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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

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1. Centre's Stand on English as a Native Language under Three-Language Formula

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Stance on English Classification:** The Union Government informed the Supreme Court that it opposes treating English as an indigenous or "native" Indian language within the educational framework.
- **Three-Language Formula Context:** The debate centers on shifting English to the "non-native" or foreign language category under the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) curriculum.
- **Relief for CBSE Students:** The government assured the Supreme Court that quick consultations will take place to grant Class 6 students a one-time reprieve from a mandatory third-language paper in the Class 10 CBSE examinations.
- **Legal Representation:** Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta made these submissions before a Supreme Court bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant.
- **Minority School Petitions:** The Supreme Court issued a formal notice to the government on petitions filed by minority educational institutions challenging the implementation of the three-language scheme.
- **Submissions Pending:** The government requested to make formal submissions before the apex court on whether English should be categorized strictly as a foreign/non-native language.

Essential Definitions

- **Three-Language Formula:** A policy framework introduced by the National Policy on Education (1968) and reaffirmed in NEP 2020, mandating students to learn three languages: regional language/mother tongue, Hindi (in non-Hindi states) or another modern Indian language (in Hindi-speaking states), and English or another modern language.
- **Indigenous Language:** A language natively originating from a specific geographic territory or cultural group, as opposed to languages introduced via colonial or foreign administration.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 343:** Declares Hindi in Devanagari script as the official language of the Union, while allowing the continued use of English for official purposes as regulated by Parliament.
- **Article 350A:** Directs states to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups.
- **Article 30:** Grants religious and linguistic minorities the fundamental right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- **Eighth Schedule:** Lists 22 officially recognized languages of India; notably, English is not included among them.

Conclusion The Centre's posture before the Supreme Court reinforces the distinction between native Indian languages and inherited administration languages like English. While balancing language preservation with educational ease for current students, the issue highlights the ongoing friction between national language policies and the autonomy of minority educational institutions.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Indian Constitution (Articles 30, 343, 350A), Fundamental Rights, Centre-State relations, Issues relating to development and management of Education, and Minorities' rights.
- **GS Paper I:** Social Empowerment, Cultural Diversity, and Pluralism in Indian Society.

2. BRICS Expansion and Economic Dynamics: Geopolitical Stakes and Challenges for India

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Expansion and Economic Weight:** BRICS+ has expanded to 11 member nations, including recent additions like Indonesia, accounting for nearly 30% of global GDP in 2026 (up from 19.7% in 2009) and narrowing the economic gap with the G7.
- **Internal Geopolitical Fault Lines:** Deep bilateral rivalries—such as India-China border disputes, UAE/Saudi Arabia versus Iran tensions, Egypt-Ethiopia Nile water conflicts, and ICC legal obligations binding South Africa and Brazil regarding Russia—complicate consensus building within the bloc.
- **De-Dollarization and NDB Financing:** The share of the US Dollar in project funding by the New Development Bank (NDB) has fallen below 60%, with increasing reliance on national currencies like the Chinese Yuan, Indian Rupee (57% of Indian NDB projects), and South African Rand.
- **Intra-Bloc Trade Growth:** Intra-BRICS+ trade has surged dramatically, outstripping growth rates of blocs like the EU, G20, and Southeast Asia, demonstrating strong economic interconnectedness.
- **India's Trade Asymmetry:** India experiences a significant trade imbalance within BRICS+, as the bloc accounts for 41.5% of India's imports (primarily from China, UAE, and Russia) compared to only 22.3% of its total exports in FY26.
- **Lack of Consensus Documents:** Deepening internal divisions were evident during recent foreign ministers' meetings, where member states failed to issue a joint declaration, opting instead for a Chair's statement.

Essential Definitions

- **De-dollarization:** The strategic process by which nations reduce reliance on the US Dollar as a dominant medium of international trade, reserve asset, and bilateral settlement mechanism.
- **Global South:** A conceptual term describing developing, emerging, or non-Western nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America seeking equitable representation in global governance institutions.
- **New Development Bank (NDB):** A multilateral development bank established by BRICS states in 2014 to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in emerging economies.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 51 of the Indian Constitution:** Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) mandate the Promotion of International Peace and Security, encouraging international law and settlement of disputes through arbitration.

- **International Criminal Court (ICC) Rome Statute:** Legal framework binding signatory members like South Africa and Brazil to execute active ICC warrants, creating diplomatic friction with non-signatories like Russia.
- **Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992:** Governs India's import-export framework, international trade agreements, and tariff rationalizations with trading partners like BRICS+.

Conclusion While BRICS+ offers a powerful platform for economic multipolarity and Global South representation, its long-term success depends on managing severe internal friction. For India, balancing its import dependencies with strategic autonomy remains a key diplomatic challenge.

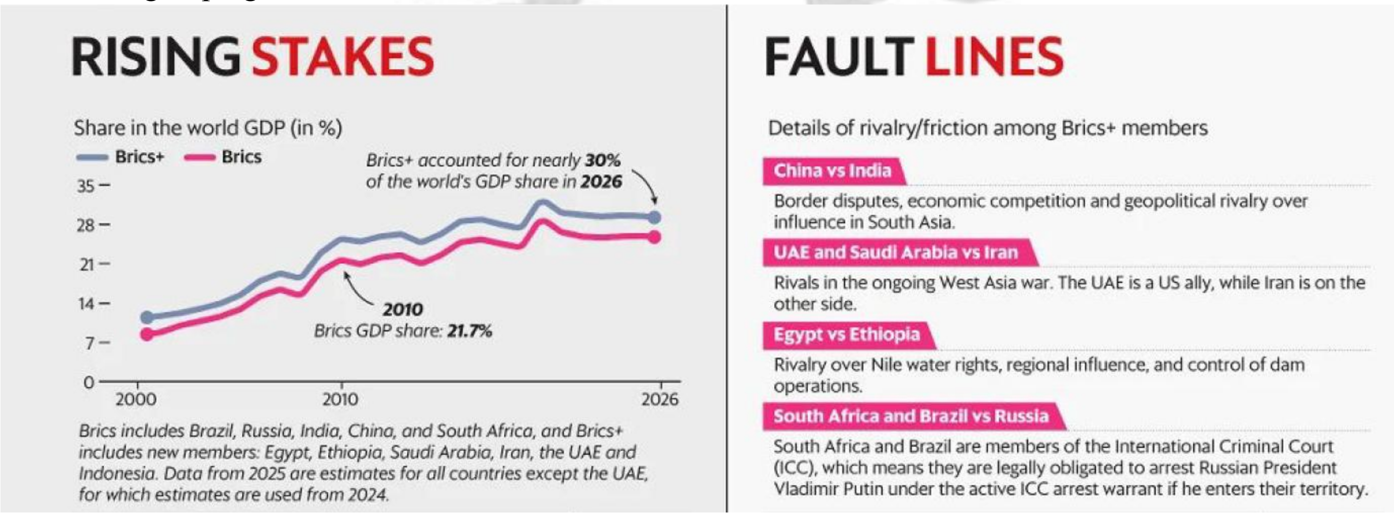
UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Bilateral, Regional, and Global Groupings involving India; Effect of Policies of Developed and Developing Countries on India's Interests; Important International Institutions.
- **GS Paper III:** Indian Economy and Issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, and International Trade Balances.

3. BRICS+ Expansion: Economic Stakes and Geopolitical Fault Lines

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Rising Economic Influence:** The expanded BRICS+ grouping accounts for nearly 30% of global GDP in 2026, marking a substantial increase from 21.7% in 2010 and strengthening its positioning as a major economic bloc.
- **Expanded Membership Base:** The broader BRICS+ framework now encompasses key emerging economies, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Iran, the UAE, and Indonesia alongside original members Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- **Sino-Indian Geopolitical Friction:** Persistent border disputes, trade competition, and rivalry over strategic influence in South Asia continue to pose internal challenges between India and China within the grouping.



- **West Asian Diplomatic Divisions:** Divergent geopolitical alignments create friction, particularly between the US-aligned UAE and Saudi Arabia on one side, and Iran on the other amid ongoing regional conflicts.

- **Nile River Resource Conflicts:** Diplomatic and security tensions persist between Egypt and Ethiopia regarding water rights, regional influence, and the operation of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.
- **International Legal Obligations:** Divergent international commitments strain internal cohesion, as ICC members South Africa and Brazil face legal obligations under active arrest warrants regarding Russian leadership, unlike non-ICC member states.

Essential Definitions

- **BRICS+:** An expanded geopolitical and economic multilateral grouping comprising original member states along with newly admitted emerging nations aimed at fostering South-South cooperation and multipolarity.
- **Multipolarity:** A distribution of global power in which multiple nation-states exert significant economic, military, and diplomatic influence, challenging single-power or dual-power hegemony.
- **International Criminal Court (ICC):** An independent permanent judicial body established to prosecute individuals for international crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 51 of the Indian Constitution:** A Directive Principle of State Policy (DPSP) instructing the state to promote international peace, foster respect for treaty obligations, and encourage settlement of disputes by arbitration.
- **Rome Statute of the ICC:** The foundational multilateral treaty establishing the ICC, creating binding legal obligations on member signatories regarding jurisdiction and international legal assistance.
- **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (1997):** International legal framework governing equitable utilization and management of shared transboundary rivers such as the Nile.

Conclusion While BRICS+ continues to consolidate significant global economic weight, its long-term institutional cohesion hinges on navigating complex bilateral rivalries and conflicting legal obligations among its member nations. Building consensus despite internal fault lines remains vital for the bloc to function as an effective voice for the Global South.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Bilateral, regional, and global groupings involving India; Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests; Important International Institutions.
- **GS Paper I:** Changes in critical geographical features and water-bodies (transboundary river conflicts).

4. DoT Proposal on Taxation of Data Usage Dropped

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Proposal Drop:** The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is unlikely to proceed with a Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) proposal to tax mobile data usage on a per-gigabyte basis due to technical challenges and consumption concerns.

- **Rapid Data Surge:** Mobile data consumption in India reached 285 billion GB in FY26, representing a 24.5% year-on-year increase from 229 billion GB in FY25, alongside 1.29 billion mobile subscribers.
- **Current Tax Structure:** Mobile users in India currently pay an 18% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on mobile plan recharges, while per-GB volumetric taxation remains globally uncommon.
- **Regulatory Alternatives:** Experts and officials suggested non-fiscal measures like age verification, content restrictions, and parental controls to tackle digital addiction among children rather than regressive data taxation.
- **Revenue Drivers:** The proposal aimed to diversify DoT's non-tax revenues amidst declining spectrum auction receipts, which fell to 11,341 crore rupees in 2024 from 4.3 trillion rupees in 2022.
- **Policy Alignment:** Taxing data consumption directly contradicted the government's flagship Digital India advocacy and risked stifling broader internet adoption.

Essential Definitions

- **Average Revenue Per User (ARPU):** A key financial metric in telecommunications measuring the average revenue generated per individual subscriber connection over a specified period.
- **Regressive Taxation:** A tax structure where the tax rate decreases as the taxpayer's income increases, placing a disproportionately higher financial burden on lower-income consumers.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 265 of the Indian Constitution:** Mandates that no tax shall be levied or collected except by authority of law, ensuring parliamentary approval for any new tax streams.
- **Entry 31, List I (Union List):** Grants the Central Government exclusive legislative competence over posts, telegraphs, telephones, wireless, broadcasting, and other like forms of communication.
- **Telecommunications Act, 2023:** Consolidates and modernizes laws governing telecom networks, spectrum allocation, user protection, and regulatory frameworks, replacing historic telegraph legislation.

Conclusion Abandoning the per-GB data tax proposal reflects a balanced policy choice prioritizing digital inclusion and network growth over immediate fiscal extraction. Addressing digital addiction through targeted regulatory interventions preserves India's digital momentum while ensuring public welfare.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- **GS Paper III:** Indian Economy (Mobilization of Resources, Indirect Taxation, and Revenue Generation) and Infrastructure (Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructure).

5. Govt Working to Allow Ethanol Blending Beyond E20

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Policy Expansion Beyond E20:** The Union Government is actively formulating frameworks to permit ethanol blending in petrol beyond the present target level of E20 (20% ethanol blend).

- **Role of Flexi-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs):** The policy transition will be largely enabled by the introduction of flexi-fuel vehicles, with multiple leading automobile manufacturers preparing for upcoming rollouts.
- **Success of E20 Programme:** Advisor to the Prime Minister Tarun Kapoor highlighted the strong execution and success of the E20 initiative while addressing the fourth edition of The India Sugar & Bio-Energy Conference 2026.
- **Sugar Industry Synergy:** The expansion provides long-term stability and demand diversification for the Indian sugar and bio-energy sector by shifting surplus sugarcane processing toward biofuel production.
- **Energy Security and Forex Savings:** Scaling ethanol blending reduces crude oil import dependence, conserves valuable foreign exchange reserves, and lowers carbon emissions in the transport sector.
- **Automotive Adaptation:** Increasing blend ratios above 20% requires engine modifications, corrosion-resistant components, and widespread availability of higher-blend fuel dispensing infrastructure.

Essential Definitions

- **Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP):** A strategic initiative aimed at blending bio-ethanol produced from agricultural feedstocks into petrol to reduce fossil fuel import reliance and environmental impact.
- **Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs):** Vehicles equipped with internal combustion engines designed to run on flexible fuel mixtures, such as combinations of petrol and ethanol up to E85 or 100% hydrous ethanol.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **National Policy on Biofuels (2018):** Provides the regulatory roadmap for biofuel development, categorization of feedstocks, and blending targets across transport and industrial sectors.
- **Article 48A of the Indian Constitution:** A Directive Principle of State Policy (DPSP) instructing the state to protect and improve the environment and safeguard forests and wildlife.
- **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988:** Provides the statutory basis for setting emission standards, fuel specifications, and vehicle type-approval regulations governing flexi-fuel technology.

Conclusion Advancing ethanol blending beyond the E20 threshold reflects a mature transition toward a sustainable bio-economy. Harmonizing automobile manufacturing capabilities with consistent feedstock availability will be critical to achieving seamless deployment and energy self-reliance.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper III:** Indian Economy (Energy Sector and Agriculture Marketing), Environmental Conservation, Pollution Mitigation, and Biofuel Technology.
- **GS Paper II:** Government Policies and Interventions for Development in Key Infrastructure Sectors.

6. RBI to Introduce Five Currency Pairs on Retail Platform

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Expansion of FX Retail Platform:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is set to add five new currency pairs to its retail foreign-exchange platform to broaden consumer access.
- **New Currencies Included:** The platform will now accommodate customer needs in the euro, British pound, Swiss franc, Canadian dollar, and Emirati dirham.

- **Enhanced Individual Access:** Announced by RBI chief general manager Dimple Bhandia at the Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai, the initiative aims to provide individuals with easier access to a wider range of global currencies.
- **Empowering Retail Participants:** By streamlining forex accessibility, the move brings retail users closer to institutional-grade foreign exchange mechanisms.
- **Deepening Financial Markets:** This structural enhancement supports the broader policy goal of deepening domestic financial markets and promoting internationalization of transactions.

Essential Definitions

- **Foreign Exchange (Forex) Retail Platform:** An electronic platform designed to facilitate retail customer access to the foreign exchange market for executing permitted currency transactions.
- **Currency Pair:** Two different currencies quoted against each other, where the value of one currency is determined relative to the other in the foreign exchange market.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934:** Empowers the central bank to regulate the monetary system, manage foreign exchange reserves, and maintain orderly conditions in the financial markets of India.
- **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999:** The primary legal framework governing foreign exchange transactions, external trade, payments, and the promotion of orderly development of the foreign exchange market in India.

Conclusion Integrating additional currency pairs into the FX Retail platform marks a progressive step toward democratizing foreign exchange access for individual participants. Enhancing transparency and ease of execution strengthens India's retail financial architecture.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper III:** Indian Economy (Banking, Financial Markets, Monetary Policy, and External Sector Dynamics).

7. Ladakh Autonomy Push: Centre Offers Article 371 Framework

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Proposal of Article 371(K):** The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) offered to introduce a specific constitutional provision under Article 371(K) to extend special protections and safeguards to the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- **Elected UT-Level Body:** MHA proposed a directly elected UT-level governance body with legislative powers over key subjects including land, culture, language, forests, environment, and natural resources.
- **Demand for Administrative Supremacy:** Ladakh representatives, including activist Sonam Wangchuk from the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), emphasized that any proposed assembly must hold supremacy over the local bureaucracy and retain control over law and order.
- **Lack of Formal Draft:** Representatives expressed concern over the absence of a concrete written draft detailing the exact provisions of Article 371(K), noting that further consultations are scheduled for October.
- **Safeguards Against Irreversible Changes:** LAB and KDA demanded a freeze on major land transfers or structural administrative restructuring until an elected UT-level legislative body is formally constituted.
- **Compensation and Legal Demands:** Regional leaders urged the immediate withdrawal of all legal cases against protesters from the September 2025 agitation alongside compensation packages for affected families.

Essential Definitions

- **Article 371 Series:** Special constitutional provisions under Part XXI of the Indian Constitution designed to protect the socio-cultural, economic, and administrative interests of specific states and regions.
- **Union Territory without Legislature:** An administrative division governed directly by the Central Government through an Administrator or Lieutenant Governor appointed by the President of India under Article 239.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 371:** Provides temporary, transitional, and special provisions to safeguard indigenous culture, land ownership, and local administration in regional pockets across various states.
- **Article 240:** Grants the President of India power to make regulations for the peace, progress, and good government of certain Union Territories, including Ladakh.
- **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019:** Bifurcated the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories, establishing Ladakh as a UT without a legislative assembly.

Conclusion The Centre's offer of special status under Article 371(K) represents a significant step toward addressing Ladakh's democratic deficit and cultural concerns. Securing a consensus will depend on delivering transparent, draft-backed assurances that reconcile local administrative aspirations with federal governance frameworks.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Indian Constitution (Special Provisions under Part XXI), Federalism, Administration of Union Territories, and Issues arising out of Governance and Democratic Decentralization.
- **GS Paper I:** Social Empowerment, Protection of Indigenous Cultures, and Regionalism.

8. India-EU Strategic Alignment and the Fulfilment of Strategic Autonomy

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Hedging Against US Unpredictability:** Rising domestic volatility, protectionist trade policies, and sudden tariff shifts in Washington necessitate that India diversify its diplomatic commitments away from exclusive reliance on a single superpower.
- **Historic India-EU FTA:** Signed on January 27 at the 16th India-EU Summit, the Free Trade Agreement—termed the "mother of all deals"—covers 2 billion consumers and roughly a quarter of global GDP, slashing or eliminating tariffs on over 96% of traded goods.
- **Strategic Security Partnership:** Alongside the trade deal, India and the EU executed a comprehensive Security and Defence Partnership Agreement, expanding joint cooperation across maritime security, cyber-defense, counter-terrorism, and emerging technologies like artificial intelligence.
- **Defense Industrial Collaboration:** The alliance grants India strategic access to Europe's €150 billion Security Action for Europe initiative, boosting joint defense co-production, hardware diversification, and domestic manufacturing capabilities.

- **Shared Counter to Chinese Expansionism:** Both powers share mutual concerns over Chinese economic coercion, state-led trade distortions, predatory connectivity projects, and the creeping militarization of Indo-Pacific maritime lanes.
- **Redefining Strategic Autonomy:** Modern strategic autonomy is framed not as passive isolationism or non-alignment, but as active cultivation of overlapping, high-value partnerships to hedge against global power shifts.

Essential Definitions

- **Strategic Autonomy:** The capacity of a sovereign nation to pursue its national interests and make independent foreign policy choices without being constrained or dominated by external powers.
- **China Plus One Strategy:** A global business strategy where multinational corporations and nations diversify their supply chains and investment destinations beyond China to mitigate operational and geopolitical risks.
- **Security Action for Europe (SAFE):** A European Union funding and institutional framework aimed at enhancing defense capabilities, joint procurement, and strategic security partnerships with trusted global allies.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 51 of the Indian Constitution:** Directive Principle instructing the State to promote international peace and security, maintain just and honorable relations between nations, and foster respect for international law and treaty obligations.
- **Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992:** Legally empowers the Central Government to negotiate, execute, and implement bilateral and multilateral trade agreements like the India-EU Free Trade Agreement.
- **Customs Tariff Act, 1975:** Regulatory framework under which the Union Government executes preferential tariff modifications and tariff reductions stipulated under signed trade pacts.

Conclusion Building a resilient, multifaceted partnership with Europe allows India to balance US geopolitical volatility while countering regional Chinese dominance. This strategic convergence solidifies India's role as an indispensable pole in a multi-polar global order.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Bilateral, Regional, and Global Groupings involving India and affecting India's interests; Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India's Interests.
- **GS Paper III:** Indian Economy (Effects of Liberalization on the Economy, Changes in Industrial Policy), Foreign Trade, and Technology Transfers in Defense Production.

9. Constitutional and Legal Concerns Over Special Intensive Revision (SIR)

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Massive Voter Deletions:** The Election Commission of India's (ECI) Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls led to the removal of over 13 crore voters nationwide, including 48 lakh in Delhi and nearly 2 crore in Maharashtra.
- **Concerns Over Arbitrary Exclusion:** Critics argue that the mass deletion exercise operates as a "Special Intensive Exclusion" (SIE), arbitrarily stripping citizens of fundamental democratic rights despite holding valid identity documents.
- **Departure from Constituent Assembly Intent:** The exercise is criticized for ignoring the core tenets of universal adult franchise established by the framers of the Constitution to ensure impartial elections.
- **Procedural Safeguards Ignored:** Booth Level Officers (BLOs) deleted names without adhering to statutory safeguards under Section 22 of the RPA, 1950, which requires proper inquiry and hearing before deletion.
- **Socio-Economic Entitlement Loss:** The removal of electors from rolls creates severe uncertainty, resulting in potential loss of crucial citizenship-linked benefits such as passports, ration cards, and welfare schemes.
- **Shift of Burden onto Citizens:** Instead of proactive ECI verification, the burden of proof and re-inclusion has been shifted entirely to excluded citizens through cumbersome administrative procedures.

Essential Definitions

- **Special Intensive Revision (SIR):** A comprehensive house-to-house enumeration exercise conducted by the ECI to verify the correctness of electoral rolls and remove ineligible or non-existent voters.
- **Universal Adult Suffrage:** The constitutional principle granting every adult citizen, above a specified age, the equal right to vote without discrimination based on property, wealth, or status.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 326 of the Indian Constitution:** Guarantees every adult citizen the right to be registered as a voter, subject only to statutory disqualifications like non-residence, unsoundness of mind, crime, or corrupt practices.
- **Article 14:** Ensures equality before law and equal protection of laws, rendering arbitrary and discriminatory deletion of electors unconstitutional.
- **Section 16 of Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950:** Outlines specific legal grounds for disqualification from registration in an electoral roll.
- **Section 21 & Section 22 of RPA, 1950:** Empowers ECI to revise rolls and regulate corrections, explicitly granting the affected person a statutory right to be heard before any deletion.

Conclusion While maintaining clean electoral rolls is vital for electoral integrity, automated or arbitrary mass deletions erode democratic trust. Reconciling administrative efficiency with strict adherence to statutory natural justice remains indispensable for preserving constitutional rights.

UPSC Relevance

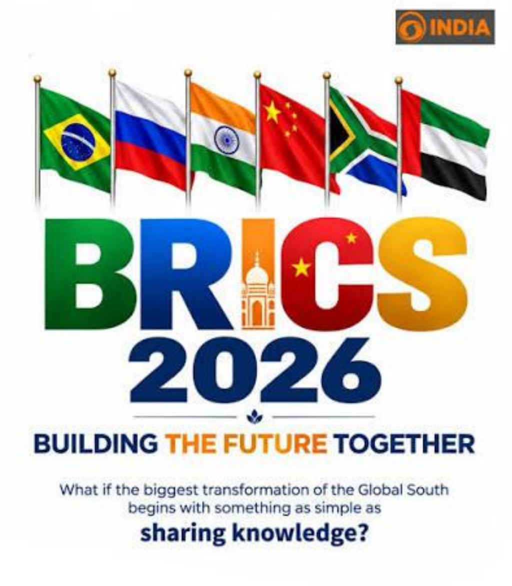
- **GS Paper II:** Indian Constitution (Article 14, Article 326), Statutory Bodies (Election Commission of India), Salient Features of Representation of the People Act, and Constitutional Safeguards for Citizens' Rights.

10. Turning Economic Cooperation into Shared Prosperity: The UAE-India BRICS Vision

Key Highlights & Summary

- **UAE's Core Engagement Principle:** Since becoming a full member of BRICS in January 2024, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) grounds its participation in fostering practical economic cooperation to create tangible global economic opportunities.
- **Diversification and Complementarity:** The strength of BRICS lies in its internal diversity, connecting capital, resource-rich producers, consumer destinations, and manufacturing hubs across the Global South.
- **Strengthening India-UAE Economic Ties:** Bilateral non-oil trade grew by 17% in 2025 to surpass $76 billion under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), with both nations targeting $200 billion by 2032.
- **Support for India's 2026 BRICS Chairship:** The UAE expressed strong support for India's BRICS Chairship centered on "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability" as host of the 18th Summit.

- **Development Financing via NDB:** The New Development Bank (NDB) has approved over $40 billion in financing for infrastructure and sustainable development, serving as a critical funding mechanism for emerging economies.
- **Connectivity Beyond Trade:** Economic integration is driven by multi-sectoral institutional ties spanning education, innovation, technology, tourism, and sovereign wealth investment deployment.



Essential Definitions

- **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA):** A bilateral free trade agreement framework that reduces tariffs and eliminates trade barriers across goods, services, and cross-border investments.
- **Global South:** A collective term for developing, emerging, and non-Western economies in Asia, Africa, and Latin America working toward equitable international economic governance.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 51 of the Indian Constitution:** Directive Principle instructing the State to foster respect for international law, uphold treaty obligations, and promote international peace and economic security.
- **Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992:** Legally authorizes the Union Government to negotiate, execute, and regulate international economic agreements and bilateral trade frameworks.
- **Agreement on the New Development Bank (2014):** The multilateral treaty governing NDB operations, legal status, capital allocation, and financing for sustainable development projects.

Conclusion The UAE's active participation within BRICS and its deepening trade alignment with India reflect a modern framework for multipolar economic growth. Combining sovereign wealth, trade integration, and strategic connectivity serves as an effective strategy for building resilient supply chains across the Global South.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Bilateral, Regional, and Global Groupings involving India; Effect of Policies of Developed and Developing Countries on India's Interests; Important International Institutions (BRICS, NDB).
- **GS Paper III:** Indian Economy (Bilateral Trade Balances, Capital Flows, Foreign Direct Investment, and Infrastructure Financing).