi, Nagaon, Assam) started with basic banking and now runs a CSC-linked Customer Service Point. She serves 30–35 customers a day, handles 2,500+ transactions (Apr–Aug) and earns ₹10,000–17,000 a month.
2. Smt. Sumati Debbarma (Rangacherra GP, West Tripura) completed her PMAY-G house in 2022 with Awaas Mitra's help, receiving ₹1.30 lakh in three DBT installments tied to construction progress and geo-tagging.

Keywords

Last-Mile Delivery, Community Cadres, DAY-NRLM, SHGs, ASHA, AWW, Jal Sakhi, Awaas Mitra, Swachhagrahi

PYQ:

1. 2024, GS-III — “Examine the pattern and trend of public expenditure on social services in the post-reforms period in India. To what extent has this been in consonance with achieving the objective of inclusive growth?”

2. 2019, GS-II — "Performance of welfare schemes that are implemented for vulnerable sections is not so effective due to absence of their awareness and active involvement at all stages of policy process - Discuss."
3. 2016, GS-II — "Effectiveness of the government system at various levels and people's participation in the governance system are inter-dependent. Discuss their relationship with each other in context of India."

9. India Cine Hub: Streamlining Film-Shooting Permit Applications

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Economy, Creative Economy, Technology)

Relevance

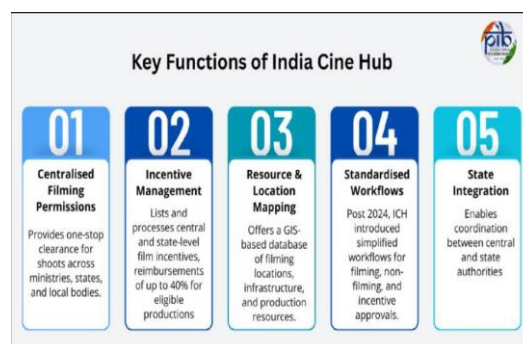
India Cine Hub simplifies film-shooting permissions and promotes India as a global destination for film production and film tourism.

Overview

1. **India Cine Hub (ICH)** is a digital single-window platform for film-shooting permits.
2. It is run by the **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)**.
3. India's film, television and online content sector generated US\$13.1 bn revenue in FY2024.

Key Aspects

1. **Filmmakers** can apply online for shooting permits; applications are digitally routed to relevant Ministries and State Nodal Officers.
2. **Facilitates** multi-agency clearances, location permissions and film visas.
3. Uses a **centralised dashboard** to track applications and approvals at State, national and international levels.
4. ICH is expanding to Live Event Permissions under the Live Events Development Cell (LEDC); 9 premier venues are already onboarded.
5. **Film tourism** converts filming locations into tourism attractions, generating local employment and supporting rural economies.
6. States such as Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Uttarakhand provide incentives, fee waivers and subsidies to attract filmmakers.



Significance

1. Improves ease of doing business in the creative sector.
2. Attracts domestic and international film production.
3. Promotes tourism, employment and India's cultural heritage.

Keywords

India Cine Hub, NFDC, Single Window, Film Tourism, LEDC, Film Permits, Creative Economy

PYQ:

- 2014, GS-II — "What do you understand by the concept 'freedom of speech and expression'? Does it cover hate speech also? Why do the films in India stand on a slightly different plane from other forms of expression? Discuss."

10. PM Vishwakarma: Strengthening Traditional Artisans and Craftspeople

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Government Schemes, Social Justice); GS-III (MSMEs, Skill Development, Inclusive Growth)

Relevance

PM Vishwakarma provides end-to-end support to traditional artisans while preserving traditional skills and integrating them into modern markets.

Overview

- Launched on 17 September 2023 as a **Central Sector Scheme**.
- Outlay: ₹13,000 crore (FY2023-24 to FY2027-28) covering 18 traditional trades.
- Built around **Samman**, **Samarthya** and **Samriddhi**; registration target of 30 lakh beneficiaries achieved by September 2026.

Key Aspects

- Recognition:** PM Vishwakarma Certificate and ID Card.
- Skill training:** Basic Training 5–7 days; Advanced Training 15+ days; stipend ₹500/day.
- Toolkit incentive:** modern toolkit supports up to ₹15,000.
- Credit:** collateral-free loans up to ₹3 lakh in two tranches at 5% concessional interest.
- Digital enablement:** incentives for digital transactions; beneficiaries onboarded on Udyam Assist Platform.
- Market access:** GeM, ONDC, e-commerce platforms, trade fairs and exhibitions; 30,000+ beneficiaries onboarded on e-commerce platforms.

Significance

- Preserves traditional skills and the Guru-Shishya parampara.
- Formalises traditional artisans within the MSME ecosystem.
- Improves access to credit, technology, digital markets and wider supply chains.

Case study

Smt. Villi (Nagaland): Basket maker; completed PM Vishwakarma training and took a ₹1 lakh collateral-free loan. Used it for raw materials and expansion, increasing monthly income by ~40% to nearly ₹15,000.

Keywords

PM Vishwakarma, Samman-Samarthya-Samriddhi, Guru-Shishya Parampara, Udyam Assist, Toolkit Incentive, Collateral-free Credit, 18 Trades



PYQ:

1. 2024, GS-I — "How far was the Industrial Revolution in England responsible for the decline of handicrafts and cottage industries in India?"
2. 2021, GS-II — "'Earn while you learn' scheme needs to be strengthened to make vocational education and skill training meaningful. Comment."

11. Jute: India's Golden Fibre

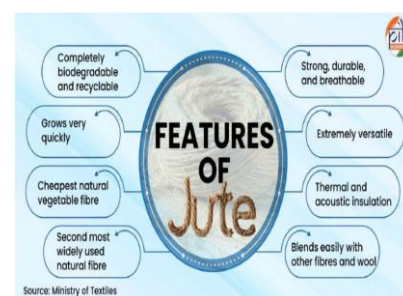
Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Agriculture, Industries, Environment, Sustainable Development)

Relevance

Jute supports rural livelihoods and offers a biodegradable alternative to synthetic materials.

Overview

1. India is the world's **largest producer** of raw jute and **leading producer** of jute goods.
2. **FY 2025-26:** 76 lakh bales raw jute; 12.80 lakh MT jute goods; 1.71 lakh MT jute goods exported worth ₹3,155.27 crore.
3. Around **3.70 lakh workers** and nearly **40 lakh farm families** depend on the sector.



Key Aspects

1. **Major producing states:** West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Odisha and Jharkhand.
2. **MSP** of raw jute for FY 2026-27: ₹2400/quintal to ₹5,925/quintal.
3. **Jute Packaging Act:** 100% foodgrains and 20% sugar to be packed in jute bags.
4. **National Jute Development Programme:** ₹485.58 crore; includes JUTE-ICARE and Jute Diversification Scheme.
5. **Jute Geotextiles:** soil erosion control, roads, riverbanks and slope protection.
6. **JUTE-SMART** digitises jute-bag procurement and supply chain - has procured 303 lakh bales till Aug 2026.
7. **ISRO-NRSC** Jute Crop Information System uses remote sensing; BHUVAN JUMP and PATSAN support monitoring.
8. India accounts for **~75% of world jute-goods production**.
9. **Jute Corporation of India (JCI)** is the sole nodal agency for MSP procurement.
10. **Jute-viscose apparel** was showcased at Commonwealth Games 2026.

Significance

1. Sustainable alternative to plastics.
2. Supports farmers, MSMEs and rural employment.
3. Promotes green infrastructure and value-added exports.

Case study

Four organisations (Bharatiya Gramothan Sanstha, Hayden Hall Institute, Jute Artisans Guild Association and Rural Organisation for Social Action), trained under the National Jute Board, moved into organised jute handloom production. They won bulk export orders through IITF, Tex-Trends India and GiftTex.

Keywords

Jute, Golden Fibre, NJB, NJDP, JUTE-ICARE, JUTE-SMART, Jute Geotextile, JCI

PYQ:

1. 2025, GS-III — “Explain the factors influencing the decision of farmers on the selection of high value crops in India.”
2. 2024, GS-III — “What are the major challenges faced by the Indian irrigation system in recent times? State the measures taken by the government for efficient irrigation management.”
3. 2017, GS-III — “Account for the failure of the manufacturing sector in achieving the goal of labour-intensive exports rather than capital-intensive exports. Suggest measures for more labour intensive rather than capital-intensive exports.”

12. Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool: Strengthening India's Maritime Sovereignty

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Infrastructure, Maritime Security, Economy)

Relevance

BMIP reduces dependence on foreign maritime insurers and strengthens India's maritime and economic resilience.

Overview

1. Approved 18 April 2026 and launched 12 May 2026.
2. **Insurance capacity:** ₹13,906.50 crore (US\$1.5 billion); sovereign backing ₹12,980 crore.
3. Covers **Hull & Machinery, Cargo, Protection & Indemnity and War risks.**

Key Aspects

1. India's **95% trade value** and **70% trade volume** move through maritime routes.
2. **Indian-flag fleet:** 1,609 ships and 14.33 million GT in mid-2026.
3. India previously depended heavily on 13 international P&I clubs.
4. Claims up to US\$100 million met through reserves/reinsurance; larger claims use sovereign guarantee.
5. **General Insurance Corporation of India** acts as Pool Administrator.
6. Since launch, war-risk premiums fell around 35–40%; by 7 Sept 2026, 3,000 Cargo War, 92 Hull War-risk and 3 P&I policies were issued.
7. The pool is not only for shipowners; cargo owners/traders can also seek cover.
8. The pool is operating at full commercial scale.
9. **Long-term aim:** become a regional maritime-insurance anchor in the Indian Ocean Region.

Significance

1. Strengthens maritime sovereignty and financial security.
2. Protects trade during geopolitical disruptions.
3. Builds domestic marine underwriting and claims expertise.



Way forward

The medium-term focus is on human capital, legal frameworks and reinsurance partnerships, keeping reliance on sovereign backing minimal.

Keywords

BMIP, P&I, Hull & Machinery, War Risk, Sovereign Guarantee, Maritime Insurance

PYQ:

1. 2025, GS-III — "Why is maritime security vital to protect India's sea trade? Discuss maritime and coastal security challenges and the way forward."
2. 2022, GS-III — "What are the maritime security challenges in India? Discuss the organisational, technical and procedural initiatives taken to improve the maritime security."

13. Green Highways: India's Journey Towards Sustainable Road Infrastructure

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Infrastructure, Environment, Sustainable Development)

Relevance

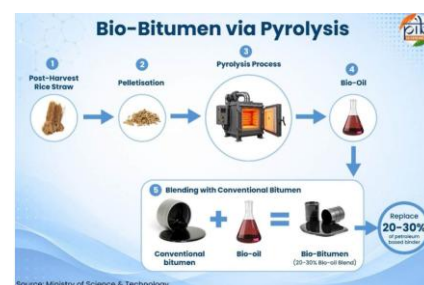
India is integrating environmental sustainability with expanding highway infrastructure.

Overview

1. The National Highway network increased from **91,287 km in 2014 to 1,46,572 km by March 2026**.
2. Over **3.61 crore saplings** planted across ~1.32 lakh km of NHs in the last five years.
3. **Green Highways Policy, 2015** guides plantation, transplantation, beautification and maintenance.

Key Aspects

1. **National Highways Green Cover Index (NH-GCI)**: first scientific assessment of green cover using satellite technology.
2. NH-GCI 2025-26 covered ~30,000 km across 24 States.
3. **Miyawaki plantations** promote dense green cover in limited spaces.
4. **Bio-bitumen** developed by CSIR-CRRI and CSIR-IIP uses farm residue;
5. Recycled materials include fly ash, C&D waste, recycled aggregates, plastic waste, slag and crumb rubber.
6. **"Trees for Bees"** creates pollinator corridors along highways.
7. **2026 guidelines**: 80% plantation coverage of available RoW and 90% survival rate.



Significance

1. Combines connectivity with environmental protection.
2. Reduces resource and import dependence.
3. Supports biodiversity and climate resilience.

Case study

100-metre trial stretch laid on Jorabat–Shillong Expressway.

Keywords

Green Highways Policy, NH-GCI, Miyawaki, Bio-bitumen, C&D Waste, Pollinator Corridors

PYQ:

- 2024, GS-III — "What is the technology being employed for electronic toll collection on highways? What are its advantages and limitations? What are the proposed changes that will make this process seamless? Would this transition carry any potential hazards?"
- 2021, GS-III — "Investment in infrastructure is essential for more rapid and inclusive economic growth. Discuss in the light of India's experience."

14. Geothermal Energy: A New Chapter in India's Clean Energy Journey

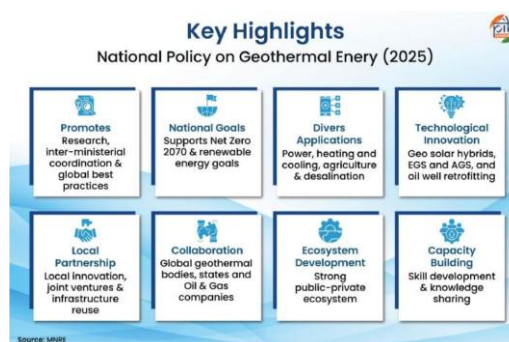
Syllabus Mapping GS-I (Geography: Geothermal Resources) & GS-III (Renewable Energy)

Relevance

Geothermal energy provides a steady, low-carbon and weather-independent renewable source.

Overview

- National Policy on Geothermal Energy** notified in September 2025; MNRE is the nodal ministry.
- India commissioned its first two geothermal wells at **Puga Valley, Ladakh**, in July 2026.
- India's theoretical **geothermal potential is nearly 10,600 MW**; GSI has mapped **381 hot**



springs and 10 geothermal provinces.

Key Aspects

- Puga wells** are 1,000 m deep and support development of a 1 MW demonstration project.
- Geothermal energy** can generate electricity and provide direct heat for agriculture, aquaculture, heating and cooling.
- Five MNRE-supported R&D projects** cover power generation, heating and cooling.
- Technologies:** Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) and Advanced Geothermal Systems (AGS).
- Policy supports exploration, drilling, reservoir management, Ground Source Heat Pumps and reuse of abandoned oil/gas wells.
- International cooperation** includes Australia, Iceland and Saudi Arabia.
- Global installed geothermal capacity: 15.67 GW at end-2025.

Significance

- Round-the-clock renewable energy.
- Supports energy security and Net Zero 2070.

3. Diversifies India's renewable-energy mix.

Keywords

Geothermal Energy, Puga Valley, MNRE, EGS, AGS, GSHP, Net Zero 2070

PYQ:

1. 2026, GS-III — “Distinguish between a Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) and a thermal nuclear reactor. In the context of the first indigenously developed prototype FBR at Kalpakkam, explain the term 'criticality'. What are its implications for the clean energy future of our country?”
2. 2026, GS-III — “Explain the key challenges to India's energy security. What measures would you suggest to ensure energy security alongside economic growth and environmental sustainability?”
3. 2025, GS-III — “The fusion energy programme in India has steadily evolved over the past few decades. Mention India's contributions to the international fusion energy project – International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER). What will be the implications of the success of this project on the future of energy?”

15. 9th Rashtriya Poshan Maah: A Month-long Celebration of Nutrition

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Health, Nutrition, Government Schemes)

Relevance

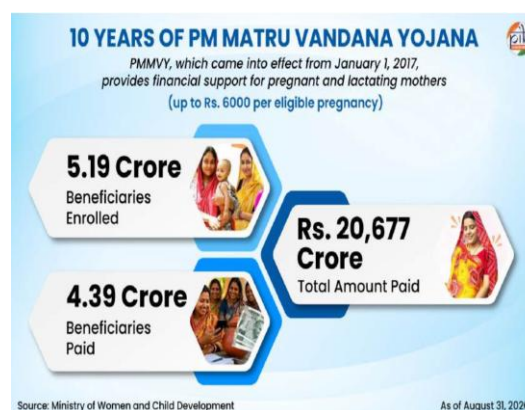
Poshan Maah strengthens nutrition awareness, maternal health and early childhood development through Jan Andolan.

Overview

1. **POSHAN Abhiyaan** launched in March 2018; integrated into Mission Poshan 2.0 in 2021-22.
2. 9th Poshan Maah 2026 launched on 9 September at Varanasi.
3. Theme: “**Hamari Anganwadi, Hamari Jimmedari.**”

Key Aspects

1. Focus on dietary diversity and adequate protein.
2. Fresh and diverse Hot Cooked Meals at Anganwadi Centres.
3. Anganwadi Management Committees strengthen community ownership and accountability.
4. Nutrition + early stimulation highlighted for cognitive development during the first 1,000 days.
5. PMMVY completes 10 years; emphasis on maternal nutrition and health-seeking behaviour.
6. Poshan Tracker monitors Anganwadi services, beneficiaries, attendance and growth.
7. As of July 2026: ~13.99 lakh Anganwadi Centres, 13.30 lakh workers and ~8.94 crore beneficiaries.
8. 34 developmental milestones in revised Home Visit Scheduler for 0–3 years.
9. Poshan Tracker covers pregnant women, lactating mothers, children up to 6 years and adolescent girls.



10. Children 6 months–6 years: 7.2+ crore beneficiaries.

Significance

1. Shifts nutrition from welfare delivery to community ownership.
2. Focuses on maternal and child nutrition.
3. Uses technology for real-time nutrition governance.

Keywords

Poshan 2.0, Poshan Maah, Anganwadi, PMMVY, Poshan Tracker, First 1,000 Days

PYQ:

1. 2026, GS-II — “Malnutrition in India Is Not Merely a Public Health Concern; It Is Also a Challenge of Social Equity, Human Development and Welfare Governance. Discuss ”
2. 2024, GS-III — “Poverty and malnutrition create a vicious cycle, adversely affecting human capital formation. What steps can be taken to break the cycle?”
3. 2021, GS-II — “Has digital illiteracy, particularly in rural areas, coupled with lack of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility hindered socio-economic development? Examine with justification.”

16. Swachhata Hi Seva: Making Cleanliness a Collective Responsibility

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Government policies and interventions; Participation and governance) ; GS-III (Waste management; Environmental sustainability)

Relevance

The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) has moved beyond toilet construction towards ODF sustainability, solid and liquid waste management and community ownership.

Overview

1. **SBM launched:** 2 October 2014 to eliminate open defecation and improve sanitation.
2. **Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS)** was launched in 2017 as a nationwide people-centric sanitation campaign.
3. **Rural sanitation coverage** increased from around 39% in 2014 to 100% in 2019.
4. **SBM-Gramin Phase II** focuses on ODF sustainability and ODF Plus, including solid and liquid waste management.
5. **Aspiring villages** manage either solid or liquid waste; Rising villages manage both; Model villages manage both and also show visual cleanliness and ODF Plus messaging.
6. **As of 2026**, 1,314 GOBARdhan plants have been established across 585 districts.



Key Aspects

1. **SHS 2026's pillars are:** Cleanliness Target Units and Clean Public Places; Swachh Paathshala–Yuva; SafaiMitra Suraksha Seva evam Samman Shivirs; Jan Bhagidari; Swachhata Se Samriddhi.

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2. **Community participation:** SHGs, Swachhagrahis, Gram Panchayats, schools and local communities are central to implementation.
3. **GOBARdhan:** Converts cattle dung and organic waste into biogas, bio-CNG and organic manure.
4. **Waste-to-wealth:** Promotes segregation, recycling, composting and resource recovery.
5. **Safai Mitras:** Greater emphasis on dignity, safety and mechanisation of sanitation work.
6. **Urban-rural convergence:** Waste management is increasingly linked with circular economy, livelihoods and local economic activity.
7. Campaign 17 Sept–2 Oct 2026; theme '**Swachhata Mein Sahbhag**'.



Significance

1. Shift from toilet construction → sanitation sustainability → waste management → circular economy.
2. Encourages behavioural change through Jan Bhagidari.
3. Creates livelihood opportunities through SHGs, waste enterprises and sanitation services.
4. Reduces environmental pollution and improves public health.
5. Demonstrates how government programmes can become people-led movements.

Keywords

SBM, Swachhata Hi Seva, ODF, ODF Plus, Jan Bhagidari, Swachhagrahi, Safai Mitra, GOBARdhan, Waste-to-Wealth, Circular Economy

PYQ

1. 2026, GS-III — “What are the challenges to solid waste management in India? Discuss the governmental policy framework on solid waste management. Discuss the success/failure cases of Delhi and Indore cities, highlighting the salient features of their solid waste management initiatives.”
2. 2023, GS-III — “Comment on the National Wetland Conservation Programme initiated by the Government of India and name a few India's wetlands of international importance included in the Ramsar Sites.”
3. 2018, GS-III — “What are the impediments in disposing the huge quantities of discarded solid wastes which are continuously being generated? How do we remove safely the toxic wastes that have been accumulating in our habitable environment?”

17. PMAY-U: The Story of Housing, Inclusion and Empowerment

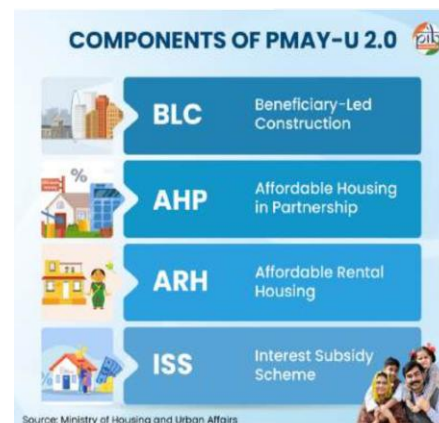
Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Government Schemes, Social Justice, Urbanisation)

Relevance

PMAY-U promotes affordable urban housing while strengthening inclusion, women's ownership and technology-enabled implementation.

Overview

1. **PMAY-U launched** in June 2015; PMAY-U 2.0 launched in September 2024.
2. **PMAY-U 2.0** aims to support 1 crore additional urban poor and middle-class families during 2024–29.
3. **Four verticals:** BLC, AHP, ARH and ISS.
4. **Key Aspects**
5. **EWS:** income up to ₹3 lakh; **LIG:** ₹3–6 lakh; **MIG:** ₹6–9 lakh.
6. **Assistance** up to ₹2.5 lakh per unit.
7. **As of 9 Aug 2026:** 1.25 crore houses sanctioned under PMAY-U/2.0; over 1 crore completed.
8. **PMAY-U 2.0:** 18.38 lakh houses sanctioned; 14.40 lakh BLC, 2.48 lakh AHP, 1.36 lakh ISS and 13,046 ARH units.



Around 1 crore sanctioned houses are allotted to women.

1. **Unified portal**, geo-tagging and real-time dashboards improve transparency.
2. TISM, TIG and GHTC-India promote innovative and green construction.

Significance

1. Advanced Housing for All.
2. Promotes women's financial security and inclusion.
3. Encourages climate-resilient and technology-based housing.

Keywords

PMAY-U, PMAY-U 2.0, BLC, AHP, ARH, ISS, GHTC, TISM

PYQ:

1. 2024, GS-III — “Examine the pattern and trend of public expenditure on social services in the post-reforms period in India. To what extent has this been in consonance with achieving the objective of inclusive growth?”
2. 2019, GS-III — “How can the public distribution system be made more effective in ensuring food security in India?”

18. 11th Ayurveda Day: Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow

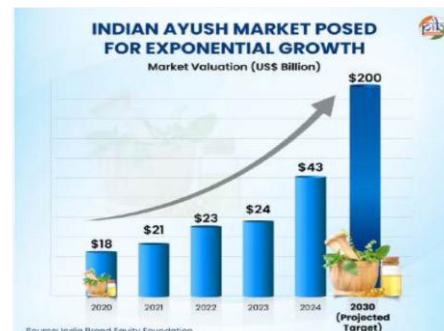
Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Health, Government Schemes); GS-III (Science & Technology)

Relevance

India is integrating Ayurveda with modern healthcare through research, regulation, education and digital access.

Overview

1. **11th Ayurveda Day:** 23 September 2026.
2. Theme: “**Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow.**”
3. Ayurveda is over **5,000 years old** and is being integrated with mainstream healthcare.



Key Aspects

1. **NAM + NHM** support integration of Ayush services into public healthcare.
2. 12,260 **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs** functional as of 19 Sept 2026.
3. **e-Sanjeevani** provides Ayush OPD services; over 50 crore patients are served overall.
4. 593 **Ayurveda colleges**; 45,245 UG and 5,673 PG seats.
5. **AYURGYAN** supports evidence-based R&D; AYUR SWASTHYA supports research and Centres of Excellence.
6. Ayurveda included in WHO ICD-11 module.
7. CCRAS operates 30 institutes; AI-based translation collaboration makes research available in 13 Indian languages.
8. **Ayurvedic medicines** are regulated under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Drugs Rules, 1945.
9. On 10 February 2026, the **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)**, New Delhi signed a Common Empanelment MoU with the General Insurance Council. This made it the first Ayush institution empanelled with all 32 general insurance companies for cashless treatment. The Union Budget 2026-27 also announced three new All India Institutes of Ayurveda.

Significance

1. Strengthens evidence-based traditional medicine.
2. Expands affordable and integrated healthcare.
3. Promotes India's global leadership in traditional medicine.

Keywords

Ayurveda Day, NAM, CCRAS, AYURGYAN, AYUR SWASTHYA, ICD-11, Ayushman Arogya Mandir

PYQ:

1. 2019, GS-III — "How is the government of India protecting traditional knowledge of medicine from patenting by pharmaceutical companies?"
2. 2015, GS-III — "India's Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) which has a database containing formatted information on more than 2 million medicinal formulations is proving a powerful weapon in the country's fight against erroneous patents. Discuss the pros and cons making this database publicly available under open-source licensing."

19. 12 Years of Make in India: India's Journey towards a Manufacturing Nation

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Manufacturing, Industrial Policy, Investment, Infrastructure)

Relevance

Make in India has expanded domestic production, investment and capabilities across manufacturing sectors.

Overview

1. Launched on 25 September 2014; expanded under Make in India 2.0.
2. Make in India 2.0 covers 27 sectors: 15 manufacturing and 12 services.
3. Manufacturing GVA recorded 10.88% CAGR during 2022-23 to 2025-26.

MANUFACTURING SECTORS	SERVICE SECTORS
1 Aerospace and Defence	16 Information Technology & Information Technology enabled Services (IT & ITeS)
2 Automotive and Auto Components	17 Tourism and Hospitality Services
3 Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices	18 Medical Value Travel
4 Bio-Technology	19 Transport and Logistics Services
5 Capital Goods	20 Accounting and Finance Services
6 Textile and Apparel	21 Audio Visual Services
7 Chemicals and Petro chemicals	22 Legal Services
8 Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM)	23 Communication Services
9 Leather & Footwear	24 Construction and Related Engineering Services
10 Food Processing	25 Environmental Services
11 Gems and Jewellery	26 Financial Services
12 Shipping	27 Education Services
13 Railways	
14 Construction	
15 New and Renewable Energy	

Key Aspects

1. **Electronics production:** ~₹1.9 lakh crore (2014-15) → ~₹13.11 lakh crore (2025-26).
2. **Steel production:** 81.7 MT → 170 MT.
3. **Defence production:** ₹46,429 crore → ₹1.78 lakh crore.
4. India is the world's **2nd-largest mobile-phone manufacturer by volume**.
5. **NSWS provides** access to 327+ Central and 3,452 State approvals.
6. **IILB mapped** 4,220 industrial parks covering ~6.98 lakh hectares.
7. **PLI schemes** across 14 sectors: ₹2.6 lakh crore investment and ₹23.8 lakh crore production/sales by June 2026.
8. **Recent initiatives** include Semicon 2.0, MPMS, BHAVYA and rare-earth magnet manufacturing.

Significance

1. Deepens domestic value chains.
2. Reduces import dependence.
3. Promotes investment, jobs, technology and exports.

Keywords

Make in India, Make in India 2.0, PLI, NSWS, IILB, PM GatiShakti, BHAVYA

PYQ:

1. 2025, GS-III — “Discuss the rationale of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. What are its achievements? In what way can the functioning and outcomes of the scheme be improved?”
2. 2015, GS-III — “Success of 'Make in India' programme depends on the success of 'Skill India' programme and radical labour reforms. Discuss with logical arguments.”



20. BRICS: Evolution, Cooperation and India's Leadership

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (International Relations, Global Governance, Multilateral Institutions)

Relevance

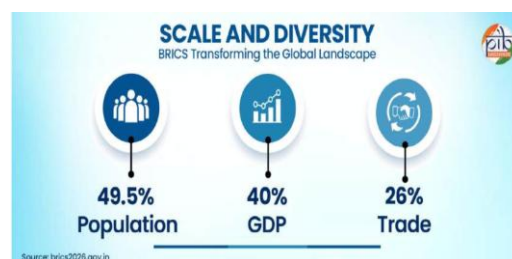
BRICS provides India a platform to strengthen Global South cooperation and reform global governance.

Overview

1. **BRIC coined in 2001**; formalised in 2006 (first summit: Yekaterinburg, 2009); South Africa joined in 2011
2. BRICS now has **11 full members**.
3. India holds the 2026 Chairship; theme: "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".
4. India's 4th Chairship began on 1 Jan 2026; 18th BRICS Summit: New Delhi, 12–13 Sept 2026.

Key Aspects

1. **Members:** Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa; Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE joined in Jan 2024; Indonesia in Jan 2025.
2. **India Chairship** - 2012 New Delhi (Delhi Declaration); 2016 Goa; 2021 virtual, 13th Summit.
3. 2026 cooperation spans agriculture, health, traditional medicine, energy, urban mobility, MSMEs, startups, logistics and global value chains.
4. **Partner countries** include Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam (category created 2025).
5. India's 2026 Chairship held 350+ meetings across 25 cities.
6. **The presidency rotates** alphabetically, 1 Jan–31 Dec; a new rotation formula is under discussion.



Significance

1. Strengthens Global South voice.
2. Promotes multipolarity and institutional reform.
3. Expands cooperation in emerging areas such as AI, digital agriculture and energy.

Keywords

BRICS, Global South, NDB, CRA, BRICS Plus, Partner Countries, Multilateralism

PYQ:

1. 2026, GS-II — "BRICS acts as a powerful counterweight in global governance, actively amplifying the voice and influence of the Global South." Explain the role of BRICS in projecting itself as an alternative to other groupings."
2. 2025, GS-II — "The expansion of the BRICS grouping is a response to the changing global order. Discuss the opportunities and challenges for India."

21. National Film Awards: A Nation's Tribute to Indian Cinema

Syllabus Mapping GS-I (Art & Culture); GS-II (Government Initiatives)

Relevance

National Film Awards promote cinematic excellence, cultural diversity and India's creative economy.

Overview

1. Instituted in **1954**; first awards honoured films of **1953**.
2. **Three sections:** Feature Films, Non-Feature Films and Writing on Cinema; Dadasaheb Phalke Award is the highest honour.
3. 72nd National Film Awards recognise films certified in 2024.



Key Aspects

1. 72nd awards announced on 18 July 2026; ceremony at Ekta Nagar, Gujarat.
2. **Best Feature Film:** Article 370.
3. **Best Director:** Rajkumar Periasamy for Amaran.
4. **Best Actress:** Yami Gautam; Best Actors: Mammooty and Kartik Aaryan.
5. **Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2024:** Anant Nag.
6. Feature films undergo **two-tier evaluation** through regional and central panels.
7. Awards recognise India's **linguistic and regional diversity**, including **Tulu, Garhwali and Santhali cinema**.
8. Dadasaheb Phalke (1870–1944), the "**Father of Indian Cinema**", directed *Raja Harishchandra* (1913), India's first full-length feature film. The Dadasaheb Phalke Award was instituted by the Government of India in 1969.

Significance

1. Promotes cultural diversity and soft power.
2. Encourages artistic and technical excellence.
3. Strengthens India's creative economy.

Keywords

National Film Awards, Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Swarna Kamal, Rajat Kamal, NFDC

22. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana 2.0: Building a Skilled and Self-Reliant Workforce

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Government policies and interventions for development of vulnerable sections); GS-III (Employment, skill development, inclusive growth)

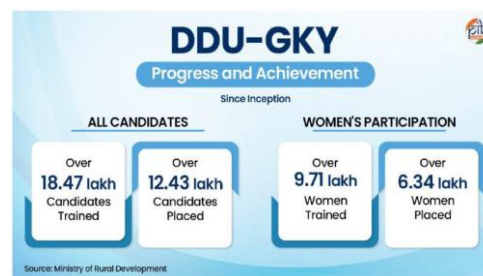
Relevance

DDU-GKY aims to improve the employability and sustainable employment of rural youth through industry-linked skill training and placement support.

Overview

1. **Launched:** 25 September 2014 under DAY-NRLM, Ministry of Rural Development.

2. Targets **rural youth** aged 15–35 years, with priority to disadvantaged groups.
3. **As of June 2026:** 18.45 lakh trained and 12.35 lakh placed under the programme.
4. **Special programmes:** Roshni serves LWE-affected districts (residential training, 40% women; extended to Aspirational Districts); Himayat is the 100% Centre-funded scheme for J&K and Ladakh (wage, self and gig employment). Migration Support Centres provide accommodation, counselling and placement support.
5. **DDU-GKY 2.0 guidelines (May 2025):** minimum placement 6 months; 12-month post-placement tracking; ₹7,620 financial assistance and ₹5,000 retention support; 749 projects, 760+ centres and 455+ PIAs in 31 States/UTs; Budget 2026-27 allocation ₹750 crore.



Key Aspects

1. **Social inclusion:** At least 50% SC/ST, 33% women and 5% PwD beneficiaries under the programme.
2. **Training:** Industry-relevant, market-driven courses with emphasis on soft skills, digital literacy and English.
3. **Placement:** Focus on placement-linked training, retention and sustainable employment rather than merely certification.
4. **DDU-GKY 2.0:** Strengthens the complete training-to-employment lifecycle, including mobilisation, training, assessment, placement and post-placement support.
5. **Implementation:** Projects are implemented through Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) across States/UTs.
6. **Women & vulnerable groups:** Special emphasis on participation of women, SC/ST communities and other disadvantaged rural youth.

Significance

1. Converts rural youth into a skilled workforce and improves access to formal employment.
2. Reduces the rural–urban skill and employment gap.
3. Supports inclusive growth by targeting disadvantaged sections.
4. Links rural skilling with industry demand and emerging employment opportunities.

Keywords

DDU-GKY, DAY-NRLM, Rural Youth, Skill Development, Placement-linked Training, DDU-GKY 2.0, Roshni, Himayat, PIAs

PYQ

1. 2021, GS-II — "'Earn while you learn' scheme needs to be strengthened to make vocational education and skill training meaningful. Comment."
2. 2023, GS-II — "Skill development programmes have succeeded in increasing human resources supply to various sectors. In the context of the statement analyze the linkages between education, skill, and employment."

23. Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Domestic PNG Connections

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Energy, Infrastructure, Clean Energy)

Relevance

The scheme aims to expand household PNG connections and strengthen cleaner urban cooking-energy access.

Overview

1. **Launched 18 August 2026**; effective from 1 September 2026.
2. PNG network covers **309 Geographical Areas**.
3. India had **1.74 crore domestic PNG connections** as of 18 August 2026.

Key Aspects

1. **Incentivises CGD** entities to convert unbilled connections into active billed connections.
2. **Each incremental connection** above the threshold receives additional allocation of 200 SCM of domestic APM gas.
3. Expected **payback period** for domestic connection investment: ~10 years → ~3 years.
4. Accelerated approval framework and uniform pipeline RoW charges.
5. States encouraged to reduce **natural-gas VAT to 5%**.
6. **National PNG Drive 2.0** held January–June 2026.
7. A **Unified PNG registration portal** is being developed.



Significance

1. Promotes cleaner household fuel.
2. Reduces dependence on LPG cylinders.
3. Supports CGD infrastructure and energy security.

Keywords

PNG, CGD, PNGRB, APM Gas, RoW, Domestic PNG Connections

PYQ:

1. 2018, GS-III — "Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy is the sine qua non to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Comment on the progress made in India in this regard."

24. Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Government Schemes, Tribal Welfare); GS-III (Mining, Inclusive Growth)

Relevance

PMKKKY channels mining revenues towards welfare and development in mining-affected areas.

Overview

1. Launched 17 September 2015; implemented through **District Mineral Foundations (DMFs)**.
2. DMFs are **non-profit trusts** established under the **MMDR Act, 1957**.

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- DMFs have been established in **656 districts across 23 States**.

Key Aspects

- DMF contribution:** 10% of royalty for leases granted after 12 Jan 2015; 30% for earlier leases.
- At least 70% funds for **high-priority sectors**: water, health, education, environment, women/children, skills, livelihoods, sanitation, housing, agriculture.
- Up to 30% for physical infrastructure, irrigation, energy and watershed development.
- Special safeguards** apply to Scheduled and Tribal Areas, PESA 1996 and FRA 2006.
- As of July 2026:** 4.70 lakh+ projects sanctioned worth ₹1,09,938 crore (~₹1.1 lakh crore); 2.92 lakh+ completed.

Significance

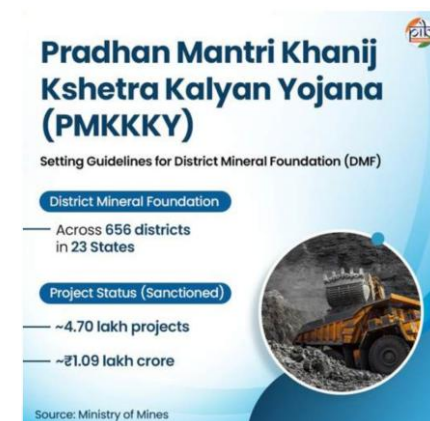
- Shares mining benefits with affected communities.
- Supports tribal and vulnerable populations.
- Converts mineral wealth into local development.

Keywords

PMKKKY, DMF, MMDR Act, Mining-Affected Areas, Royalty, PESA, FRA

PYQ:

- 2025, GS-III — "Mineral resources are fundamental to the country's economy and these are exploited by mining. Why is mining considered an environmental hazard? Explain the remedial measures required to reduce the environmental hazard due to mining."
- 2025, GS-I — "Does tribal development in India centre around two axes, those of displacement and of rehabilitation? Give your opinion."



25. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Indian Economy, MSMEs, Credit, Inclusive Growth)

Relevance

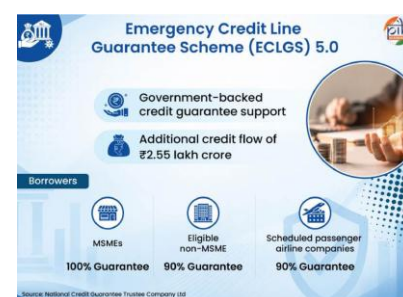
ECLGS 5.0 strengthens liquidity and business resilience during external economic disruptions.

Overview

- Approved 5 May 2026 and implemented by NCGTC.
- Additional credit support** up to ₹2.55 lakh crore.
- Covers **MSMEs**, eligible **non-MSMEs** and **scheduled passenger airlines**.

Key Aspects

- Operational till 31 March 2027 or ₹2.55 lakh crore guarantee issuance, whichever is earlier.
- MSMEs receive **100% guarantee**; eligible non-MSMEs **90%**.
- Additional credit up** to 20% of peak working-capital outstanding, capped at ₹100 crore per borrower.



4. **Interest ceiling:** 9% p.a. for eligible MSMEs/non-MSMEs; NBFC lending rate up to 13%.
5. **Airline borrowers:** additional credit up to 100%, capped at ₹1,500 crore; 90% guarantee.
6. **As of 20 Aug 2026:** 6,73,979 guarantees worth ₹2,50,024 crore; MSMEs accounted for 97.3% of guarantees.

Significance

1. Supports business continuity and employment.
2. Strengthens institutional credit access.
3. Protects supply chains during external shocks.

Keywords

ECLGS 5.0, NCGTC, Credit Guarantee, MSME, Working Capital, Jan Samarth

PYQ:

1. 2023, GS-III — "Faster economic growth requires increased share of the manufacturing sector in GDP, particularly of MSMEs. Comment on the present policies of the government in this regard."
2. 2021, GS-III — "Do you agree that the Indian economy has recently experienced V-shaped recovery? Give reasons in support of your answer."

26. Every School, A Model School: PM SHRI

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Education, Government Schemes, Social Justice)

Relevance

PM SHRI operationalises NEP 2020 by developing exemplary, inclusive and future-ready schools.

Overview

1. Launched 7 September 2022.
2. Target: 14,500+ schools; 13,092 selected by July 2026.



Key Aspects

1. Implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme by the Ministry of Education.
2. Schools serve as exemplary and mentor institutions for neighbouring schools.
3. Focus: inclusive learning, experiential learning, quality infrastructure, green schools, future-ready skills and quality assessment.
4. Promotes 5+3+3+4 curricular structure under NEP 2020.
5. Technology: ICT, smart classrooms, internet, DIKSHA and STEM.
6. Three-stage selection: MoU → eligible-school identification → Challenge Mode.
7. 13,092 schools cover 725 districts and 8,340 blocks/ULBs.



Significance

1. Shifts from infrastructure-centric to holistic education.
2. Promotes equity, inclusion and 21st-century skills.
3. Creates demonstration models for wider school-system reform.

Keywords

PM SHRI, NEP 2020, Challenge Mode, DIKSHA, SQAF, Experiential Learning

PYQ:

1. 2022, GS-II — “The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 remains inadequate in promoting an incentive-based system for children's education without generating awareness about the importance of schooling. Analyse.”
2. 2020, GS-II — “National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient the education system in India. Critically examine the statement.”

27. India's Path to Blue Skies: From Awareness to Action for Cleaner Air

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Environment, Pollution, Urbanisation)

Relevance

India's clean-air strategy combines monitoring, source-specific mitigation and city-level action.

Overview

1. International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies: 7 September (India: Swachh Vayu Diwas).
2. **NCAP** (launched 2019) covers **130 cities**
3. In FY2025-26, **14 NCAP cities** met the **National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)**.



Key Aspects

1. **National air-quality network:** 1,646 stations across 603 cities in 28 States and 7 UTs.
2. **AQI** uses PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, NO₂, SO₂, CO, O₃, NH₃ and Pb (8).
3. **AQI categories:** Good 0–50 → Severe 401–500.
4. 72 cities recorded >20% PM₁₀ reduction; 26 recorded >40% reduction in FY2025-26.
5. **Key interventions:** cleaner mobility, industrial emission control, dust management, waste management, crop-residue management and afforestation.
6. **CAQM**, a **statutory body** under the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021, coordinates air-pollution management in the **NCR**; **PRANA** tracks **NCAP implementation**
7. **Nagar Van Yojana (2020)** aims to develop 1,000 Nagar Vans and Vatikas by 2026-27.

Significance

1. Improves public health and environmental quality.
2. Promotes science-based pollution management.
3. Strengthens Centre-State-city coordination.

Case study

In Swachh Vayu Survekshan 2025, Indore topped Category 1 (47 cities, 10 lakh+), Amravati topped Category 2 (44 cities, 3–10 lakh) and Dewas topped Category 3 (40 cities, under 3 lakh).

Way forward

Sustained, source-specific, science-based action: better monitoring with real-time data and forecasting; cleaner mobility and public transport; dust, waste-processing and industrial emission controls; urban greening; citizen participation, with States and cities central to delivery.

Keywords

NCAP, PM2.5, PM10, AQI, PRANA, CAQM, GRAP, CAAQMS

PYQ:

1. 2021, GS-III — “Describe the key points of the revised Global Air Quality Guidelines (AQGs) recently released by the World Health Organisation (WHO). How are these different from its last update in 2005? What changes in India's National Clean Air Programme are required to achieve these revised standards?”
2. 2020, GS-III — “What are the key features of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) initiated by the Government of India?”

28. Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari: From Local Action to Water Security

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Governance, Community Participation); GS-III (Water Resources, Environment)

Relevance

JSJB combines community participation with groundwater recharge and decentralised water conservation.

Overview

1. Launched 6 September 2024; focuses on low-cost groundwater recharge, water-storage structures and revival of defunct borewells.
2. **Guided by 3Cs:** Community, CSR and Cost.
3. **JSJB 1.0:** 27 lakh+ structures by May 2025; **JSJB 2.0:** 1.5 crore+ structures by May 2026.

Key Aspects

1. In June 2026, JSJB integrated with Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain as JSJB: Catch the Rain.
2. **As of 3 Sept 2026:** 1.58 crore+ artificial groundwater recharge structures.
3. **Whole-of-Government + Whole-of-Society approach.**
4. Promotes community ownership, scientific planning and local water-security solutions.

Significance

1. Strengthens groundwater security.
2. Revives community-led water conservation traditions.
3. Supports climate resilience and sustainable agriculture.

Case study

1. Chhattisgarh: farmers voluntarily devoted 5% agricultural land to recharge ponds and terraced pits.

2. Andhra Pradesh: ridge-to-valley approach, water budgeting, crop planning and groundwater sharing.
3. Odisha: CHHATA for rooftop harvesting and ARUA for recharge from water bodies.

Keywords

JSJB, Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Catch the Rain, Groundwater Recharge, 3Cs, Jan Bhagidari

PYQ:

1. 2025, GS-III — "Examine the factors responsible for depleting groundwater in India. What are the steps taken by the government to mitigate such depletion of groundwater?"
2. 2017, GS-II — "To ensure effective implementation of policies addressing water, sanitation and hygiene needs, the identification of beneficiary segments is to be synchronized with the anticipated outcomes' Examine the statement in the context of the WASH scheme."

29. Waves OTT and MyWAVES

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Government Initiatives, Culture); GS-III (Digital Technology, Creative Economy)

Relevance

WAVES OTT modernises public broadcasting, while MyWAVES enables citizen participation in the creator economy.

Overview

1. WAVES OTT is **Prasar Bharati's integrated digital platform** for TV, radio, on-demand content, education and archives.
2. 1.4 crore registered users, 1.7+ crore downloads and 20,000+ titles.
3. Reaches 130+ countries; content in 26+ languages.

Key Aspects

1. 140+ TV channels and 220 radio services; 480+ content partners.
2. **MyWAVES** launched 23 March 2026 for citizen-generated content; enables citizens to create/upload/share original content.
3. Supports short, vertical and episodic videos in Indian languages.
4. **Gems of India Challenge** launched across 6 pilot States/UTs; videos **1–3 minutes**; submissions 1–31 Aug 2026.
5. ONDC integration and Pay-Per-View Content Sourcing Policy expand content distribution.
6. Strengthens cultural preservation, linguistic diversity and creator economy.
7. **WAVES OTT** launched **20 Nov 2024**, Prasar Bharati's public-service OTT.

Significance

1. Digital public broadcasting beyond traditional TV/radio.
2. Wider access to regional content and emerging creators.
3. Supports India's creative economy.

Keywords

WAVES OTT, MyWAVES, Prasar Bharati, Creator Economy, Gems of India, Digital Broadcasting, ONDC

PYQ:

1. 2026, GS-I (Q10) — "Do you think digital technology promotes social empowerment? Explain with examples."
2. 2023, GS-III — "What is the status of digitalization in the Indian economy? Examine the problems faced in this regard and suggest improvements."

30. 7th Global Fintech Fest 2026

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Economy, FinTech, Digital Technology)

Relevance

Highlights India's leadership in Digital Public Infrastructure and emerging financial technologies.

Overview

1. Held in Mumbai, 8–11 September 2026.
2. Theme: "Potential to Impact: Agentic AI | Tokenisation | Quantum."
3. Focuses on trusted, connected and inclusive digital finance.

Key Aspects

1. India's fintech ecosystem is built around **Aadhaar, UPI and digital connectivity**.
2. **UPI transactions**: 24,509 million in August 2026.
3. **Agentic AI** enables real-time decision-making and automated financial workflows.
4. **Tokenization** enables programmable assets and greater liquidity.
5. **Quantum technologies** support cybersecurity and risk optimisation.
6. **PCI, NPCI and FCC** are principal organisers; supported by **RBI, SEBI, MeitY, NITI Aayog etc.**

Significance

1. Strengthens India's global fintech leadership.
2. Promotes financial inclusion and innovation.
3. Highlights emerging technologies in finance.

Way forward

Deepen digital sovereignty and technological self-reliance with responsible innovation; use AI, tokenisation, blockchain and quantum technologies with strong cybersecurity, data protection and consumer safeguards; share India's digital expertise with the Global South.

Keywords

FinTech, GFF 2026, UPI, Agentic AI, Tokenisation, Quantum Technology, DPI

PYQ:

1. 2026, GS-III — "Examine the view that financial inclusion is an integral part of social and economic inclusion in a country like India. Also throw light on the usefulness of the R.B.I.'s Inclusion Index."
2. 2022, GS-III — "Is inclusive growth possible under market economy? State the significance of financial inclusion in achieving economic growth in India."



31. Fueling the Blue Economy

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Agriculture, Fisheries, Blue Economy)

Relevance

PMMSY is transforming fisheries through infrastructure, technology, exports and livelihood support.

Overview

PMMSY (launched 2020, building on the Blue Revolution) modernises India's fisheries.

Key Aspects

1. 2,195 **Fisheries Farmer Producer Organisations** supported.
2. **Employment** opportunities for **58 lakh persons** in fisheries/aquaculture.
3. PM-MKSSY, a **Central Sector sub-scheme** of PMMSY, supports formalisation, insurance, institutional finance and traceability; the **National Fisheries Digital Platform** (launched Sept 2024) has 37 lakh+ registrations.

Significance

1. Strengthens **livelihoods** of coastal and fishing communities.
2. Boosts **exports** and **fisheries** GVA.
3. Supports **sustainable** and **modern fisheries management**.
4. Builds **modern infra, cold chain, fishing harbours**,
5. **Traceability, standards and certification**
6. **Safety, security and welfare of fishermen**
7. Quality brood, seed and feed
8. Enhancing **processing, production, productivity, value addition**
9. Robust **aquatic animal health system**

Case study

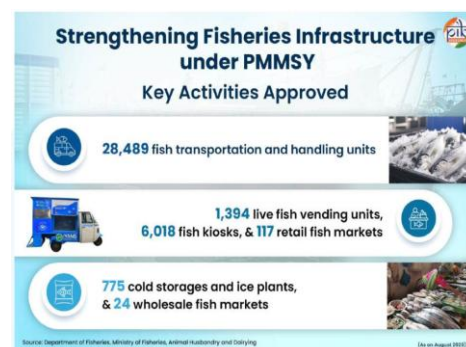
Pravinbhai Babulal Masani (Porbandar, Gujarat) received a ₹48 lakh PMMSY subsidy in 2021-22 and built a 30 MT/day ice plant that keeps fish fresh and cuts spoilage.

Keywords

PMMSY, Blue Economy, Fisheries, FFPO, Cold Chain, Fish Production

PYQ:

1. 2023, GS-III — "What is oil pollution? What are its impacts on the marine ecosystem? In what way is pollution particularly harmful for a country like India?"
2. 2023, GS-III — "What is oil pollution? What are its impacts on the marine ecosystem? In what way is pollution particularly harmful for a country like India."
3. 2015, GS-III — "Livestock rearing has a big potential for providing non-farm employment and income in rural areas. Discuss suggesting suitable measures to promote these sectors in India."



32. Power from Waste

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Environment, Waste Management, Renewable Energy)

Relevance

Waste-to-energy converts urban waste into useful energy while addressing landfill pollution.

Overview

1. Waste-to-energy is an important component of **scientific solid-waste management**.
2. SBM promotes processing of waste through **recycling, composting, biogas and energy recovery**.

Key Aspects

1. SBM → organic waste as **biogas, electricity and manure**.
2. Biogas slurry acts as organic fertilizer.
3. Focus: **waste-to-wealth + energy security + circular economy**.

Significance

1. Reduces landfill burden and pollution.
2. Converts waste into energy and economic value.
3. Supports Swachh Bharat and circular economy goals.

Case study

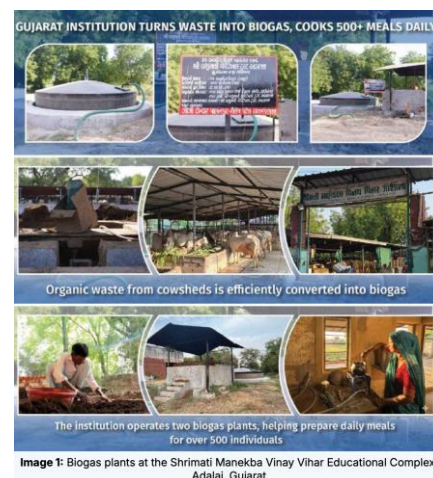
Hyderabad vegetable market → streetlights; Prayagraj → multi-feedstock Bio-CNG; Gandhinagar institution → biogas cooking; Gwalior gaushala → CBG.

Keywords

Waste-to-Energy, SBM-U, GOBARdhan, Biomethanation, RDF, Circular Economy

PYQ:

1. 2025, GS-III — “How can India achieve energy independence through clean technology by 2047? How can biotechnology play a crucial role in this endeavour?”



33. National Single Window System

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Ease of Doing Business, Industry, Investment)

Relevance

NSWS simplifies regulatory approvals and improves the business environment.

Overview

1. Digital platform providing a **single interface for business approvals** (launched 22 Sept 2021 by DPIIT).
2. Integrates approvals from Central and State Governments.

Key Aspects

1. 327+ Central approvals and 3,452+ State approvals available.
2. Enables investors to identify and apply for required approvals.



3. Reduces **duplication**, **paperwork** and **regulatory delays**.
4. Supports **transparent** and **time-bound approval** processes.
5. Complements Make in India and investment promotion.
6. **5.69 lakh+ business entities** onboarded.
7. **3.06 lakh applications/year; 2.26 lakh approvals/year**.
8. PAN as **Single Business ID**.
9. **PESO: all 74 licensing modules integrated**.
10. KYA module + Applicant Dashboard + E-Communication + Document Repository.

Significance

1. Improves ease of doing business.
2. Facilitates domestic and foreign investment.
3. Promotes cooperative and competitive federalism.

Keywords

NSWS, Ease of Doing Business, Single Window, Investment, Regulatory Approvals

PYQ:

1. 2025, GS-II — “e-Governance projects have a built-in bias towards technology and back-end integration than user-centric designs. Examine.”
2. 2024, GS-II — “e-governance is not just about the routine application of digital technology in service delivery process. It is as much about multifarious interactions for ensuring transparency and accountability. In this context evaluate the role of the 'Interactive Service Model' of e-governance.”

34. Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojna (PM-AJAY)

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Social Justice, Welfare Schemes, SC Development)

Relevance

PM-AJAY focuses on socio-economic development and improved opportunities for Scheduled Castes.

Overview

100% Centrally Sponsored intervention for SC development.

Key Aspects

1. Merger of **PMAGY + SCA to SCSP + BJRCY**.
2. Ministry: **Social Justice & Empowerment**.
3. 3 objectives:
 - Reduce SC **poverty** through employment/income generation.
 - Improve **socio-economic indicators/infrastructure** in SC-dominated areas.
 - Increase **literacy/enrolment** through residential educational facilities.
4. Three components:
 - i. **Adarsh Gram**, which develops SC-majority villages into model villages; 47,243 villages are covered and 18,093 have been declared Adarsh Grams as of 8 September 2026.



- ii. **Grants-in-Aid** for socio-economic projects, with over ₹1,730 crore released to States from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26. (
- iii. **Construction and repair of hostels** for SC students; 785 hostels have been completed.
5. Eligibility: **SC-majority villages with ≥40% SC population and population ≥500** for infrastructure component.
6. PM-AJAY Portal + Mobile App.

Significance

1. Promotes inclusive growth.
2. Addresses structural socio-economic disadvantages.
3. Strengthens community-level development.

Keywords

PM-AJAY, Scheduled Castes, Social Justice, Inclusive Development, Livelihoods

PYQ:

1. 2024, GS-III — “Examine the pattern and trend of public expenditure on social services in the post-reforms period in India. To what extent has this been in consonance with achieving the objective of inclusive growth?”
2. 2023, GS-II — “Development and welfare schemes for the vulnerable, by its nature, are discriminatory in approach. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.”

35. Silicon Dreams: SEMICON India 2026 and the Making of a Chip Powerhouse

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Science & Technology, Semiconductors)

Relevance

India's semiconductor ambitions require strong domestic chip-design capabilities and skilled talent.

Overview

1. India has emerged as an **important global centre** for semiconductor design.
2. Semiconductor design is a critical link between research, manufacturing and end-use electronics.

Key Aspects

1. Design capabilities span processors, memory, sensors, power electronics and AI chips.
2. **Design Linked Incentive (DLI)** supports domestic semiconductor design.
3. India has a large pool of semiconductor engineers and design professionals.
4. **Chip-design start-ups** and **global semiconductor companies** are expanding in India.
5. Semiconductor design supports strategic sectors such as **telecom, defence, automotive and AI**.
6. Semicon 2.0 seeks to deepen the complete semiconductor ecosystem.
7. Semicon 2.0: **₹1,27,500 crore**, 6 pillars.
8. **85,000 skilled semiconductor engineers** target.
9. C2S EDA tools in **320 institutions**; **68,000+ students trained**.
10. **24 semiconductor design projects** approved.
11. **105 startups/MSMEs** received EDA support.
12. **211 chips taped out by 75 institutions**; 7 fabricated, including 12 nm.
13. ChipIN Centre: **1 lakh+ engineers, 500+ organisations, 300+ chip designs**.

Significance

1. Reduces technological dependence.
2. Creates high-value employment and innovation.
3. Strengthens India's position in global semiconductor value chains.

Keywords

Semiconductor Design, DLI, ISM, Chip Design, AI Chips, Semicon 2.0

PYQ:

1. 2025, GS-III — "India aims to become a semiconductor manufacturing hub. What are the challenges faced by the semiconductor industry in India? Mention the salient features of the India Semiconductor Mission."

36. Securing Farmers' Future with Dignity

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Social Security); GS-III (Agriculture)

Relevance

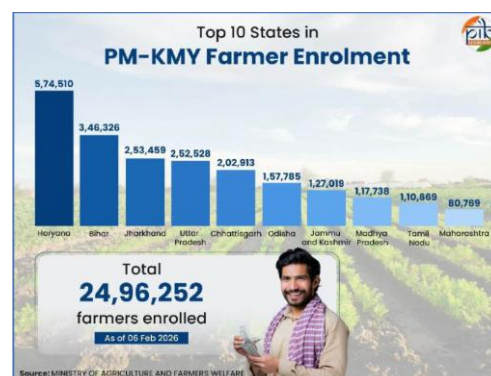
PM-KMY provides old-age social security to small and marginal farmers.

Overview

1. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana launched in 2019.
2. Provides pension support to eligible Small and Marginal Farmers after 60 years.

Key Aspects

1. Eligible farmers contribute **monthly based on age**.
2. The government makes a matching contribution.
3. **Pension of ₹3,000 per month** after attaining **60 years**.
4. **Spouses** are eligible for a **50% family pension after the beneficiary's death**.
5. Enrolment is **paperless** through **Common Service Centres**.
6. **PM-KISAN** benefits can be **voluntarily used for contributions**.



Significance

1. Provides income security during old age.
2. Protects the dignity of small and marginal farmers.
3. Strengthens social-security coverage in agriculture.

Keywords

PM-KMY, Small & Marginal Farmers, Pension, Social Security, PM-KISAN

PYQ:

1. 2025, GS-III — "Explain the factors influencing the decision of farmers on the selection of high value crops in India."
2. 2017, GS-III — "How do subsidies affect the cropping pattern, crop diversity and economy of farmers? What is the significance of crop insurance, minimum support price and food processing for small and marginal farmers?"

3. 2016, GS-III — “Given the vulnerability of Indian agriculture to vagaries of nature, discuss the need for crop insurance and bring out the salient features of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).”

37. From Awareness to Ownership: Building a People’s Movement for River Conservation

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Environment, Community Participation); GS-III (Pollution Control)

Relevance

Namami Gange increasingly focuses on community ownership along with infrastructure and pollution control.

Overview

1. Namami Gange Programme launched in 2014.
2. **Integrated conservation mission** for Ganga and its tributaries.

Key Aspects

1. **Pollution abatement** through **sewage treatment**.
2. Riverfront **development** and ecological **restoration**.
3. **Afforestation** and biodiversity **conservation**.
4. Scientific **monitoring** of river health.
5. Public **awareness** and community **participation**.
6. Local communities are treated as **partners** in river conservation.
7. **Jan Ganga + Jan Bhagidari** → community ownership of river rejuvenation.
8. Infrastructure/science/technology alone cannot sustain river health; **people's participation is central**.

Significance

1. Moves from government-led cleaning to people-led conservation.
2. Strengthens long-term sustainability of river rejuvenation.
3. Connects environmental protection with community ownership.

Keywords

Namami Gange, River Rejuvenation, NMCG, Community Participation, Sewage Treatment

PYQ:

1. 2025, GS-II — “In contemporary development models, decision-making and problem-solving responsibilities are not located close to the scene of action and execution defeating the objectives of development. Critically evaluate.”
2. 2017, GS-II — “To ensure effective implementation of policies addressing water, sanitation and hygiene needs, the identification of beneficiary segments is to be synchronized with the anticipated outcomes' Examine the statement in the context of the WASH scheme.”
3. 2015, GS-III — “The Namami Gange and National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) programmes and causes of mixed results from the previous schemes. What quantum leaps can help preserve the river Ganga better than incremental inputs?”

38. Decentralised Grain

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Agriculture, Food Security, PDS)

Relevance

Decentralised grain storage strengthens local food security and reduces post-harvest losses.

Overview

1. Focuses on decentralising grain storage closer to production and consumption centres.
2. Cooperatives can play an important role in local storage infrastructure.

Key Aspects

1. Pilot launched **31 May 2023**.
2. Implemented through **PACS**.
3. 2025–26 foodgrain production: **376.563 million tonnes**.
4. NFSA covers about **80 crore people**.
5. **Objectives**: reduce wastage, avoid distress sales, improve price realisation, reduce transportation costs.
6. PACS diversify into **storage, processing, procurement and distribution**.

Significance

1. Strengthens food-security infrastructure.
2. Makes the grain supply chain more resilient.
3. Supports cooperative-led agricultural development.

Keywords

Decentralised Storage, Food Security, Grain Storage, Cooperatives, PDS

PYQ:

1. 2024, GS-III — “Elucidate the importance of buffer stocks for stabilizing agricultural prices in India. What are the challenges associated with the storage of buffer stock? Discuss.”
2. 2023, GS-III — “Explain the changes in cropping patterns in India in the context of changes in consumption patterns and marketing conditions.”
3. 2022, GS-III — “What are the major challenges of Public Distribution System (PDS) in India? How can it be made effective and transparent?”



39. Reclaiming the Land Beneath the Waste

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Environment, Waste Management, Urbanisation)

Relevance

Legacy-waste remediation converts polluted dumpsites into usable land and supports scientific waste management.

Overview

1. Legacy waste refers to old accumulated waste at dumpsites.
2. **Remediation** involves biomining, segregation, recovery and scientific disposal.

Key Aspects

1. **DRAP launched Nov 2025** for mission-mode dumpsite remediation.

Significance

1. Reduces soil, air and groundwater **pollution**.
2. **Free valuable** urban land.
3. Converts environmental liabilities into **productive assets**.

Case study

1. Bhalswa: **99.07 lakh MT legacy waste remediated by 31 July 2026**.
2. Gorakhpur: **40-acre Kachre Se Kanchan Rapti Eco Park** developed from reclaimed dumpsite.
3. Yakalasapura, Karnataka: reclaimed dumpsite being converted into **Miyawaki forest**.

Keywords

Legacy Waste, Biomining, Dumpsites, SBM-U, Circular Economy, Land Reclamation

PYQ:

1. 2024, GS-III — "Industrial pollution of river water is a significant environmental issue in India. Discuss the various mitigation measures to deal with this problem and also the government's initiatives in this regard."
2. 2018, GS-III — "What are the impediments in disposing the huge quantities of discarded solid wastes which are continuously being generated? How do we remove safely the toxic wastes that have been accumulating in our habitable environment?"

40. Progressing Towards Universal Health Coverage

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Health, Social Justice, Government Schemes)

Relevance

India's health strategy combines primary healthcare, financial protection, digital health and critical-care infrastructure.

Overview

1. Universal Health Coverage aims at accessible, affordable and quality healthcare for all.
2. Ayushman Bharat combines primary healthcare and financial protection.

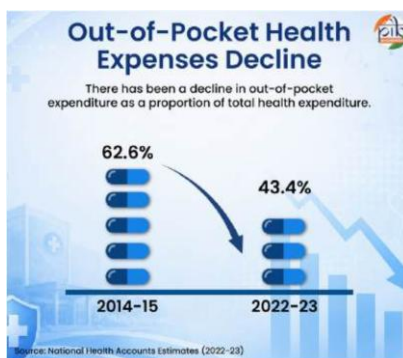
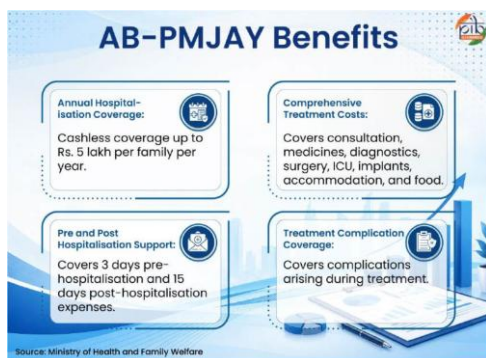
Key Aspects

1. AB PM-JAY, launched on 23 September 2018, provides **cashless hospitalisation** cover of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year. It was extended on 11 September 2024 to all senior citizens aged 70 and above (about 6 crore people). As of 31 August 2026 it has funded about 13.25 crore hospital admissions worth ₹2.03 lakh crore through 38,000+ empanelled hospitals.

2. **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs** provide community-level healthcare.
3. **e-Sanjeevani** enables telemedicine; 50+ crore teleconsultations by Sept 2026.
4. ABDM creates a **national digital health ecosystem**.
5. 97.61+ crore ABHA IDs and 119.95+ crore linked health records.
6. **PM-ABHIM**, launched on 25 October 2021 with a budget of ₹64,180 crore (2021-26), strengthens health infrastructure, disease surveillance and research, including critical-care hospital blocks (631 planned) in districts with a population above 5 lakh.
7. AYUSH integration expands the continuum of care.
8. **540+ crore AAM footfall**.
9. **5.78 lakh verified health facilities**.
10. **11 lakh+ healthcare professionals** in the digital-health ecosystem.

Significance

1. Improves accessibility and affordability.
2. Strengthens preventive and primary healthcare.
3. Digital infrastructure improves continuity of care.



Keywords

UHC, Ayushman Bharat, AAM, ABDM, ABHA, e-Sanjeevani, PM-ABHIM

PYQ:

1. 2024, GS-II — “In a crucial domain like the public healthcare system, the Indian State should play a vital role to contain the adverse impact of marketisation of the system. Suggest some measures through which the State can enhance the reach of public healthcare at the grassroots level.”
2. 2015, GS-II — “The public health system has limitations in providing universal health coverage. Do you think that the private sector could help in bridging the gap? What other viable alternatives would you suggest?”

41. IMEI Tampering

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Internal Security, Cyber Security, Telecom)

Relevance

IMEI integrity is important for device identification, telecom security and digital sovereignty.

Overview

1. IMEI is a **unique** 15-digit number **identifying a mobile device**.
2. First 8 digits form the Type Allocation Code (TAC).

Key Aspects

1. GSMA oversees global allocation of TACs.
2. **Dual-SIM phones** generally have **two IMEI numbers**.
3. Users can check IMEI using ***#06#**.
4. IMEI can be verified on the Sanchar Saathi portal or app, or by sending KYM <15-digit IMEI> by SMS to 14422. A lost or stolen phone can be blocked through Sanchar Saathi (CEIR) by submitting a police report and valid ID proof.
5. Tampering can facilitate operation of devices with altered identities.
6. The Telecommunications Act, 2023 provides for stringent action against tampering with telecom identifiers, including the IMEI of mobile handsets and other telecom devices.

Significance

1. Prevents misuse of mobile devices.
2. Supports law-enforcement and network security.
3. Strengthens digital sovereignty.

Keywords

IMEI, TAC, GSMA, Sanchar Saathi, Telecom Security, Digital Sovereignty

PYQ:

1. 2024, GS-III — "Social media and encrypting messaging services pose a serious security challenge. What measures have been adopted at various levels to address the security implications of social media? Also suggest any other remedies to address the problem."
2. 2020, GS-III — "Discuss different types of cyber crimes and measures required to be taken to fight the menace."



42. From Green Stems to Green Enterprises

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Agriculture, Environment, Rural Economy)

Relevance

Bamboo-based enterprises can combine rural livelihoods, sustainability and value addition.

Overview

1. Bamboo is a fast-growing renewable resource with applications across multiple industries.
2. India has significant bamboo resources and livelihood potential.

Key Aspects

1. Bamboo supports handicrafts, furniture, construction, food and industrial products.
2. Value addition can increase **rural incomes**.

3. Bamboo-based products can **substitute** some conventional materials.
4. Supports sustainable and **circular production**.
5. Entrepreneurship and skill development can create **rural employment**.
6. Links **agriculture, tribal livelihoods and green enterprise**.
7. **Gadchiroli Agarbatti Project**: 32 centres, ~1,100 workers, nearly **90% women**.
8. Women's earnings ~₹5,000/month; employment increased to **225+ days/year**.
9. **42 lakh sq ft** engineered bamboo structures.
10. **Bamboo training** also supports women SHGs, handicrafts and entrepreneurship.

Significance

1. Promotes sustainable livelihoods.
2. Supports rural and tribal entrepreneurship.
3. Encourages low-carbon alternatives.

Case study

1. **Gadchiroli Agarbatti Project**: 32 centres, ~1,100 workers, nearly **90% women**.
2. **576 school rooms in Chhattisgarh**, benefiting ~20,000 children.

Keywords

Bamboo, Green Enterprise, Value Addition, Rural Livelihoods, Sustainable Development

PYQ

1. 2025, GS-III — "Examine the scope of the food processing industries in India. Elaborate the measures taken by the government in the food processing industries for generating employment opportunities."
2. 2017, GS-III — "What are the reasons for poor acceptance of cost effective small processing unit? How the food processing unit will be helpful to uplift the socio-economic status of poor farmers?"

43. India International Water Week 2026

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Government Policies); GS-III (Water Resources, Environment)

Relevance

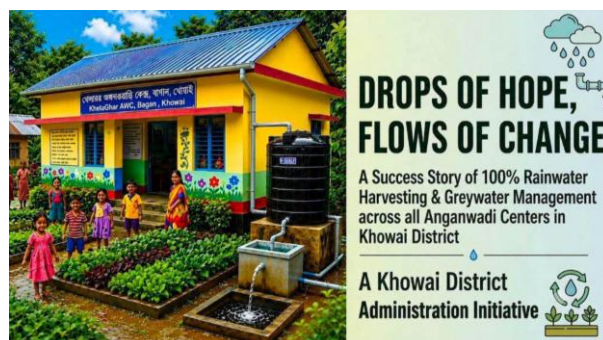
Focuses on integrated water management, water security and climate resilience.

Overview

1. India International Water Week provides a platform for global dialogue on water.
2. Emphasises water security from local/community action to national planning.

Key Aspects

1. **Integrated** water-resource management.
2. **Groundwater** conservation and recharge.
3. Water-use **efficiency** and **reuse**.
4. Climate-resilient water **infrastructure**.
5. Community **participation** in water governance.
6. International **cooperation** on water technologies and management.
7. **22–26 Sept 2026, New Delhi**.
8. Theme: **"Water Security, From the Ground Up."**



9. Groundwater recharge: **432 BCM (2017) → 448.52 BCM (2025)**.
10. Key initiatives: JSA, Catch the Rain, Atal Bhujal, Mission Amrit Sarovar, JSJB, **NAQUIM 2.0**.

Significance

1. Addresses water scarcity and climate risks.
2. Promotes sustainable water governance.
3. Supports SDG-6 and long-term water security.

Keywords

IIWW 2026, Water Security, IWRM, Groundwater, Water Use Efficiency, SDG-6

PYQ:

1. 2025, GS-III — "Examine the factors responsible for depleting groundwater in India. What are the steps taken by the government to mitigate such depletion of groundwater?"
2. 2024, GS-III — "What are the major challenges faced by the Indian irrigation system in recent times? State the measures taken by the government for efficient irrigation management."
3. 2013, GS-III — "Enumerate the National Water Policy of India. Taking river Ganges as an example, discuss the strategies which may be adopted for river water pollution control and management. What are the legal provisions for management and handling of hazardous wastes in India?"

44. Literacy for All

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Education, Social Justice)

Relevance

ULLAS seeks to achieve functional literacy and lifelong learning among adults.

Overview

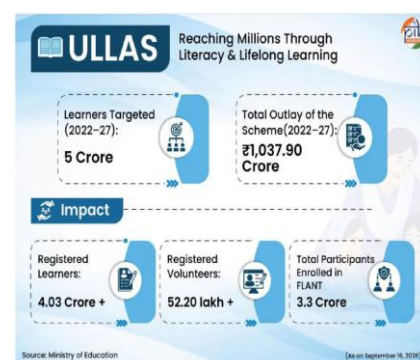
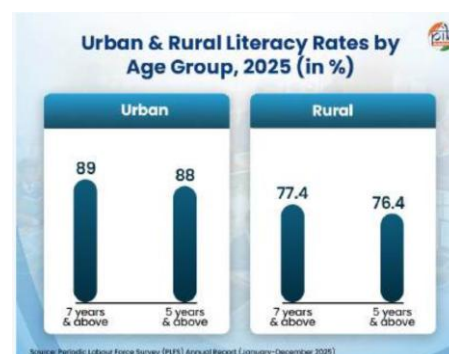
1. **ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society)** is the New India Literacy Programme, centrally sponsored, 2022-27, ₹1,037.90cr, targeting 5 crore learners.
2. Focuses on **literacy**, **life skills** and **continuing education**.

Key Aspects

1. **Literacy**: 18.32% (1951) → 74.04% (2011).
2. **Male**: 27.15% → 82.14%; **female**: 8.86% → 65.46%.
3. **PLFS 2025 overall literacy**: 81.1%.
4. **ULLAS targets** 15+ years, functional literacy, numeracy, critical life skills and lifelong learning.
5. **ULLAS App** available in 27 languages.
6. FLNAT followed by evaluation/certification.
7. **95% literacy** in a State/UT is treated as full literacy.

Significance

1. Improves employability and empowerment.
2. Supports social and financial inclusion.
3. Strengthens lifelong learning.



Keywords

ULLAS, Adult Education, Literacy, Foundational Literacy, Lifelong Learning

PYQ:

1. 2021, GS-II — “Has digital illiteracy, particularly in rural areas, coupled with lack of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility hindered socio-economic development? Examine with justification.”
2. 2022, GS-II — “The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 remains inadequate in promoting an incentive-based system for children's education without generating awareness about the importance of schooling. Analyse.”

45. Greener Festivities

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Environment, Pollution, Sustainable Development)

Relevance

Eco-friendly festivals can reduce waste, pollution and resource consumption.

Overview

1. Focuses on making celebrations environmentally sustainable.
2. Promotes community participation and responsible consumption.

Key Aspects

1. **Swachh Diwali Shubh Diwali** + 3Rs.
2. Women SHGs making **earthen diyas**.

Significance

1. Reduces festival-related **pollution**.
2. Encourages **sustainable lifestyles**.
3. Converts environmental **awareness** into **public participation**.

Case study

1. **Delhi**: katraan → streamers, cardboard → selfie frames, ice-cream sticks → decorations.
2. Guwahati: banana leaves → **elephant feed**.
3. Jhalrapatan: **Nirmalya Vahan** → **compost**.
4. Patna: **zero-waste Chhath**, separate bins, composting and plastic ban.

Keywords

Green Festivities, Eco-friendly Idols, Waste Segregation, Plastic Reduction, Sustainable Lifestyle

PYQ:

1. 2015, GS-II — "Does the right to clean environment entail legal regulations on burning crackers during Diwali? Discuss in the light of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution and Judgement(s) of the Apex Court in this regard."

46. From Waste to Purpose: Plastic

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Environment, Pollution, Waste Management)

Relevance

Indian cities are increasingly focusing on plastic segregation, recycling and circular use.

Overview

1. Plastic waste management is shifting from **disposal** towards **recovery and resource use**.
2. Cities are adopting **segregation, collection, recycling and reuse** systems.

Key Aspects

1. **Source segregation** is essential for plastic recovery.
2. Material **recovery** facilities improve **sorting and recycling**.
3. Recycled plastic can enter **new product value chains**.
4. **Extended Producer Responsibility** promotes producer accountability.
5. Plastic waste can also be used in roads and other **applications** where appropriate.
6. **Circular economy** reduces dependence on virgin plastic.



Case study:

1. Bengaluru: Project Prithvi/Swachhata Kendra → plastic recovery; processed plastic used for roads, agricultural pipes and furniture.
2. Patiala: multilayer plastic → chipboards.
3. Facility capacity 10 tonnes/day, producing 75–100 chipboards/day.
4. Main lesson: difficult plastic can enter a circular economy instead of landfill.

Significance

1. Reduces plastic pollution.
2. Creates economic value from waste.
3. Supports resource efficiency and circular economy.

Keywords

Plastic Waste, EPR, Recycling, MRF, Circular Economy, Source Segregation

PYQ:

1. 2018, GS-III — "What are the impediments in disposing the huge quantities of discarded solid wastes which are continuously being generated? How do we remove safely the toxic wastes that have been accumulating in our habitable environment?"

47. Beyond the Fab

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Semiconductors, Science & Technology, Industry)

Relevance

A semiconductor ecosystem requires capabilities beyond chip fabrication.

Overview

1. “Beyond the Fab” highlights the **wider semiconductor value chain**.
2. Includes **packaging, materials, equipment, design and supporting industries**.

Key Aspects

1. **Gujarat** has 6 of 12 Semicon 1.0 projects.
2. 200-bed hospital under construction.
3. IB curriculum school.
4. Investor accommodation.
5. Fire station completed; food court completed.
6. Residential/commercial development, Tent City and hotel.

Significance

1. Creates an end-to-end ecosystem.
2. Reduces external supply-chain vulnerabilities.
3. Enables higher domestic value addition.

Keywords

Fab, ATMP, OSAT, Semiconductor Materials, Equipment, Chip Design, Semicon 2.0



48. When Swachhata Becomes Shared Faith

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Social Participation, Governance); GS-III (Environment)

Relevance

Faith institutions can become important partners in sanitation and cleanliness.

Overview

1. Swachhata is being extended beyond government programmes into community and faith-based participation.
2. Religious institutions can influence behaviour at large scale.

Key Aspects

1. **Ancient sanitation traditions:** Indus Valley/Lothal drainage, cleanliness in Vedic/Buddhist traditions.
2. **Pilgrimage sanitation** → pilgrims as participants, not merely users.
3. Waste is **segregated, documented and recycled**.



Image 1: Drainage channels brining in waste-water from households in Lothal

Significance

1. Converts **Swachhata** into a **social movement**.
2. Strengthens **Jan Bhagidari**.
3. Connects **cleanliness** with **dignity and community responsibility**.

Case study

1. Hyderabad Project Udvasana for religious waste.
2. ISKCON Jubilee Hills pilot: 66 kg → 443 kg → 753.59 kg collected across phases; third phase covered 6 temples/124 devotees.
3. Amarnath Yatra (4 lakh+ pilgrims in 2025) was aligned with SBM-U 2.0, with scientific waste management and plastic-free practices. The goal is a zero-landfill Yatra.

Keywords

Swachhata, Jan Bhagidari, Behaviour Change, Faith Institutions, SBM

PYQ:

1. 2022, GS-II — "Do you agree with the view that increasing dependence on donor agencies for development reduces the importance of community participation in the development process? Justify your answer."
2. 2016, GS-II — "Effectiveness of the government system at various levels and people's participation in the governance system are inter-dependent. Discuss their relationship with each other in context of India."

49. Care That Goes Beyond the Prescription

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Health, Social Justice, Affordable Healthcare)

Relevance

Affordable healthcare requires access not only to medicines but also to surgical, medical and supportive-care products.

Overview

1. PMBJP provides affordable **generic medicines** through **Jan Aushadhi Kendras**.
2. The initiative is expanding towards a **wider healthcare basket**.

Key Aspects

1. 20,000+ **Janaushadhi Kendras**.
2. 2,110 medicines and 315 surgical/medical consumables and devices as of August 2026.
3. **Estimated citizen savings** of ₹37,200 crore.
4. **Products include** glucometer strips, pulse oximeters, nebulisers and adult diapers.
5. **Jan Aushadhi Swabhiman** provides affordable adult diapers.

Significance

1. Reduces **out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure**.
2. Expands **affordable** healthcare beyond medicines.
3. Supports **dignity** and **long-term family caregiving**.



Keywords

PMBJP, Janaushadhi Kendra, Generic Medicines, Jan Aushadhi Swabhimani, Healthcare Affordability

PYQ:

1. 2024, GS-II — "In a crucial domain like the public healthcare system, the Indian State should play a vital role to contain the adverse impact of marketisation of the system. Suggest some measures through which the State can enhance the reach of public healthcare at the grassroots level."
2. 2022, GS-III — "The increase in life expectancy in the country has led to newer health challenges in the community. What are those challenges and what steps need to be taken to meet them?"
3. 2020, GS-II — "In order to enhance the prospects of social development, sound and adequate health care policies are needed particularly in the fields of geriatric and maternal health care. Discuss."

50. UPSC: A Century of Meritocracy and Inclusion

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Constitutional Bodies, Civil Services, Governance)

Relevance

UPSC completes 100 years on 1 October 2026. Its constitutional basis, functions and reforms are core GS-II.

Overview

1. 1 Oct 1926: the **first Public Service Commission** was set up under the **PSC (Functions) Rules 1926** (Sections 96B/96C, GoI Act 1919), following the **Lee Commission (1924)**. It was **advisory**, and **Sir Ross Barker was its first Chairman**.
2. The **GoI Act 1935** created the **Federal PSC (1937)**, which became the UPSC on 26 Jan 1950. Its basis is **Part XIV** (Articles 315–323). Ambedkar moved the draft articles on 22 Aug 1949.

Key Aspects

1. Articles:

- 315: PSCs for Union and States (Joint PSC possible).
- 316: appointed by the President.
- 317: removal only by the President after a Supreme Court inquiry.
- 318: regulations on service conditions.
- 319: bar on further government employment (Chairman ineligible for any).
- 320: functions (exams; advice on recruitment, promotion, discipline).
- 321: Parliament or Legislature may extend functions.
- 322: expenses charged on the Consolidated Fund.
- 323: annual report to the President, laid before Parliament with reasons where advice was not accepted.

- ##### 2. Functions:
- recruitment by examination (CSE, IFoS, ESE, CMS, NDA/NA, CDS, CAPF-AC) and by selection. It advises on recruitment rules, DPCs, All India Services induction and disciplinary cases, and empanels DGP candidates (Prakash Singh, 2006).

3. Reforms:

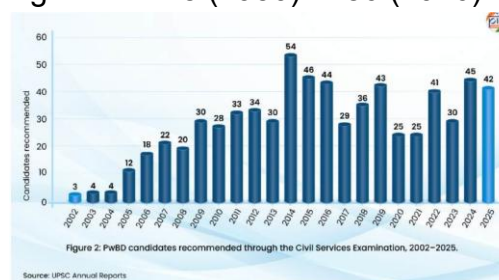
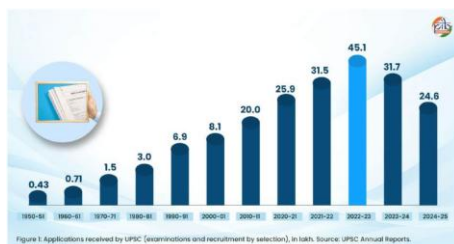
- **Kothari Committee** → three-stage CSE (Prelims, Mains, Interview) from 1979.

- **Satish Chandra Committee** (1988–89) → Essay paper (1993).
- CSAT 2011.
- 2013 Mains: four GS papers including Ethics, plus one optional.
- 2015: CSAT qualified (33%).
- 2014: age limits 32/35/37 and extra attempts.

4. Inclusion:

- Women recommended: 3.6% (1952) → 31.2% (CSE 2025).
- First women admitted to the NDA exam in 2021.
- Indian languages allowed in the interview since 1980-81.

5. Technology: AI face authentication at CS (Prelims) 2026 on 24 May 2026, for ~5.5 lakh candidates at 6–8 seconds each. Examination centres grew from 8 (1950) to 86 (2026).



Significance

1. Merit-based recruitment backed by constitutional independence (security of tenure, expenses charged on the Consolidated Fund).
2. A century of widening access (women, SC/ST, regional languages).

Case study

1. AI face authentication at CS (Prelims) 2026 (~5.5 lakh candidates).
2. Satyendranath Tagore, Rabindranath Tagore's elder brother, was the first Indian in the ICS: he cleared the exam in 1863 and joined in 1864.
3. Question papers come from anonymous expert question banks on a "need to know" principle, so not even the Chairman sees the full picture.
4. Recruitment at speed: a Special Recruitment Board for IAS/IPS (July 1948), 197 scientists selected (1958), and 1,353 defence posts filled in two months during the 1962 emergency.

Keywords:

Arts 315–323, Part XIV, Lee Commission, Federal PSC, Kothari Committee, Satish Chandra Committee, CSAT

PYQ

1. 2026, GS-II — "Analyse the advantages and limitations of the generalist structure of the Indian Civil Services in contemporary governance."
2. 2020, GS-II — "Institutional quality is a crucial driver of economic performance. In this context suggest reforms in Civil Service for strengthening democracy."
3. 2017, GS-II — "Initially Civil Services in India were designed to achieve the goals of neutrality and effectiveness, which seems to be lacking in the present context. Do you agree with the view that drastic reforms are required in Civil Services. Comment."

51. Women and Transgender Changemakers of Swachhta

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Social Justice, Women Empowerment); GS-III (Waste Management)

Relevance

Swachhata programmes are creating livelihood and leadership opportunities for women and transgender communities.

Overview

1. Sanitation work is increasingly linked with **dignity, livelihoods and social inclusion**.
2. **Women's groups and transgender communities** are participating in sanitation services.

Key Aspects

1. **Patna Pink MRF**: 2 tonnes dry + 1.5 tonnes wet waste/day.
2. **Mobile Pink Toilets** from old vehicles.
3. 60-member **Swachhata Kitty Group**, ₹100/month/member.
4. **Uttarakhand Bainni Sena**: 57 groups, 570 women.
5. **Odisha**: transgender SHGs in FSSM/SWM; Bhubaneswar 75-KLD FSTP operated by **Swikruti SHG**.

Significance

1. Links sanitation with livelihood generation.
2. Promotes dignity and inclusion of marginalised communities.
3. Demonstrates inclusive urban governance.

Case study

Bhopal (250 women, Bartan Banks);

Keywords

Swachhata, Women SHGs, Transgender Inclusion, Livelihoods, Sanitation Workers, PPE

PYQ:

1. 2026, GS-II — “The right to privacy relating to self-identity is very dear to every human being and well protected under Article 21 of the Constitution. In this context, examine the effect of the amendment in 2026 to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.”
2. 2025, GS-II — “Women's social capital complements and supplements enhancing empowerment and gender equity. Explain.”
3. 2021, GS-II — “Though women in post-Independent India have excelled in various fields, the social attitude towards women and the feminist movement has been patriarchal. Apart from women education and women empowerment schemes, what interventions can help change this mindset?”

52. Beyond Wastewater: Turning Used Water into a Resource

Syllabus Mapping GS-III (Water Management, Environment, Urbanisation)

Relevance

Used-water treatment and reuse can reduce freshwater demand and support circular urban water management.

Overview

1. Used Water Management under SBM-U focuses on collection, treatment and safe reuse.

2. Water Plus certification promotes scientific wastewater management.

Key Aspects

1. Sewage Treatment Plants are central to **treatment** and **reuse**.
2. Treated water can be **reused** in irrigation, industry, horticulture and urban services.
3. Treated-water reuse **reduces freshwater dependence**.
4. **5 MLD sold** → ₹6 lakh/month revenue.

Significance

1. Promotes **circular water economy**.
2. Reduces **pollution** of water bodies.
3. Converts wastewater into a **valuable resource**.

Case study

1. Navi Mumbai and Surat demonstrate large-scale reuse of treated wastewater - Surat: **4 tertiary treatment plants, 116 MLD combined capacity** Navi Mumbai: **100% mechanised sewer/septic-tank cleaning**.
2. Tirupati's 50 MLD STP reuses 24 MLD treated water.
3. Tirupati sells 5 MLD and supplies 18 MLD free to farmers.

Keywords

Used Water Management, Water Plus, STP, Wastewater Reuse, Circular Water Economy

PYQ:

1. 2025, GS-III — "Examine the factors responsible for depleting groundwater in India. What are the steps taken by the government to mitigate such depletion of groundwater?"
2. 2024, GS-III — "Industrial pollution of river water is a significant environmental issue in India. Discuss the various mitigation measures to deal with this problem and also the government's initiatives in this regard."

53. Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026

Syllabus Mapping GS-II (Polity, Judiciary, Legal Framework); GS-III (Digital Economy)

Relevance

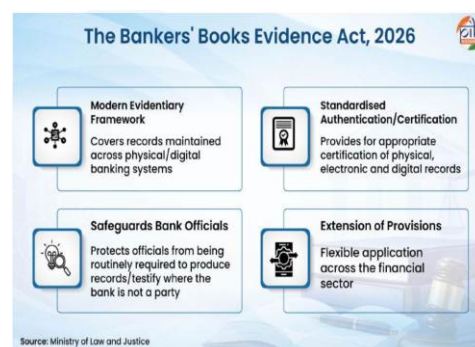
The Act modernises evidentiary rules for banking records in the digital era.

Overview

1. Comes into force on 1 October 2026.
2. **Replaces the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891.**
3. Creates a technology-neutral framework for physical, electronic and digital banking records.

Key Aspects

1. Electronic/digital bank records can be admitted as **evidence** subject to authenticity and integrity safeguards.
2. Provides **standardised authentication and certification**.
3. Certified copies can generally prove bank records without producing originals.
4. Bank officials are **protected** from routine appearance when the bank is not a party.



5. The court may require production/oral evidence in specified circumstances through written order.
6. Can be extended to **specified financial-sector entities**.
7. "Bankers' books" includes ledgers, day-books, cash-books, account books and other ordinary business records.

Significance

1. Aligns evidence law with digital banking.
2. Improves procedural efficiency in legal proceedings.
3. Strengthens safeguards for electronic financial records.

Keywords

Bankers' Books Evidence Act 2026, Digital Records, Evidence, Authentication, Certification, Digital Banking

PYQ:

1. 2025, GS-II — "e-Governance projects have a built-in bias towards technology and back-end integration than user-centric designs. Examine."
2. 2013, GS-III — "What is digital signature? What does its authentication mean? Give various salient built-in features of a digital signature."