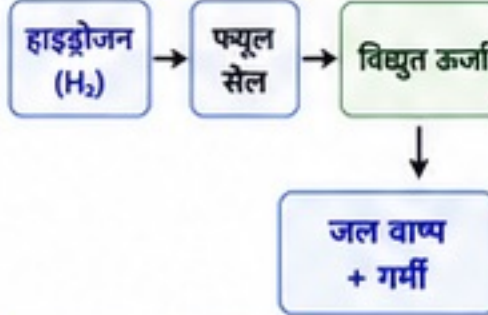


1

भारत की पहली हाइड्रोजन फ्यूल सेल ट्रेन

- लगभग 2,600 यात्रियों की क्षमता वाली भारत की पहली हाइड्रोजन ट्रेन का अनावरण।
- हाइड्रोजन फ्यूल सेल द्वारा संचालित।
- केवल जल बाष्प उत्सर्जन, कोई धुआँ नहीं।
- गैर-विद्युतीकृत मार्गों के लिए उपयुक्त।
- कम शोर, उच्च दक्षता, हरित गतिशीलता को बढ़ावा।
- भारत की ग्रीन मोबिलिटी परिवर्तन यात्रा में महत्वपूर्ण कदम।



मूल्य संवर्धन:

नेशनल ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन मिशन (2023) के तहत भारत को वैश्विक ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन हब बनाने का लक्ष्य।

मुख्य शब्द:

हाइड्रोजन, फ्यूल सेल, ग्रीन मोबिलिटी, नेट जीरो, NHA

2

समावेशी विकास के लिए ग्रामीण ऋण को सशक्त बनाना

- कृषि निवेश, मशीनीकरण, सिंचाई और ग्रामीण उद्यमिता के लिए ऋण आवश्यक।
- संस्थागत स्रोत: NABARD, वाणिज्यिक बैंक, क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक, सहकारी बैंक।
- प्रमुख योजनाएँ: KCC, AIF, व्याज सुविधि योजना, SHG-BLP।
- ग्रामीण ऋण सुलभता बढ़ाकर ग्रामीण ऋणभार (Debt Trap) को कम करता है।
- समावेशी व सतत ग्रामीण विकास में सहायक।
- चुनौतियाँ: अनौपचारिक ऋण पर निर्भरता, भूमिहीन व किरायेदार किसानों का बहिष्कार, क्षेत्रीय असमानता।



मूल्य संवर्धन:

सस्ती संस्थागत ऋण से आर्य असमानता, ग्रामीण ऋणभार और पलायन में कमी।

मुख्य शब्द:

ग्रामीण ऋण, NABARD, KCC, AIF, SHG-BLP, समावेशी विकास

3

PARIVARTAN योजना – NCR में पुराने वाहनों का प्रतिस्थापन

- NCR में पुराने ट्रकों और बसों को बदलने के लिए दिशा-निर्देश स्वीकृत।
- उद्देश्य: वाहन प्रदूषण में कमी और स्वच्छ वायु को बढ़ावा।
- NCAP, BS-VI मानक और वाहन स्क्रेपेज नीति के साथ संरेखित।
- लाभ: बेहतर जन स्वास्थ्य, जलवायु शमन, स्वच्छ परिवहन।
- प्रोत्साहन + चरणबद्ध प्रतिस्थापन दृष्टिकोण।
- पुराने डीजल वाहनों से PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, NOx का उच्च उत्सर्जन।



मूल्य संवर्धन:

स्वच्छ परिवहन टिकाऊ शहरीकरण और जलवायु कार्रवाई की कुंजी है।

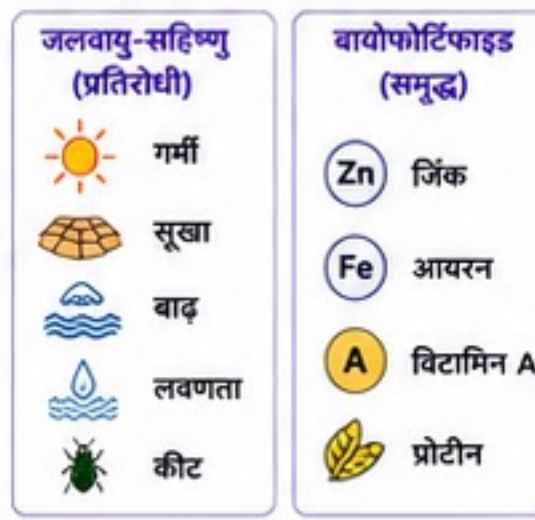
मुख्य शब्द:

PARIVARTAN, NCAP, BS-VI, स्क्रेपेज नीति, NCR, वायु प्रदूषण

4

जलवायु-सहिष्णु और बायोफोर्टिफाइड फसल किस्में

- ICAR ने 94 जलवायु-सहिष्णु और 29 बायोफोर्टिफाइड किस्में विकसित कीं।
- जलवायु-सहिष्णु: गर्मी, सूखा, बाढ़, लवणता और कीटों के प्रति सहनशील।
- बायोफोर्टिफाइड: ज़िंक, आयरन, विटामिन A और प्रोटीन से समृद्ध।
- पोषण सुरक्षा, जलवायु अनुकूलन और कृषि उत्पादकता में वृद्धि।
- टिकाऊ कृषि और किसानों की आय वृद्धि में सहायक।



मूल्य संवर्धन:

जलवायु परिवर्तन के दौर में पोषण सुरक्षा और खाद्य सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करती है।

मुख्य शब्द:

ICAR, बायोफोर्टिफिकेशन, जलवायु सहिष्णुता, पोषण सुरक्षा, सतत कृषि

5

वाटरशेड नियोजन के लिए सैटेलाइट और ड्रोन सर्वे

- राष्ट्रीय वर्षा आधारित क्षेत्र प्राधिकारी द्वारा REWARD कार्यक्रम के तहत सर्वे।
- तकनीक: रिमोट सेंसिंग, GIS, ड्रोन और सैटेलाइट मैपिंग।
- जलग्रहण क्षेत्र नियोजन, मुदा नमी आकलन और जल संसाधन प्रबंधन में सहायक।
- जल संचयन संरचनाओं की योजना और निगरानी।
- भूमि क्षरण और जल असंतुलन की निगरानी में मदद।
- सटीक एवं डिजिटल कृषि को बढ़ावा।



मूल्य संवर्धन:

जल उपयोग दक्षता, जलवायु अनुकूलन और सतत कृषि को सशक्त बनाता है।

मुख्य शब्द:

REWARD, रिमोट सेंसिंग, GIS, ड्रोन, वाटरशेड प्रबंधन, प्रिंसिपल एग्रीकल्चर

6

कोडेक्स आयोग ने मसालों के लिए तीन वैश्विक मानक अपनाए

- कोडेक्स आयोग ने मसालों के लिए तीन वैश्विक मानक अपनाए।
- कोडेक्स: FAO और WHO का संयुक्त निकाय।
- अंतराष्ट्रीय खाद्य मानक निर्धारित करता है।
- खाद्य सुरक्षा, गुणवत्ता और उपभोक्ता संरक्षण सुनिश्चित करता है।
- व्यापार में बाधाएँ कम करता है और निर्यात को बढ़ावा देता है।
- WTO-SPS समझौते के तहत संदर्भ मानक के रूप में मान्यता प्राप्त।



मूल्य संवर्धन:

'Vocal for Local' और वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धा को बढ़ाकर कृषि निर्यात को प्रोत्साहन।

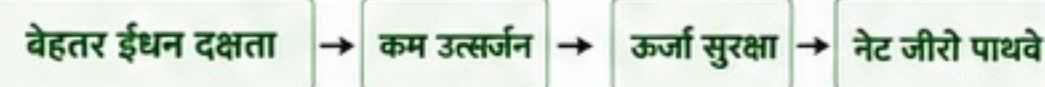
मुख्य शब्द:

कोडेक्स, FAO, WHO, खाद्य मानक, WTO-SPS, मसाला निर्यात

7

ड्राफ्ट CAFE-III मानक (कांपोरेट एवरेज फ्यूल इकॉनमी)

- हितधारक परामर्श हेतु ड्राफ्ट मानक जारी।
- वाहनों की औसत ईंधन दक्षता में सुधार।
- ईंधन खपत और उत्सर्जन में कमी।
- तेल आयात घटाकर ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को सुदृढ़ करता है।
- भारत स्टेज मानक और EV संक्रमण के साथ संरेखित।
- भारत के नेट जीरो लक्ष्य की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण कदम।



मूल्य संवर्धन:

परिवहन क्षेत्र भारत के डीकार्बोनाइजेशन लक्ष्यों की कुंजी है।

मुख्य शब्द:

CAFE, ईंधन दक्षता, डीकार्बोनाइजेशन, ऊर्जा सुरक्षा, EV

8

राष्ट्रपति का लेख – महाप्रभु जगन्नाथ में उनकी आस्था

- राष्ट्रपति ने महाप्रभु जगन्नाथ में अपनी आस्था और आध्यात्मिक अनुभव साझा किए।
- पुरी (ओडिशा) स्थित जगन्नाथ मंदिर – चार धामों में से एक।
- 12वीं शताब्दी में पूर्वी गंगा वंश के अर्जुनदेव चोड़गंगा देव द्वारा निर्मित।
- रथ यात्रा – आषाढ़ मास में विश्व का सबसे बड़ा धार्मिक उत्सवों में से एक।
- समावेशिता, समानता और भक्ति परंपरा का प्रतीक।
- ओडिशी नृत्य, पटचित्र कला और स्थानीय अर्थव्यवस्था पर गहरा प्रभाव।



मूल्य संवर्धन:

जगन्नाथ परंपरा भारत की जीवंत सांस्कृतिक धरोहर, धर्म, कला, वास्तुकला और पर्यटन का अद्भुत संगम है।

मुख्य शब्द:

जगन्नाथ, पुरी, रथ यात्रा, चार धाम, पूर्वी गंगा वंश, समावेशिता, ओडिशा

9

भविष्य के युद्ध में भी आवश्यक है सीमा अवसंरचना

- सीमा अवसंरचना राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के लिए महत्वपूर्ण।
- सैन्य लॉजिस्टिक्स, त्वरित तैनाती और सीमा निगरानी में मदद।
- आपदा प्रतिक्रिया और सीमावर्ती विकास के लिए अनिवार्य।
- प्रमुख भूमिका: बॉर्डर रोड्स ऑर्गनाइजेशन (BRO)।
- आधुनिक युद्ध के लिए भौतिक अवसंरचना के साथ ड्रोन, AI, उपग्रह और साइबर क्षमताओं का एकीकरण आवश्यक।



मूल्य संवर्धन:

मजबूत सीमा अवसंरचना = मजबूत सुरक्षा, कनेक्टिविटी और राष्ट्रीय एकता।

मुख्य शब्द:

सीमा अवसंरचना, BRO, लॉजिस्टिक्स, राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा, भविष्य युद्ध, AI, ड्रोन

अन्य महत्वपूर्ण एक-पंक्ति समसामागिकी



IMD: ओडिशा में अगले 7 दिनों तक अत्यधिक भारी वर्षा का पूर्वानुमान, रेड अलर्ट जारी।



भारत और जापान ने रक्षा संबंधों की समीक्षा की और 2+2 संवाद के लिए तैयारी की।



सुप्रीम कोर्ट: नागरिकता संबंधी निर्णय 'निष्पक्ष, विधिसम्मत' होने चाहिए।



जून 2026 में खुदरा मुद्रास्फोति RBI के 4% लक्ष्य से बढ़कर 4.4% पर पहुँची।

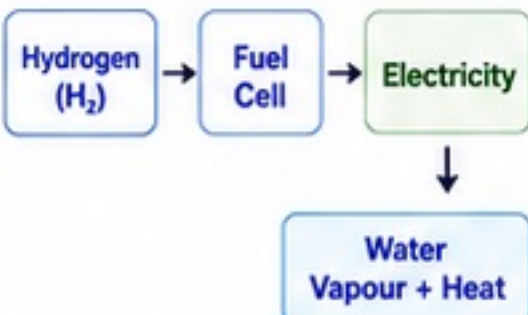


अध्ययन: परमाणु अपशिष्ट जल को फिल्टर करने की कुशल विधि विकसित हुई।

1

India's First Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train

- India unveils first Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train.
- Carries around 2,600 passengers.
- Emits only water vapour, no tailpipe emissions.
- Suitable for non-electrified routes.
- Low noise, high efficiency.
- Supports India's green mobility transition.



Value Addition:
Supports National Green Hydrogen Mission (2023) – India as global Green Hydrogen hub.

Keywords:
Hydrogen, Fuel Cell, Green Mobility, Net Zero, NHA

2

Strengthening Rural Credit for Inclusive Growth

- Credit enables investment in agriculture, allied activities & rural enterprise.
- Institutions: NABARD, Commercial Banks, RRBs, Cooperative Banks.
- Key schemes: KCC, AIF, Interest Subvention, SHG-BLP.
- Reduces rural indebtedness & supports inclusive growth.
- Challenges: Informal credit reliance, tenant exclusion.
- Ensures sustainable rural development.



Value Addition:
Affordable credit reduces distress migration & income inequality.

Keywords:
Rural Credit, NABARD, KCC, SHG-BLP, Inclusive Growth

3

PARIVARTAN Scheme – Replacing Old Vehicles in NCR

- Guidelines approved for replacing old trucks & buses in NCR.
- Aims to reduce vehicular pollution & improve air quality.
- Targets end-of-life commercial vehicles.
- Aligns with NCAP, BS-VI norms & Vehicle Scrappage Policy.
- Benefits: Better public health, climate mitigation, clean transport.
- Uses incentive + phase replacement approach.



Value Addition:
Cleaner transport is key to sustainable urbanisation & climate action.

Keywords:
PARIVARTAN, NCAP, BS-VI, Scrappage Policy, NCR

4

Climate-Resilient & Biofortified Crop Varieties

- ICAR developed 94 climate-resilient & 29 biofortified varieties.
- Climate-resilient: tolerant to heat, drought, flood, salinity & pests.
- Biofortified: higher in Zinc, Iron, Vitamin A & Protein.
- Strengthens nutrition security.
- Enhances productivity & farmer resilience.
- Supports sustainable & climate-smart agriculture.



Value Addition:
Ensures food & nutrition security in the face of climate change.

Keywords:
ICAR, Biofortification, Climate Resilience, Nutrition Security

5

Satellite & Drone Survey for Watershed Planning

- National Rainfed Area Authority survey under REWARD Programme.
- Uses Remote Sensing, GIS, Drones & Satellite Mapping.
- Helps in watershed planning & soil moisture assessment.
- Supports water harvesting & crop planning.
- Monitors land degradation & water resource management.
- Promotes precision & digital agriculture.



Value Addition:
Enhances water-use efficiency & climate adaptation in agriculture.

Keywords:
REWARD, Remote Sensing, GIS, Drones, Watershed Management

6

Codex Commission Adopts Three Global Standards for Spices

- Codex Commission adopted three global standards for spices.
- Codex: Joint body of FAO & WHO.
- Sets international food standards.
- Ensures food safety, quality & consumer protection.
- Reduces trade barriers & boosts spice exports.
- Codex standards are reference standards under WTO-SPS.



Value Addition:
Supports 'Vocal for Local' & strengthens global competitiveness.

Keywords:
Codex, FAO, WHO, Food Standards, WTO-SPS

7

Draft CAFE-III Norms (Corporate Average Fuel Economy)

- Draft norms issued for stakeholder consultation.
- Improves average fuel efficiency of vehicles.
- Lowers fuel consumption & emissions.
- Reduces oil imports & improves energy security.
- Aligns with Bharat Stage norms & EV transition.
- Key step towards India's Net Zero goal.



Value Addition:
Transport sector key to India's decarbonisation goals.

Keywords:
CAFE, Fuel Efficiency, Decarbonisation, Energy Security

8

President's Article on Mahaprabhu Jagannath

- Reflects on her faith in Mahaprabhu Jagannath.
- Jagannath Temple, Puri (Odisha) – one of the Char Dham.
- Built in 12th century by Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva of Eastern Ganga Dynasty.
- Rath Yatra in Ashadha – one of the world's largest processions.
- Symbol of inclusiveness, equality & Bhakti tradition.
- Influences Odissi dance, Pattachitra art & local economy.



Value Addition:
Living cultural heritage blending faith, art, architecture & tourism.

Keywords:
Jagannath, Puri, Rath Yatra, Eastern Ganga, Bhakti, Heritage

9

Border Infrastructure to Remain Indispensable in Future Warfare

- Strong border infrastructure remains critical.
- Facilitates logistics, rapid mobilisation & surveillance.
- Enhances disaster response & border connectivity.
- Key role of Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- Future warfare needs integration of physical infrastructure with drones, AI, satellites & cyber.
- Ensures national security & strategic readiness.



Value Addition:
Infrastructure + Technology = Stronger Security & Resilience.

Keywords:
Border Infrastructure, BRO, Logistics, Surveillance, Future Warfare

Other Important One-Liners



IMD Forecasts Extremely Heavy Rainfall Over Odisha Today; Red Alert Issued.



India, Japan Review Defence Ties; Prepare Ground for 2+2 Dialogue.



SC: Citizenship Rulings Must Be 'Fair, Lawful'.



Retail Inflation Climbs Past RBI Target to 4.4% in June 2026.



Study Finds Efficient Method to Filter Nuclear Wastewater.

1 | ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

A coastal region is rapidly losing its natural wetlands due to urban expansion. These wetlands act as nature's buffer against floods, store carbon and support rich biodiversity.

Which ecosystem service is most directly lost?

- A) Soil Fertility Enhancement
- B) Flood Mitigation
- C) Mineral Weathering
- D) Thermal Pollution Control



2 | POLITY & GOVERNANCE

A Bill is passed by Parliament but the President returns it asking for reconsideration. Parliament passes it again, but the President does not give assent for several months.

Which constitutional principle best explains the role of the President in this situation?

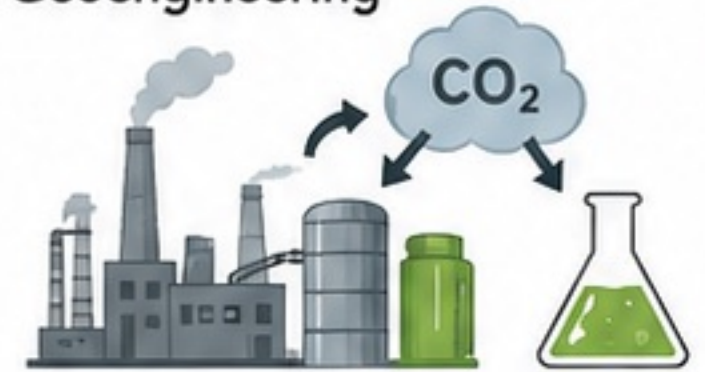
- A) Parliamentary Supremacy
- B) Judicial Review
- C) Constitutional Morality
- D) Checks and Balances



3 | SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

A new technology can convert industrial carbon dioxide emissions into useful chemicals and fuels using renewable energy. Which approach best describes this technology?

- A) Carbon Capture and Storage
- B) Carbon Capture and Utilization
- C) Biochar Sequestration
- D) Solar Geoengineering



4 | GEOGRAPHY & CLIMATE

A region experiences heavy rainfall but faces severe water scarcity in summer due to rapid runoff and poor groundwater recharge. Which solution best addresses this mismatch?

- A) Large Dams Only
- B) Rainwater Harvesting with Watershed Management
- C) Inter-basin River Transfer Only
- D) Desalination Plants Only



5 | ETHICS, AI & GOVERNANCE

An AI system used for public service delivery shows hidden bias against certain groups because it was trained on historical data. Which ethical principle is most violated in this case?

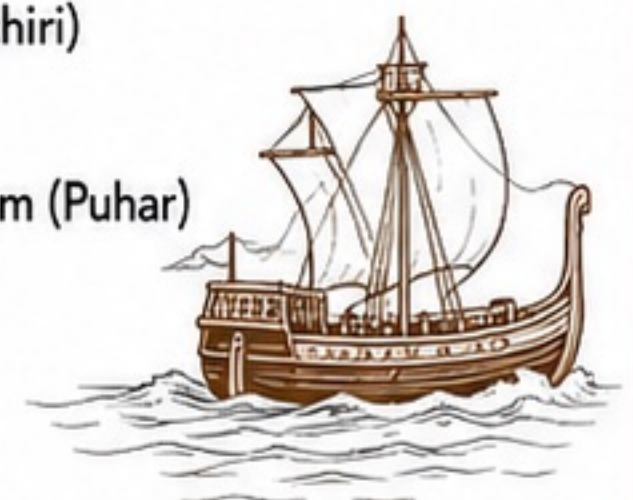
- A) Transparency
- B) Accountability
- C) Fairness
- D) Privacy



6 | HISTORY, CULTURE & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

An ancient port city in South India was a major hub connecting the Roman Empire, West Asia and Southeast Asia through maritime trade in the early centuries CE. Which port city is being described?

- A) Bharukachchha (Broach)
- B) Muziris (Muchiri)
- C) Tamralipti
- D) Kaveripattinam (Puhar)



अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीपसमूह

भारत के पना द्वीप - रणनीतिक, जैवविविध और अद्वितीय

राधानगर बीच, हैवलॉक द्वीप

सेल्युलर जेल, पोर्ट ब्लेयर

1. त्वरित तथ्य

राजधानी	: पोर्ट ब्लेयर
केंद्र शासित प्रदेश	: 1 नवम्बर 1956
आधिकारिक भाषाएँ	: हिंदी, अंग्रेजी
केंद्र शासित प्रदेश पशु	: डुगोंग
केंद्र शासित प्रदेश पक्षी	: अंडमान वुड पिजन
केंद्र शासित प्रदेश पुष्प	: अंडमान पियन्मा
केंद्र शासित प्रदेश वृक्ष	: अंडमान पादुक
जनसंख्या (2011)	: 3.80 लाख (2023 अनुमान ~ 4.2 लाख)
क्षेत्रफल	: 8,249 वर्ग किमी
साक्षरता दर (2011)	: 86.63%

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- ★ लगभग 572 द्वीप (लगभग 38 आबाद)।
- ★ बंगाल की खाड़ी में स्थित।
- ★ भारत का एकमात्र सक्रिय ज्वालामुखी - बैरन द्वीप।
- ★ भारत का एकमात्र ट्राई-सर्विस कमान यहाँ स्थित।
- ★ प्रसिद्ध स्थल - सेल्युलर जेल 'काला पानी'।

2. स्थान एवं मानचित्र

- बंगाल की खाड़ी में स्थित।
- दो समूह - अंडमान (उत्तर) और निकोबार (दक्षिण)।
- दोनों समूहों के बीच दस डिग्री जलडमरूमध्य।

प्रमुख द्वीप

- साउथ अंडमान
- मिडल अंडमान
- नॉर्थ अंडमान
- लिटिल अंडमान
- कार निकोबार
- ग्रेट निकोबार
- हैवलॉक (स्वराज्य द्वीप)
- नील (शहीद द्वीप)



महत्वपूर्ण जलडमरूमध्य

- दस डिग्री जलडमरूमध्य
- डंकन मार्ग (Duncan Passage)
- प्रेपरिस चैनल
- कोको चैनल

3. इतिहास एवं विरासत

प्राचीन इतिहास

- हजारों वर्षों से आदिवासी समुदायों का निवास।

औपनिवेशिक काल

- डेनमार का निकोबार में प्रभाव।
- ब्रिटिशों ने दंड बस्ती की स्थापना की।
- सेल्युलर जेल 'काला पानी' के नाम से कुख्यात।

स्वतंत्रता संग्राम

- कई स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों को यहाँ कैद किया गया।
- नेताजी सुभाष चंद्र बोस ने 1943 में पोर्ट ब्लेयर में तिरंगा फहराया।

स्वतंत्रता के बाद

- 1 नवम्बर 1956 को केंद्र शासित प्रदेश बना।



बारटांग द्वीप की चूना पत्थर गुफाएँ



रॉस द्वीप (नेताजी सुभाष चंद्र बोस द्वीप)



नेताजी ध्वज स्थल, पोर्ट ब्लेयर

4. अर्थव्यवस्था

- प्रमुख क्षेत्र**
 - पर्यटन, मत्स्य पालन, कृषि, हस्तशिल्प, बागवानी, वन्यजीव (निर्वासित)
- प्रमुख उद्योग**
 - मत्स्य प्रशंस्करण, नारियल उत्पाद, शिल्प उत्पाद, इको-टूरिज्म, नारियल आधारित उद्योग
- अवसंरचना**
 - बंदरगाह, हवाई अड्डे, इंटर-आइलैंड शिपिंग, अंडरवॉटर ऑप्टिकल फाइबर कनेक्टिविटी
- मुख्य आर्थिक तेथ्य**
 - पर्यटन मुख्य आय का स्रोत।
 - नारियल और मत्स्य आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था।
 - ब्लू इकोनमी की विरासत संभावनाएँ।



पोर्ट ब्लेयर बंदरगाह



मत्स्य पालन क्षेत्र



वीर सावरकर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा

मुख्य फसलें

- धान, सब्जियाँ, दालें, फल

बागवानी फसलें

- नारियल, सुपारी, रबर, मसाले

फल

- केला, अनानास, आम, पपीता, कटहल, जामुन, अमरुद

पशुपालन

- भुरगीं, सुअर, बकरी, गाय (सीमित)

विशेष उत्पाद

- नारियल उत्पाद, शंख शिल्प, मसाले

5. कृषि



नारियल



सुपारी



धान



अनानास



केला



मसाले (जापफल)

6. संस्कृति एवं परंपरा

लोक नृत्य

- निकोबारी नृत्य, वांस नृत्य

लोक संगीत

- हार्मोनियम, ढोल, पारंपरिक द्वीपीय गीत

कला रूप

- शंख कला, लकड़ी शिल्प, नारियल शिल्प

भाषाएँ

- हिंदी, अंग्रेजी, ब्राह्मि, मल, तेलुगु, निकोबारी एवं जनजातीय भाषाएँ



निकोबारी नृत्य



शंख कला



बैत एवं वांस शिल्प

7. प्रमुख त्योहार

- आइलैंड टूरिज्म फेस्टिवल**
 - संस्कृति, प्रकृति और स्थानीय उत्पादों का उत्सव।
- सुभाष मेला**
 - नेताजी सुभाष चंद्र बोस की याद में पोर्ट ब्लेयर में।
- दुर्गा पूजा**
 - द्वीपों में बड़े उत्साह के साथ।
- पोंगल**
 - तमिल समुदाय का फसल उत्सव।
- अन्य पर्व**
 - क्रिश्मस, ईद, दिवाली, होली, बुद्ध पुर्णिमा।



आइलैंड टूरिज्म फेस्टिवल

8. पर्यावरण एवं जैव विविधता

राष्ट्रीय उद्यान

- महात्मा गांधी समुद्री राष्ट्रीय उद्यान
- माउंट मणिपुर राष्ट्रीय उद्यान
- कैम्पबेल बे राष्ट्रीय उद्यान
- गोलघिघा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान
- रानी छांसी समुद्री राष्ट्रीय उद्यान

जैवमंडल आरक्षित क्षेत्र

- ग्रेट निकोबार जैवमंडल आरक्षित क्षेत्र (पूनेस्को)

महत्वपूर्ण प्रजातियाँ

- डुगोंग, नयगल, चमड़ी कण्डूआ, निकोबार मेगापोड, अंडमान वुड पिजन



महात्मा गांधी समुद्री राष्ट्रीय उद्यान



माउंट मणिपुर राष्ट्रीय उद्यान



बैरन द्वीप (सक्रिय ज्वालामुखी)



डुगोंग

9. पर्यटन एवं घरोहर

प्रमुख पर्यटन स्थल

- सेल्युलर जेल, पोर्ट ब्लेयर
- राधानगर बीच (हैवलॉक)
- रॉस द्वीप
- नॉर्थ वे द्वीप
- बारटांग द्वीप (चूना पत्थर गुफाएँ)
- रॉस एवं ब्लेयर द्वीप
- मुहम्मन मंदिर (ग्रेट निकोबार)

धार्मिक स्थल

- प्रह्लाद मंदिर (ग्रेट निकोबार)
- हिन्दू मंदिर, चर्च, मस्जिदें

यूनेस्को/घरोहर

- नार्ही (पाँचु) अनेक राष्ट्रीय स्मारक और प्राकृतिक विरासत स्थल)



सेल्युलर जेल



राधानगर बीच



नॉर्थ वे द्वीप



बारटांग द्वीप



रॉस एवं स्विच द्वीप



मुहम्मन मंदिर

10. UPSC के लिए मूल्य वर्धन

- प्रारंभिक परीक्षा तथ्य**
 - भारत का एकमात्र सक्रिय ज्वालामुखी - बैरन द्वीप।
 - भारत का एकमात्र ट्राई-सर्विस कमान - अंडमान एवं निकोबार कमान।
 - कुल द्वीप - 572 (लगभग 38 आबाद)।
 - ग्रेट निकोबार - यूनेस्को जैवमंडल आरक्षित क्षेत्र।
- मुख्य बिंदु (केस के लिए)**
 - भूगोलीक स्थिति - इंडो-पैसिफिक में रणनीतिक महत्व।
 - ब्लू इकोनमी और समुद्री संसाधन।
 - जलवायु परिवर्तन एवं मानवप्रतिकार।
 - आपदा प्रबंधन - 2004 की सुनामी।
- समसामयिक मुद्दे**
 - ग्रेट निकोबार विकास परियोजना।
 - कनेक्टिविटी, इको-टूरिज्म, तटीय संरक्षण, प्रवाल भित्तियों की सुरक्षा।

11. त्वरित पुनरावृत्ति - 15 मुख्य तथ्य

1. राजधानी - पोर्ट ब्लेयर
2. केंद्र शासित प्रदेश - 1 नवम्बर 1956
3. कुल द्वीप - 572
4. आबाद द्वीप - लगभग 38
5. सबसे बड़ी घाटी - सैंडल पीक
6. सक्रिय ज्वालामुखी - बैरन द्वीप
7. दोनों समूहों के बीच जलडमरूमध्य - दस डिग्री जलडमरूमध्य
8. केंद्र शासित प्रदेश पशु - डुगोंग
9. केंद्र शासित प्रदेश पक्षी - अंडमान वुड पिजन
10. ट्राई-सर्विस कमान - A&N कमान
11. जैवमंडल आरक्षित क्षेत्र - ग्रेट निकोबार
12. प्रसिद्ध स्मारक - सेल्युलर जेल
13. निकटतम देश - म्यांमार, इंडोनेशिया
14. निकट समुद्री मार्ग - मलक्का जलडमरूमध्य
15. लोकसभा सीट - 1

12. क्यों महत्वपूर्ण हैं अंडमान एवं निकोबार?



रणनीतिक महत्व
मलक्का जलडमरूमध्य के निकट - इंडो-पैसिफिक में भारत की स्थिति मजबूत।



पर्यावरणीय मूल्य
प्रवाल भित्तियाँ, मैंग्रोव, समुद्री जीवन और जैवविविधता का समृद्ध भंडार।



समुद्री सुरक्षा
समुद्री निगरानी, रक्षा और समुद्री मार्गों की सुरक्षा के लिए महत्वपूर्ण।



आपदा प्रबंधन
भूकंप, सुनामी, ख़राब तैयारी के प्रति संवेदनशील - आपदा तैयारी का महत्व।



ब्लू इकोनमी
मत्स्य पालन, पर्यटन, समुद्री संसाधन और उज़्जा की अपार संभावनाएँ।



राष्ट्रीय एकीकरण
जनजातीय समुदायों का संरक्षण, विविधता में एकता और सीमा क्षेत्र की अखंडता।

SRIJAN INDIA ONE STATES OF INDIA

15th JULY 2026

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

Emerald Isles of India – Strategic, Biodiverse & Unique

Radhanagar Beach, Havelock Island

Cellular Jail, Port Blair

1. QUICK FACTS

	Capital	: Port Blair
	Formation	: 1 Nov 1956 (Union Territory)
	Official Languages	: Hindi, English
	UT Animal	: Dugong
	UT Bird	: Andaman Wood Pigeon
	UT Flower	: Andaman Pyinma
	UT Tree	: Andaman Padauk
	Population (2011)	: 3.80 Lakh (2023 est. ~4.2 Lakh)
	Area	: 8,249 sq. km
	Literacy Rate (2011)	: 86.63%

IMPORTANT FACTS

- ★ Comprises 572 islands (around 38 inhabited).
- ★ Located in Bay of Bengal.
- ★ India's only active volcano – Barren Island.
- ★ Home to India's only Tri-Service Command.
- ★ Famous for Cellular Jail – 'Kala Pani'.

2. LOCATION & MAP

- Located in the Bay of Bengal.
- Two groups of islands – Andaman (North) & Nicobar (South).
- Separated by Ten Degree Channel.

MAJOR ISLANDS

- South Andaman
- Middle Andaman
- North Andaman
- Little Andaman
- Car Nicobar
- Great Nicobar
- Havelock (Swaraj Dweep)
- Neil (Shaheed Dweep)



IMPORTANT CHANNELS

- Ten Degree Channel
- Duncan Passage
- Prepara Channel
- Coco Channel

3. HISTORY & HERITAGE

- Ancient History**
 - Inhabited by indigenous tribes for thousands of years.
- Colonial Period**
 - Danish presence in Nicobar.
 - British established penal settlement.
 - Cellular Jail became famous as 'Kala Pani'.
- Freedom Movement**
 - Many freedom fighters imprisoned in Cellular Jail.
 - Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose hoisted Indian Flag in 1943.
- Post-Independence**
 - Became a Union Territory on 1 Nov 1956.



Limestone Caves, Baratang Island



Ross Island (Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island)



Netaji Flag Point, Port Blair

4. ECONOMY

- Major Sectors**
 - Tourism, Fisheries, Agriculture, Handicrafts, Forestry (regulated).
- Major Industries**
 - Fish Processing, Coconut Products, Handicrafts, Eco-tourism.
- Infrastructure**
 - Ports, Airports, Inter-island Shipping, Undersea Optical Fibre Connectivity.
- Key Economic Facts**
 - Tourism is the main driver.
 - Rich marine resources.
 - Coconut & fisheries based economy.



Port Blair Port



Fisheries Sector



Veer Savarkar International Airport

5. AGRICULTURE

- Major Crops**
 - Rice, Vegetables, Pulses, Fruits.
- Plantation Crops**
 - Coconut, Arecanut, Rubber, Spices.
- Horticulture**
 - Banana, Pineapple, Mango, Papaya, Nutmeg, Clove.
- Livestock**
 - Poultry, Pigs, Goats, Cattle (limited).
- Special Products**
 - Coconut Products, Shell Crafts, Spices.



Coconut



Arecanut



Rice



Pineapple



Banana



Spices (Nutmeg)

6. CULTURE & TRADITION

- Folk Dances**
 - Nicobarese Dance, Bamboo Dance.
- Folk Music**
 - Harmonium, Drum, Island folk songs.
- Art Forms**
 - Shell Craft, Wood Craft, Cane & Bamboo Work.
- Handicrafts**
 - Shell Jewellery, Coconut Crafts, Cane Products.
- Languages**
 - Hindi, English, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Nicobarese, Tribal Languages.
- Cultural Practices**
 - Tribal traditions, Community festivals, Local customs.



Nicobarese Dance



Shell Craft



Cane & Bamboo Work

7. FESTIVALS

- Island Tourism Festival**
 - Celebrates culture, nature & local identity.
- Subhash Mela**
 - Remembers Netaji's historic visit to Port Blair.
- Durga Puja**
 - Celebrated with devotion by island communities.
- Pongal**
 - Harvest festival celebrated by Tamil community.
- Other Festivals**
 - Christmas, Eid, Diwali, Holi, Buddha Purnima.



Island Tourism Festival

8. ENVIRONMENT & BIODIVERSITY

- National Parks**
 - Mahatma Gandhi Marine NP
 - Mount Manipur NP
 - Campbell Bay NP
 - Galathea NP
 - Rani Jhansi Marine NP
- Biosphere Reserve**
 - Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO)
- Important Species**
 - Dugong, Saltwater Crocodile, Leatherback Turtle, Nicobar Megapode, Andaman Wild Pig.
- Unique Features**
 - Barren Island – Active Volcano
 - Narcondam Island – Home of Narcondam Hornbill



Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park



Campbell Bay National Park



Barren Island (Active Volcano)



Dugong

9. TOURISM & HERITAGE

- Major Attractions**
 - Cellular Jail
 - Radhanagar Beach
 - Ross Island
 - North Bay Island
 - Baratang Island
 - Ross & Smith Islands
- Religious Sites**
 - Murugan Temple (Port Blair)
 - Hindu Temples
 - Churches & Mosques
- UNESCO / Heritage**
 - No UNESCO Site yet. (Biosphere Reserve – Great Nicobar)



Cellular Jail, Port Blair



Radhanagar Beach



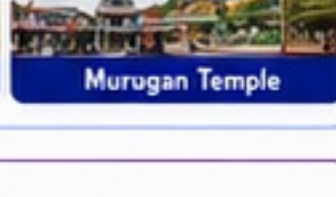
North Bay Island



Baratang Island



Ross & Smith Islands



Murugan Temple

10. UPSC VALUE ADDITION

- Prelims Facts**
 - Only active volcano in India – Barren Island.
 - India's only Tri-Service Command – Andaman & Nicobar.
 - 572 islands, around 38 inhabited.
- Mains Points**
 - Strategic location & Indo-Pacific importance.
 - Blue Economy potential.
 - Tribal protection & human rights balance.
- Current Affairs Linkages**
 - Great Nicobar Development Project.
 - Infrastructure & connectivity projects.
 - Coastal & marine ecosystem conservation.

11. RAPID REVISION – 15 KEY FACTS

- 1 Capital – Port Blair
- 2 UT Since – 1 Nov 1956
- 3 Total Islands – ~572
- 4 Inhabited Islands – ~38
- 5 Highest Peak – Saddle Peak
- 6 Active Volcano – Barren Island
- 7 Separating Channel – Ten Degree
- 8 UT Animal – Dugong
- 9 UT Bird – Andaman Wood Pigeon
- 10 Tri-Service Command – A&N
- 11 Biosphere Reserve – Great Nicobar
- 12 Famous Jail – Cellular Jail
- 13 Nearest Country – Myanmar
- 14 Nearest Strait – Malacca Strait
- 15 One Lok Sabha Seat

12. WHY ANDAMAN & NICOBAR MATTER?

- Strategic Importance**
 - Controls approaches to Malacca Strait & Indo-Pacific.
- Maritime Security**
 - Strengthens India's maritime domain awareness.
- Blue Economy**
 - Enormous potential in fisheries, tourism & marine resources.
- Environmental Value**
 - Rich biodiversity, coral reefs & ecosystems.
- Disaster Management**
 - Vulnerable to earthquakes, tsunamis; critical for preparedness.
- National Integration**
 - Symbol of India's unity, heritage & sovereignty.



ESSAY CONTEST

Essay your Passion

The Hindu Bureau

The prompt for the *Hindu* Essay Contest 2026 is now out. **Open to all school students in Classes 8-12, and currently enrolled in an educational institution in India, the competition invites original essays of up to 1,200 words.**

The top three prize winners in each category will receive cash awards of ₹7,500, ₹5,000 and ₹3,000 respectively. Entries must be submitted by September 30, 2026.

This year's theme is "Resilience in a Rapidly Changing World." Participants are expected to explore the concept through personal experiences, observations, or imaginative perspectives.

The evaluation will be based on depth of thought, clarity, originality, structure and relevance to the theme.

The results will be announced at the Hindu EducationPlus Fest 2026, where winners will be invited to receive their awards.

The Hindu Essay Contest has been a platform for school students to express their ideas on contemporary topics. Previous themes have included "Thinking is Transforming: The Student's Role" (2023), "Technology – Boon or Bane" (2021) and "Equal Access, Equal Future" (2019), among others.

For full details, visit www.thehindu.com/essay.

● **Open to:** School students of Classes 8–12, currently enrolled in an educational institution in India.

● **Word Limit:** Up to 1,200 words.

● **Theme 2026:** *"Resilience in a Rapidly Changing World."*

● **Essay Based On:** *Personal experiences, observations, or imaginative perspectives related to the theme.*

● **Evaluation Criteria:** *Depth of thought, clarity, originality, structure, and relevance to the theme.*

● **Prizes:** *Top 3 in each category – ₹7,500 (1st), ₹5,000 (2nd), ₹3,000 (3rd).*

● **Last Date to Submit:** 30 September 2026.

● **Results Announcement:** At the Hindu EducationPlus Fest 2026; winners invited to receive awards.

● **Past Themes Include:** 2023 – *"Thinking is Transforming: The Student's Role"*
2021 – *"Technology – Boon or Bane"*
2019 – *"Equal Access, Equal Future"*



UPSC Relevance: Essay writing enhances critical thinking, articulation, and analytical expression – essential for Mains Exam.



GS Connection: Society, Education, Technology, Environment, Ethics.



Skills Developed: Argument building, creativity, structure, clarity, perspective.

Cabinet okays Semicon 2.0, mobile, urea manufacturing schemes, highways

Projects cleared by the CCEA include two major highway projects worth ₹25,400 crore to ease congestion in Varanasi;

9 new gas-based urea plants with a production capacity of 10 MT; ₹1.27 lakh crore for the second edition of India

Semiconductor Mission; and ₹62,500 crore for MPMS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has cleared several projects, including ₹1.27 lakh crore for the second edition of India Semiconductor Mission and ₹62,500 crore for the mobile phone manufacturing scheme (MPMS) as part of efforts to localise manufacturing amid global geopolitical uncertainties.

The Cabinet also accorded approval to two major highway projects worth ₹25,400 crore to ease congestion in Varanasi and as many as nine new gas-based urea plants nationwide with a production capacity of 10 million tonnes.

Semicon Mission 2.0

The Cabinet has accorded approval for the ₹1.27 lakh crore for the second edition of India Semiconductor Mission through which the government expects to attract investments of around ₹4 lakh crore and lead to semiconductor production of ₹2 lakh crore during the scheme period.

The new edition of the semiconductor programme – which has provisions to incentivise even suppliers of raw material in the chip manufacturing industry, including minerals and gases – has come at an opportune time when the

world is reeling under a memory chip shortage, and companies are working on plans to enhance production capacity. It also expects to attract investment from other chip segments to meet chip requirements for artificial intelligence devices.

Highlighting that "Semicon 2.0 will have six pillars. The first pillar will be the design of chips"; Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the programme will focus on design, development and production of indigenous chips. "We will be self-reliant in the production of indigenous chips by the end of this programme," the minister said.

The government had allocated ₹76,000 crore for the first edition, under which it had approved 12 projects with cumulative investments of around ₹1.64 lakh crore.

The majority of the investment in the sector has come from technology firm Tata Electronics and its semiconductor arm.

Mobile manufacturing

The Cabinet also approved an outlay of ₹62,500 crore for the MPMS, aimed at building Indian brands to achieve technological sovereignty and scale up local mobile production to capture the significant economic value, and create industry jobs.

Big ticket

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by PM Modi, cleared several projects across sectors

New National Investment Policy for Urea (NIPU-2026) to set up 8-9 new gas-based plants with a production capacity of 10 MT to make the country self-reliant



NHAI project under Hybrid Annuity Model to include a 43.218-km corridor linking NH-31 with Varanasi Ring Road at a cost of

₹10,998.32 crore,

connecting NH-19 with the ring road at

₹14,447.64 crore



₹1.27 lakh crore for Semicon 2.0 through which ₹4 lakh crore investments, production worth ₹2 lakh crore are expected



₹62,500 crore for mobile phone manufacturing scheme, aimed at building Indian brands, scaling up local production

research and development.

"The scheme provides incentive support on eligible sales for manufacturing of mobile phones in India at differentiated rates ranging from 2.25% to 5%. Scheme also provides additional incentive of up to 1.5% linked to domestic sourcing of key components/sub-assemblies. For building Indian brands, an additional incentive at 3% on eligible sales for design and R&D of the product," an official release said.

During the scheme tenure, the cumulative mobile phone production in the country is expected to reach about ₹39 lakh crore with significant increase in exports of mobile phones. The scheme is also expected to generate around industry jobs.

and contributing to economic growth, the release added.

Highways

The highway projects, to be implemented by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM), include a 43.218 kilometre (km) corridor linking NH-31 with the Varanasi Ring Road along Varuna River at a total capital cost of ₹10,998.32 crore and a 46.039 km corridor connecting NH-19 with the ring road along the Ganga River at a cost of ₹14,447.64 crore. The NH-19 project will feature a six-lane elevated carriageway, a cable-stayed bridge, an extra-dosed foot over bridge-cum-major bridge, loops, ramps, link roads and service roads. The NH-31 corridor will have four and six lane carriageway with flyovers, loops, ramps and service roads.

Designed for operating speeds of 80-100 kmph, the projects are expected to significantly reduce travel times across the city. The NH-19 corridor will cut travel time between NH-19 and Kashi Railway Station from around 50 minutes to 25 minutes, while the NH-31 project will halve the journey between NH-31 and Kashi Railway Station from 40 minutes to 20 minutes. The government said the corridors are part of the Varanasi Decongestion Plan and aligned with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

Key changes compared with NIP 2012 include the separation of fixed and variable costs for greater transparency, the introduction of a viable return on equity (RoE) band with a floor at 12% and a ceiling at 16%, and mitigation of foreign exchange risk through conversion of fixed costs into the rupee after four years based on prevailing exchange rates.

"These measures are estimated to result in savings of over ₹250 crore for each plant established under NIPU-2026 compared with NIP-2012," the Fertilizers Ministry said.

The minister said the country imports 10 million tons of urea to meet the domestic shortages. The annual domestic production is around 30 million tons against the requirement of 40 million tons.

The objective of the new policy is to become self-reliant in urea amid a rise in demand due to a change in cropping patterns, increased sowing area and record production.

Urea demand

The Cabinet also approved the National Investment Policy for Urea (NIPU 2026) to set up "eight-nine" new gas-based plants with a production capacity of 10 million tons to make the country self-reliant in the most widely consumed fertiliser. The new investment framework, which assumes significance as it will encourage new investments in the sector, is an extension of the 2012 New Investment Policy (NIP) with revisions.



GS III – Economy: Manufacturing, Industries, Infrastructure, Agriculture



Schemes: India Semiconductor Mission 2.0, MPMS, NIPU-2026, HAM



Institutions: CCEA, NHAI, Fertilizers Ministry



Key for Prelims: HAM, NIPU-2026, Semicon 2.0 pillars, MPMS incentives

● CCEA cleared projects worth ₹1.27 lakh cr (Semicon 2.0), ₹62,500 cr (MPMS), ₹25,400 cr (highways in Varanasi), and 9 new urea plants (10 MT capacity).

● **Semicon 2.0** aims to attract ₹4 lakh cr investments and generate ₹2 lakh cr in chip production; six pillars with focus on design, development and indigenous chips.

● MPMS outlay ₹62,500 cr; incentive on eligible sales 2.25%–5%; additional 1.5% for local sourcing and 3% for design & R&D.

● Two highway projects under HAM: NH-31 corridor (₹10,998 cr) and NH-19 corridor (₹14,447 cr) to decongest Varanasi.

● NH-19 cuts travel time from ~50 to 25 min; NH-31 halves journey from ~40 to 20 min.

● **Urea (NIPU-2026):** 8–9 new gas-based plants; 10 MT capacity to reduce import dependence.

● **NIP changes:** Fixed-variable cost separation, RoE band (12–16%), FX risk mitigation; savings of over ₹250 cr per plant.

● India imports ~10 MT urea; domestic production ~30 MT vs requirement ~40 MT.

● Projects support self-reliance, job creation, export growth and infrastructure development.

The problem with China's 4.3% growth

It's the slowest growth since 2022, when China was still in the grips of the pandemic, and below the government's already-lowered annual target of 4.5-5%; the country is facing multiple challenges of a real estate slowdown, sluggish consumption, and serious challenges in the job market

WORLD INSIGHT

Ananth Krishnan

China's economy grew 4.3% in the second quarter of 2026, according to data released on Wednesday by China's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). With growth falling to the lowest in more than three years and below the government's already lowered annual target of 4.5-5%, attention has turned to how the Chinese government is likely to deal with multiple challenges of a real estate slowdown, sluggish consumption, and serious challenges in the job market.

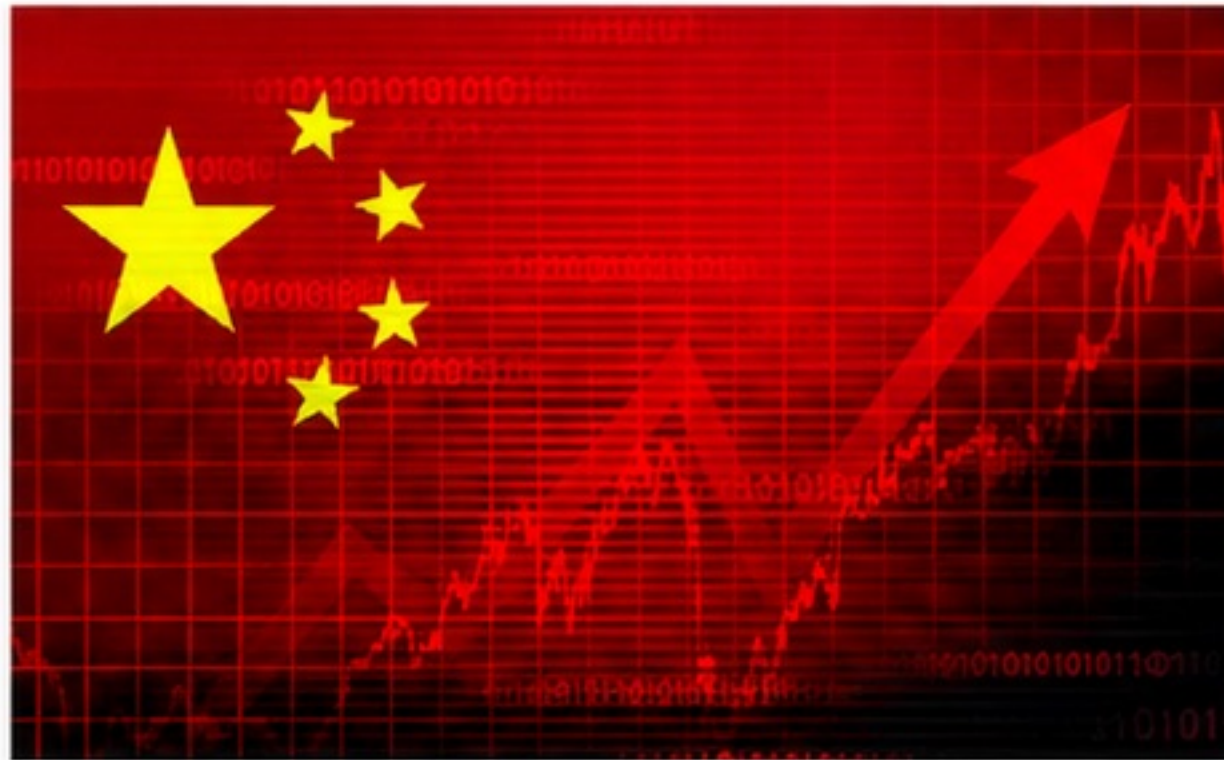
A meeting of the ruling Communist Party's Politburo slated for July-end is likely to offer some clues. China's surging exports have emerged as a bright spot for Beijing, while raising questions for India and other trade partners that are grappling with ever-widening trade imbalances.

What does the latest data show?

China's GDP expanded by 4.3% in the second quarter, down from 5% in the first quarter. This marked the slowest growth since 2022, when China was still in the grips of the pandemic. Significantly, growth fell below the annual target. In March 2026, China's National People's Congress (NPC), or Parliament, announced a 4.5-5% target for the year, which was the lowest since 1991.

Other economic indicators released on Wednesday showed a 5.7% drop in fixed-asset investment and sluggish retail sales — an important marker of consumption, which the government hopes will drive future growth for a historically investment-reliant economy.

In May, retail sales fell 0.6% from last year, another low since the pandemic. June showed a slight recovery to a 1.1% increase in retail sales of goods. Usual caveats apply about China's economic data, which China's former Premier Li Keqiang himself reportedly once advised were for "reference only" (and that other indicators, such as arguably more revealing about the state of the economy).



China's GDP expanded by 4.3% in the second quarter. The numbers reveal how the government wants to portray the state of the economy and may signal potential policy changes. GETTY IMAGES

economy). At the same time, it is important to note that economists still closely study China's official data, as numbers reveal how the government wants to portray the state of the economy and may signal potential policy changes. Most economists have noted improvements in the reliability of statistics, with numbers becoming harder to fudge coinciding with the global integration of China's economy and more transparency into the performance of Chinese companies, many of which are publicly listed.

What is driving down growth?

If real estate is about "location, location, location", China's slowdown story is in many ways about "real estate, real estate and real estate". In the first half of the year, property investment fell 18%, a remarkable statistic for an economy once driven by real estate growth. This isn't only about the property sector. The spillover effects are hard to overstate.

An entire swathe of the economy is in a slump, from construction to every related industry that has for decades relied on a booming property sector, from lighting to furniture. Then there is the psychological impact in a country where most people's savings are locked into real estate given

the low returns from regulated interest rates that make bank deposits unappealing. Investing abroad is also not an option given the tight capital controls, although the stock market has emerged as an alternative avenue despite its volatility.

This has further dampened the willingness of Chinese consumers to spend, along with other persisting anxieties such as rising healthcare and education costs. Still, there are bright spots for the Chinese economy such as the rapid growth in China's high-tech industries and the continuing expansion of Chinese exports, from electric vehicles to most recently, an extraordinary surge in the exports of air-conditioners to Europe amid a summer heat wave. Trade still remains robust for China, growing 17% in the first half of the year. Exports grew for 11 consecutive quarters to \$2.1 trillion in the first six months of the year.

How is the government likely to respond?

All eyes are on an upcoming meeting of the Politburo, the top policy-making body of the Communist Party of China, set for late July. Mao Shengyong, deputy director of the NBS, said on Wednesday the government was likely to "introduce more incremental and effective policies in response to changing circumstances", without specifying.

Boosting domestic consumption and minimising job losses are likely to top its concerns, especially with many graduates currently entering the workforce. Urban unemployment remained flat at 5% in June. Mr. Mao said "efforts will be stepped up to secure the steady development of employment", with a target to create 12 million new urban jobs in 2026, despite the concerns about hiring impacted by AI.

Earlier this week, China announced a first of its kind five-year plan for consumption, with a 2030 retail sales target of 60 trillion yuan (\$8.86 trillion), a 20% rise from 2025.

Addressing the property sector — the elephant in the room — is one major challenge. The government has walked a tightrope of avoiding what it calls "systemic risks" while trying to protect buyers (as it needs to, if consumption is to revive) while not bailing out many developers. This is part of an ongoing effort to reform the sector and curb speculation, after Chinese President Xi Jinping's declaration in 2016 that "houses were for living in and not speculation".

The broader problem for Beijing is that it's not only property developers but local governments also have been hard hit by the slump, with real estate sales a major contributor of revenues. Many tier-two and tier-three cities have seen a major cash crunch, impacting spending on infrastructure and social services.

Xi's Principle of the crunch remains unclear with some taking to fudging data to mask the state of their finances.

- **Slowest Growth Since 2022** — China's Q2 FY26 GDP growth at 4.3%, below government target of 4.5-5%.
- **Key Challenges** — Real estate slowdown, sluggish consumption, urban unemployment, job market pressures.
- **Consumption Weak** — Retail sales dropped 0.6% in May; slight recovery of 1.1% in June.
- **Real Estate Drag** — Property investment fell 18% in H1 FY26; affects construction & many related industries.
- **Consumer Confidence Low** — High savings in real estate, low returns on deposits, rising healthcare & education costs.
- **Exports Bright Spot** — Exports grew 17% in H1; electric vehicles & ACs to Europe driving demand.
- **Policy Response Expected** — Politburo meeting in late July; likely announcement of more incremental & effective policies.
- **Five-Year Consumption Plan** — First-ever plan with target of 60 trillion yuan retail sales by 2030 (20% rise from 2025).
- **Xi's Principle on Housing** — "Houses are for living in, not speculation." (Since 2016).
- **Local Govt Stress** — Real estate slump hurts local revenues; affects infra & social spending; data fudging concerns.

UPSC TAKEAWAYS

- China is facing structural headwinds.
- Real estate crisis is central challenge.
- Consumption-led growth remains weak.
- Global trade & supply chains impacted.
- Opportunities for India via 'China + 1'.

Digitisation and efficiency in criminal justice system

The shift in approach to justice has contributed to making the criminal justice system more citizen-oriented

LETTER AND SPIRIT

C.B.P. Srivastava

Recently, the Centre has announced that India aims for full digital rollout of its criminal justice system from July 1, 2027 after which the procedures related to investigations and trials under the new criminal laws will be recorded digitally through the Interoperable Criminal Justice System. The efficiency of any criminal justice system largely depends on the procedural efficiency beginning from the registration of the first information report (FIR) to investigation, filing of chargesheet outlining specific charges levelled against the accused and presenting the evidence and witness testimonies gathered to substantiate them, trial and finally the disposal. In the digital system the data is stored on the government's cloud platform, MeghRaj.

Understanding criminal justice system

The criminal justice system comprises the police, courts, prisons, forensics, and prosecution services, and aims at ensuring that individuals who suffer injury or loss at the hand of others can present their cases and seek justice.

Justice cannot be delivered unless the rights of the accused and the interests of the victim and the society are balanced. This has been the fundamental principle of the criminal justice system, particularly in common law countries that follow the adversarial system. These countries base their legal systems primarily on judicial precedents and uncodified case law rather than strict statutory codes. This principle also gives the accused a fair chance to present his case in accordance with the tenets of natural justice, that is,

the rule of fair hearing (*Audi alteram partem*). In other words, no person should be condemned unheard. The system seeks to ensure procedural fairness. On the other hand, the inquisitorial system is practised in civil law countries, where rules are codified into comprehensive written statutes rather than shaped by judicial precedent. Under this system, the judge plays an active role in investigating the facts and determining the outcome of the case on the basis of inquiry and investigation. Thus, the precision of decision depends largely on the skills and prudence of the judge concerned.

Changed attitude

The reforms in the criminal law have opened a new avenue for the delivery of justice. To be more appropriate, the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) have been replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) with the idea of transformation. While the erstwhile penal code was implemented with an idea to punish the accused, the BNS believes in the delivery of justice through retribution.

The new code has a democratic approach, placing greater emphasis on individual than on the state in matters relating to crimes. The criminal procedure code believed that trial of a 'criminal' was being conducted whereas the BNSS considers an accused as a citizen whose rights should be balanced with the interests of the victims without any prejudice. Thus, the shift in approach to justice has contributed to making the criminal justice system more democratic and citizen-oriented, while strengthening the protection of the principles of natural justice that are embedded constitutional framework of India.

Reforms in the system

It is well established that every system requires periodic reform to remain responsive to changing needs and circumstances. The judiciary plays a vital role in this process by guiding the state through its directions and rulings. Against this backdrop, it is important to note that courts have laid down procedures governing several aspects of the criminal justice system. Through their decisions, courts often seek to fill legislative gaps in areas where the law is silent, thereby ensuring the effective administration of justice. For example, the Supreme Court in *Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan* (1997) gave guidelines to prevent sexual harassment of women at workplace holding that such an act violates Articles 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution.

The recent announcement by the Centre to enhance the efficiency of the criminal justice system through digitisation assumes considerable significance. In the field of forensics, the new criminal laws have made forensic examination of crime scenes mandatory for offences punishable with imprisonment of seven years or more. In view of this requirement, the number of forensic laboratories has increased from 129 in 2023 to 154 in 2025. However, according to the National Crime Records Bureau, only 46% of FIRs were digitally transmitted to courts. Since this accounts for less than half of all registered cases, it suggests that the digital chain of the criminal justice system remains incomplete.

Although most states have implemented various components of the criminal justice digitisation system, progress remains uneven. In this context, full digital rollout by 2027 will fill this gap and make the system more efficient.

- **Full Digital Rollout by 1 July 2027** – India aims to implement a fully digital criminal justice system via ICJS.
- **Procedural Efficiency is Key** – From FIR registration to trial and disposal, procedural efficiency determines the effectiveness of justice delivery.
- **Data on MeghRaj Cloud** – All data in the digital system will be stored on the government's cloud platform, MeghRaj.
- **System Components** – Police, courts, prisons, forensics, prosecution services work together to ensure justice.
- **Balance of Rights** – Justice requires balancing the rights of the accused with the interests of the victim and society.
- **Adversarial System** – Followed in common law countries; based on judicial precedents and ensures fair chance to the accused.
- **Inquisitorial System** – Followed in civil law countries; judge plays active role in fact-finding and decision-making.
- **New Criminal Laws** – IPC & CrPC replaced by BNS & BNSS with a transformative approach.
- **Retribution to Justice** – Old penal code focused on punishment; BNS focuses on delivery of justice through retribution.
- **Victim-Centric Approach** – BNSS treats the accused as a citizen; rights balanced with victims' interests without prejudice.
- **Role of Judiciary** – Courts fill legislative gaps and ensure effective administration of justice (e.g., Vishaka Guidelines).
- **Forensics Strengthened** – Mandatory for serious offences; labs increased 129 (2023) to 154 (2025).
- **Digital Gap Exists** – Only 46% of FIRs are digitally transmitted to courts; digital chain remains incomplete.
- **Full Digitisation by 2027** – Will bridge gaps and make the criminal justice system more efficient and citizen-oriented.

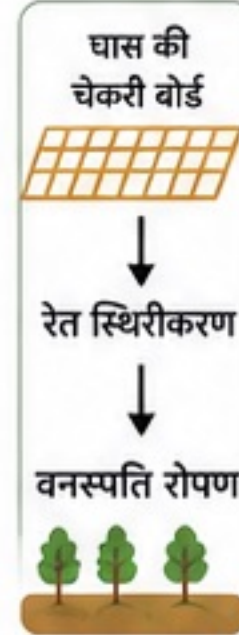
1 भारतीय पारिस्थितिकी का नया युग क्षितिजों के साथ-साथ धरातल पर



- अशोका विश्वविद्यालय, सोनीपत में IWEC 2026 का आयोजन (10-12 जुलाई)
- पारिस्थितिकी अब केवल दस्तावेजीकरण नहीं, बल्कि पूर्वानुमान पर केंद्रित
- जलवायु परिवर्तन, आवास हानि, आक्रामक प्रजातियाँ बढ़ी चिंता
- दीर्घकालिक डेटा, तकनीक, जनस्वास्थ्य और नीति के एकीकरण पर बल
- eDNA, चमगादड़, रोग पारिस्थितिकी, नदी तंत्र, वन्यजीव गलियारे पर चर्चा
- शोधकर्ता पारिस्थितिकी और नीति के बीच मजबूत समन्वय चाहते हैं

जैव विविधता • जलवायु अनुकूलन • eDNA
GS III • पर्यावरण • पारिस्थितिकी • संरक्षण

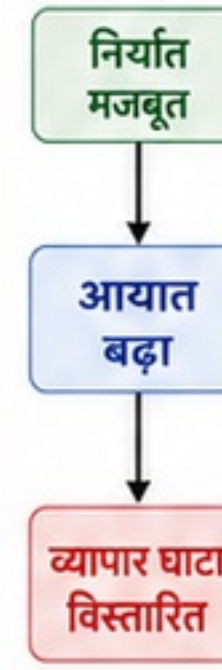
2 चीन की 'महान हरित दीवार' ने रेगिस्तान विस्तार रोका, फिर भी लड़ाई जारी



- 'क्षी-नॉर्थ प्रोटेक्टिव फॉरेस्ट प्रोग्राम' (ग्रीन ग्रेट वॉल), शुरू 1978
- भूसा चेकरी बोर्ड से रेत के टीलों को स्थिर कर पौधारोपण किया जाता है
- 2000 के बाद से मरुस्थलीकरण में लगातार कमी
- कार्यक्रम क्षेत्रों में वन आवरण 1978 में लगभग 5% से बढ़कर 2022 में 14%
- 3 करोड़ से अधिक ग्रामीण मजदूरों का योगदान
- दीर्घकालिक राजनीतिक प्रतिबद्धता, निवेश और सामुदायिक भागीदारी से सफलता

मरुस्थलीकरण • वनीकरण • UNCCD
GS I • भूगोल • पर्यावरण

3 निर्यात में मजबूती (संपादकीय)



- जून में व्यापार घाटा मुश्किल: आयात बढ़ने से बढ़ा
- कच्चा तेल, सोना, उर्वरक, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक घटकों के आयात में वृद्धि
- जून व Q1 FY27 में वस्तु निर्यात मजबूत
- गैर-पेट्रोलियम निर्यात में स्वस्थ वृद्धि
- पश्चिम एशिया संकट के बावजूद विविधीकरण से निर्यात स्थिर
- घरेलू इलेक्ट्रॉनिक घटक निर्माण को गहराई देने की जरूरत

व्यापार घाटा • निर्यात • इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स • आपूर्ति शृंखला
GS III • अर्थव्यवस्था • बाह्य क्षेत्र

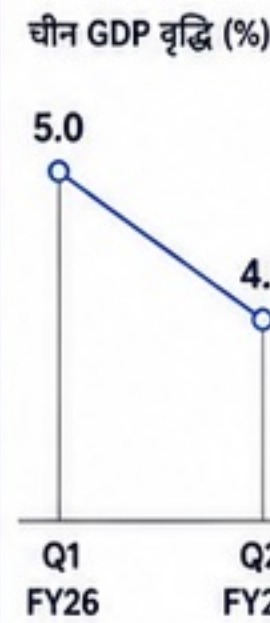
4 ईरान की विघटनकारी रणनीति, इसके वैश्विक परिणाम (संपादकीय)



- अमेरिक-ईरान के बीच नई सैन्य झड़पें
- ईरान ने हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य से ऊर्जा निर्यात बाधित करने की धमकी दी
- कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में वृद्धि
- IMF: वैश्विक स्तर पर सीमित अतिरिक्त तेल क्षमता, भविष्य के झटकों की आशंका
- सामुदिक सुरक्षा, स्वतंत्र नौपरिवहन पर गंभीर प्रभाव
- क्षेत्रीय संघर्ष का वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था पर सीधा असर

हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य • ऊर्जा सुरक्षा • तेल कीमतें
GS II • अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध • पश्चिम एशिया

5 चीन की 4.3% वृद्धि की समस्या



- Q2 FY26 में वृद्धि 4.3%, 2022 के बाद सबसे कम
- Q1 में 5.0% से गिरावट
- स्थायी परिसंपत्ति निवेश में कमी
- उपभोक्ता मांग कमजोर, खुदरा बिक्री धीमी
- रियल एस्टेट संकट सबसे बड़ा अवरोध
- उच्च-प्रौद्योगिकी व निर्यात क्षेत्र उज्ज्वल क्षेत्र बने हुए

चीनी अर्थव्यवस्था • रियल एस्टेट संकट • उपभोग
GS II • विश्व अर्थव्यवस्था • पड़ोस

6 आपराधिक न्याय प्रणाली में डिजिटलीकरण और दक्षता



- 1 जुलाई 2027 तक आपराधिक न्याय प्रणाली का पूर्ण डिजिटल रोलआउट लक्ष्य
- ICJS के माध्यम से जांच और मुकदमे डिजिटल रूप से संचालित
- पुलिस, न्यायालय, कारागार, अभियोजन और फोरेंसिक का एकीकरण
- केस ट्रेकिंग, समन्वय और पारदर्शिता में सुधार
- कागजी कार्य कम, समय की बचत
- चुनौतियाँ: साइबर सुरक्षा, गोपनीयता, डिजिटल पहुंच, क्षमता निर्माण

ICJS • e-Courts • CCTNS • डिजिटल गवर्नेंस
GS II • सुशासन • न्यायपालिका

7 क्रिएटर्स से मीम्स तक: इंटरनेट ने संस्कृति को कैसे आकार दिया



- इंटरनेट संस्कृति, भाषा और सार्वजनिक चर्चा को आकार दे रहा है
- मीम्स सामाजिक टिप्पणी और भागीदारी का माध्यम बने
- एल्गोरिदम सुचना उपभोग और रुझान को प्रभावित करते हैं
- क्रिएटर इकॉनमी रोजगार और उद्यमिता को बदल रही है
- दुष्प्रभाव: गलत सुचना, डीपफेक, गोपनीयता और मानसिक स्वास्थ्य
- मीडिया साक्षरता और डिजिटल नैतिकता जरूरी

डिजिटल संस्कृति • एल्गोरिदम • क्रिएटर इकॉनमी
GS II • समाज • नैतिकता • मीडिया

8 कैबिनेट ने अनुमोदित की Semicon 2.0, मोबाइल, यूरिया विनिर्माण योजनाएँ और राजमार्ग परियोजनाएँ



- Semicon 2.0
- मोबाइल निर्माण
- यूरिया संयंत्र
- राजमार्ग
- सॉमकॉन पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को निरंतर समर्थन (Semicon 2.0)
- मोबाइल फोन विनिर्माण को प्रोत्साहन
- यूरिया उत्पादन क्षमता बढ़ाकर उर्वरक सुरक्षा मजबूत करना
- राजमार्ग परियोजनाओं से कनेक्टिविटी और लॉजिस्टिक्स सुधार
- आयात निर्भरता कम करता
- रोजगार सृजन, उद्योग व अवसंरचना को बढ़ावा

आत्मनिर्भर भारत • PLI • मेक इन इंडिया • गतिशील
GS III • अर्थव्यवस्था • उद्योग • अवसंरचना

9 सेमग्लूटाइड: भारतीय जेनेरिक के लिए मोड़ बिंदु?



- पेटेंट समाप्ति से जेनेरिक उत्पादन का बड़ा अवसर
- दव से उपचार लागत में उल्लेखनीय कमी संभव
- टाईप-2 मधुमेह व मोटापे के उत्पन्न में उपयोगी (स्वीकृत संकेतों में)
- पेप्टाईड दवाओं हेतु उन्नत तकनीक और गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण आवश्यक
- गुणवत्ता में कमी निर्यात प्रतिष्ठा को नुकसान
- PLI योजना जटिल जेनेरिक व API उत्पादन को समर्थन देती है

जेनेरिक दवाएँ • API • PLI • फीकम निर्यात
GS III • स्वास्थ्य • अर्थव्यवस्था • विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी

QUICK NEWS (9)

- ईरान ने 'क्षेत्रीय तेल निर्यात रोकने' की धमकी दी।
- रथ यात्रा पुरी का सबसे भव्य त्योहार है: राष्ट्रपति।
- दिल्ली की महत्वाकांक्षी EV ट्रांज़िशन कितनी चुनौतीपूर्ण होगी?
- भारत-यू.के. FTA से किसानों व MSMEs को बढ़ावा मिलेगा: प्रधानमंत्री।
- RBI ने बैंकों के लिए डेटा गवर्नेंस मार्गदर्शन ढांचा जारी किया।
- भारत-यू.के. सामाजिक सुरक्षा समझौता प्रतिगामी नहीं होगा।
- नागरिक उपयोग के लिए लाई गई Starlink अब यूक्रेन के युद्ध में अहम।
- ग्रामीण रोजगार योजना में काम करने वालों की संख्या में मामूली कमी।
- दिल्ली में यातायात उल्लंघनकर्ताओं के लिए अब सड़क सुरक्षा पाठ्यक्रम अनिवार्य।

PRELIM FACTS (9)

- क्षी-नॉर्थ शेल्टरबेल्ट प्रोग्राम चीन में 1978 में शुरू हुआ।
- हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य से विश्व के लगभग 20% कच्चे तेल का परिवहन होता है।
- ICJS पुलिस, न्यायालय, कारागार, अभियोजन और फोरेंसिक को एकीकृत करता है।
- e-Courts मिशन मोड परियोजना की शुरुआत 2007 में हुई।
- सेमग्लूटाइड एक GLP-1 रिसेप्टर एगोनिस्ट दवा है।
- UNCCD 1994 में अपनाया गया; भारत ने 1996 में अनुसमर्थित किया।
- भारत-यू.के. FTA वस्तुएँ, सेवाएँ और पेशेवर गतिशीलता को कवर करता है।
- फार्मा क्षेत्र के लिए PLI योजना 2020 में अधिसूचित।
- CCTNS देश के 100% राज्यों और केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों में चरणबद्ध रूप से लागू।

VOCABULARY (5)

- Resilience** — संकट या कठिनाई से उबरने की क्षमता।
- Disruption** — ऐसी व्यवधानकारी स्थिति जो सामान्य प्रक्रिया को बाधित करे।
- Synergy** — संयुक्त कार्य से उत्पन्न अधिक प्रभाव या परिणाम।
- Paradigm** — मान्य सोच या दृष्टिकोण का स्थापित ढांचा।
- Mitigation** — नकारात्मक प्रभाव को कम करने का उपाय।

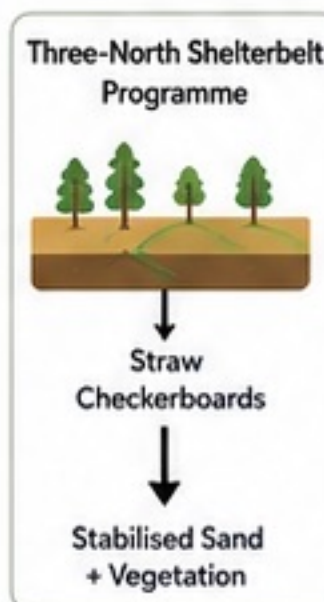
1 A new era of Indian ecology looks to its horizons, and to the ground



- IWEC 2026 held at Ashoka University, Sonapat (10–12 July)
- Focus on predictive ecology & anticipating change
- Climate change, habitat loss, invasive species major concerns
- Emphasis on long-term data, tech, policy & public health
- Wide themes: rivers, eDNA, bats, disease ecology, corridors
- Stronger integration between ecology & policy making

Biodiversity • Climate Adaptation • eDNA
GS III • Environment • Ecology • Conservation

2 China's 'Great Green Wall' tames desert growth, but fight not over



- Launched in 1978 to combat desertification
- Straw checkerboards stabilise sand before plantation
- Desertified land reduced significantly since 2000
- Forest cover rose from ~5% (1978) to 14% (2022)
- Over 300 million rural workers contributed to the programme
- Experts: long-term commitment, investment & participation key

Afforestation • Desertification • UNCCD
GS I • Geography • Environment

3 Export gains (Editorial)



- Trade deficit widened in June on higher imports
- Imports up: crude oil, gold, fertilisers, electronics
- Merchandise exports robust in June & Q1 FY27
- Non-petroleum exports show healthy growth
- Export diversification offsets West Asia disruptions
- Need to deepen domestic electronics component manufacturing

Trade Deficit • Exports • Electronics
GS III • Economy • External Sector

QUICK NEWS (9)

- 1 Iran threatens 'to halt all regional oil exports'.
- 2 Rath Yatra is Puri's most spectacular festival: President.
- 3 How challenging will Delhi's ambitious EV transition be?
- 4 India-U.K. FTA a boost for farmers and small, medium firms, says PM.
- 5 RBI issues data governance guidance framework for banks.
- 6 India-U.K. social security pact is not retrospective.
- 7 Brought in for civilian use, Starlink is now integral to Ukraine's war effort.
- 8 Marginal dip in number of rural job scheme workers.
- 9 Now, road safety lessons await traffic violators in Delhi.

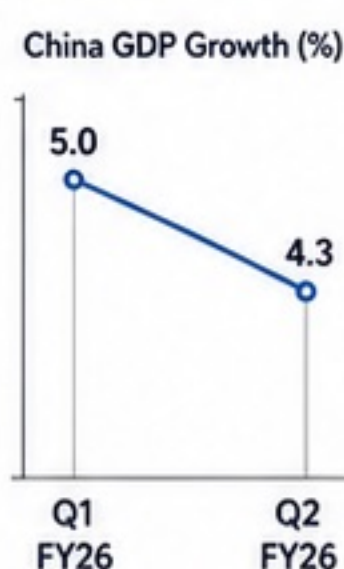
4 Iran's disruptive strategy, its global consequences (Editorial)



- Renewed conflict between Iran & U.S.
- Iran threatens disruption of oil exports via Strait of Hormuz
- Oil prices rise on geopolitical instability
- IMF: lower spare capacity limits shock absorption
- Maritime security & freedom of navigation at risk
- Conflict impacts global economy & energy markets

Strait of Hormuz • Energy Security • Oil Prices
GS II • IR • Maritime Security • West Asia

5 The problem with China's 4.3% growth



- Q2 FY26 growth at 4.3%, slowest since 2022
- Slowed from 5.0% in Q1
- Fixed-asset investment declines
- Weak consumer demand & retail sales
- Real estate remains biggest drag on economy
- High-tech & exports are bright spots

Chinese Economy • Real Estate • Consumption
GS II • World Economy • Neighbourhood

6 Digitisation and efficiency in criminal justice system



- Full digital rollout of criminal justice by 1 July 2027
- Ends: paperless investigations & trials
- Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)
- Integration: police, courts, prisons, prosecution, forensics
- Better case tracking, faster coordination
- Challenges: cyber security, privacy, digital divide

ICJS • e-Courts • CCTNS • Digital Governance
GS II • Governance • Judiciary

PRELIM FACTS (9)

- 1 Three-North Shelterbelt Programme launched in 1978.
- 2 Strait of Hormuz ~20% of global oil passes through.
- 3 ICJS integrates police, courts, prisons, prosecution & forensics.
- 4 e-Courts Mission Mode Project launched in 2007.
- 5 Semaglutide is a GLP-1 receptor agonist.
- 6 UNCCD adopted in 1994; India ratified in 1996.
- 7 India-U.K. FTA covers goods, services & professional mobility.
- 8 PLI Scheme for Pharmaceuticals notified in 2020.
- 9 CCTNS covers 100% States & UTs in phased manner.

VOCABULARY (5)

- 1 **Resilience** — Capacity to recover quickly from difficulties.
- 2 **Disruption** — Disturbance that interrupts normal course.
- 3 **Interoperable** — Systems able to work together.
- 4 **Integrity** — Consistency of actions and values.
- 5 **Synergy** — Working together to produce greater effect.

7 From creators to memes: how the Internet came to shape culture



- Internet shapes culture, language & public discourse
- Memes as tools for social commentary & participation
- Algorithms influence information consumption
- Creator economy transforms employment & entrepreneurship
- Opportunities with risks: misinformation, deepfakes
- Need for media literacy & digital ethics

Digital Culture • Algorithms • Creator Economy
GS II • Society • Ethics • Media

8 Cabinet okays Semicon 2.0, mobile, urea manufacturing schemes, highways



- Continued support for Semicon 2.0 ecosystem
- Incentives to boost mobile phone manufacturing
- New urea manufacturing capacity for fertiliser security
- Highway projects to improve connectivity
- Reduces import dependence & boosts competitiveness
- Supports jobs, industry & infrastructure

Make in India • PLI • Gati Shakti • Infrastructure
GS III • Economy • Industry • Infrastructure

9 Semaglutide: inflection point for Indian generics?



- Patent expiries open big opportunity for generics
- Can reduce cost of treatment substantially
- Semaglutide used for Type-2 diabetes & obesity (in approved indications)
- Peptide manufacturing needs sophisticated tech & QC
- Quality lapses risk export credibility
- PLI scheme supports complex generics & API production

Generic Medicines • APIs • PLI • Pharma Exports
GS III • Health • Economy • Science & Tech