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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 24/10/2026 (SATURDAY)



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VIDHVATH IAS ACADEMY

1. India-China Border Dynamics and ITBP Role in Arunachal Pradesh

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Ongoing Standoff in Arunachal Sector:** Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) confirmed ongoing face-offs at several locations in Arunachal Pradesh, specifically around the Taksing area of Upper Subansiri district, following Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) transgressions.
- **Patrolling Divergences:** Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) noted that local border friction arises when Chinese patrols stray from established patrolling patterns, re-emphasizing that peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is foundational to overall bilateral ties.
- **Deployment of Shaurya Commandos:** To bolster border security, ITBP has operationalized elite 'Shaurya Commando' units within its battalions, creating high-altitude mountain fighting teams dedicated to rapid response during border face-offs.
- **Diplomatic & Military Engagement:** India and China continue to engage through Corps Commander-level dialogues, including talks at the Wacha-Damai border personnel meeting point in the Kibithu sector, to prevent miscalculations along the LAC.
- **Shift from Legacy Mandates:** ITBP is transitioning from traditional mountain guerrilla warfare concepts toward specialized high-altitude combat preparedness distinct from regular Army formations.
- **Domestic Political Scrutiny:** Escalating incidents on the eastern border continue to draw political scrutiny regarding border management transparency and national security readiness.

Essential Definitions



- **Line of Actual Control (LAC):** The notionally demarcated line separating Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory, divided into Western, Middle, and Eastern sectors.
- **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP):** A Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, raised in 1962, mandated to guard India's 3,488 km border with China from Karakoram Pass to Jachep La.
- **Border Personnel Meeting (BPM):** Designated institutional mechanisms (such as Wacha-Damai) where military personnel from both sides meet to resolve local tactical disputes and maintain operational tranquility.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 355 of the Constitution:** Imposes a duty on the Union government to protect every State against external aggression and internal disturbance.
- **Union List (Seventh Schedule):** Entry 1 ("Defense of India") and Entry 2 ("Armed forces of the Union") grant exclusive legislative power to the Parliament over border defense and CAPF deployment.
- **Border Management Directives:** Operationalized under MHA guidelines in coordination with the Ministry of Defense to maintain primary border guarding responsibilities under unified tactical frameworks.

Conclusion

Sustained territorial friction along the LAC highlights the critical need for robust border infrastructure, modernized CAPF tactical training, and continuous military-diplomatic channels to maintain stability while safeguarding territorial integrity.

UPSC Relevance

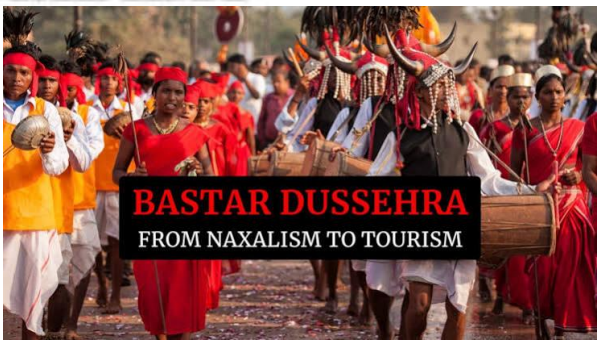
- **GS Paper II:** India and its Neighborhood Relations; Governance & Interstate/External Security Agencies.
- **GS Paper III:** Security Challenges and Management in Border Areas; Role of External State and Non-State Actors.

2. Tribal Empowerment, Preservation of Cultural Heritage, and Post-Maoist Reconstruction in Bastar

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Presidential Address in Bastar:** President Droupadi Murmu visited Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh, emphasizing the dual imperative for tribal communities to educate their youth and embrace modern economic opportunities while preserving their unique cultural identity.
- **Muria Darbar as Grassroots Democracy:** Addressing the 'Muria Darbar'—a traditional assembly held during the 75-day Bastar Dussehra festival—the President praised it as a model of participatory governance, social justice, mutual cooperation, and dialogue.
- **Tribal Ethos and Eco-Centric Heritage:** The address highlighted tribal traditions that treat nature as a vital source of life rather than a mere resource, referencing Bastar's historic links to Dandakaranya and the Ramayana.
- **Youth Platforms and Sports:** Initiatives such as the Bastar Olympics were cited as vital platforms designed to nurture local talent and redirect tribal youth energy toward national development.
- **Transition to Post-Maoist Reconstruction:** Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai outlined a comprehensive development roadmap for Chhattisgarh focusing on healthcare, education, tourism, and enhanced rail-road connectivity as Maoism recedes from the region.
- **Institutional Support for Traditional Leaders:** The state government has expanded infrastructure connectivity and increased the monthly honorarium for traditional tribal representatives to reinforce local governance systems.

Essential Definitions



- **Muria Darbar:** A traditional tribal assembly organized during Bastar Dussehra where community representatives, traditional leaders, and administration meet to resolve public grievances, discuss social issues, and foster collective decision-making.
- **Bastar Dussehra:** A unique 75-day festival celebrated in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region that symbolises multi-community harmony, social unity, and ancestral heritage rather than the traditional epic narrative alone.

- **Fifth Schedule Areas:** Constitutionally designated tribal-majority areas under Article 244(1) receiving special administrative provisions to protect tribal land rights, culture, and governance institutions.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 21A & Right to Education Act, 2009:** Guarantees free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14, fundamental to uplifting youth in tribal and left-wing extremism (LWE)-affected belts.
- **Article 29(1) & Article 350A:** Protects the right of distinct citizen groups to conserve their language, script, and culture, and advocates for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage.
- **PESA Act, 1996 (Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas):** Legally empowers Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas to safeguard community resources, customary law, and traditional modes of dispute resolution.
- **Fifth Schedule (Article 244(1)):** Empowers the Governor to regulate land transfers, money lending, and administration in scheduled areas to prevent tribal exploitation.

Conclusion

Integrating traditional tribal administrative mechanisms like the Muria Darbar with modern educational, infrastructure, and democratic frameworks ensures sustainable development while safeguarding indigenous heritage in post-conflict regions.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper I:** Indian Culture & Society—Diversity, Tribal Traditions, and Cultural Heritage.
- **GS Paper II:** Government Policies & Interventions for Vulnerable Sections; Constitutional Provisions under the Fifth Schedule.
- **GS Paper III:** Internal Security—Development and Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) Dynamics; Security Challenges and Infrastructure Building in Border/Affected Zones.

3. MHA Civil Defence Capacity-Building Pilot Project Across 12 States and UTs

Key Highlights & Summary

- **MHA-Army Joint Training Drive:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in collaboration with the Indian Army will launch a joint training program to establish a civil defence network across 12 States and Union Territories.
- **Scale of Volunteer Mobilization:** The pilot initiative targets training approximately 60,000 civil defence volunteers to bolster local emergency response and national security preparedness.
- **Phased Master Trainer Modules:** Phase one involves a three-day specialized training curriculum for civil defence master trainers from participating jurisdictions to cascade skills locally.



- **Operationalization of Prime Minister's Vision:** The program directly aligns with the Independence Day national address focusing on modernizing civil defense systems with advanced technologies and proactive readiness.

- **Focus on Emerging Security Threats:** The initiative upgrades traditional civil defence capabilities to address contemporary risks, including hybrid security challenges, cyber vulnerabilities, and natural disasters.
- **Civil-Military Synergy:** The collaborative framework creates a seamless bridge between armed forces operational expertise and civilian community-level disaster response networks.

Essential Definitions

- **Civil Defence:** Non-military measures taken by citizens and authorities to protect lives, minimize property damage, and maintain public morale during hostile attacks or natural disasters.
- **Master Trainers:** Selected personnel trained in advanced disaster response, tactical rescue, and emergency protocols tasked with cascading training down to ground-level volunteers.
- **Pilot Project:** A small-scale, preliminary implementation designed to evaluate feasibility, cost, time, and tactical efficacy before full-scale national deployment.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Civil Defence Act, 1968:** Serves as the primary statutory framework authorizing the creation, organization, and operational deployment of civil defence corps across India.
- **Disaster Management Act, 2005:** Provides statutory backing for integrating civil defence volunteers into National and State Disaster Response Force (NDRF/SDRF) coordination frameworks.
- **Article 51A(d) of the Constitution:** Outlines the Fundamental Duty of every citizen to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so.
- **Seventh Schedule (State List, Entry 1 & Concurrent List):** Mandates public order maintenance as a primary State responsibility while enabling Union-State coordination on national emergency preparedness.

Conclusion

Integrating military training methodologies into civilian volunteer networks significantly elevates national resilience, streamlining emergency response mechanisms against modern multi-dimensional security challenges.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Statutory, Regulatory, and Various Quasi-Judicial Bodies; Role of Civil Services and Community Mechanisms in Governance.
- **GS Paper III:** Internal Security; Disaster and Disaster Management; Security Challenges and Their Management in Border and Interior Regions.

4. Madhya Pradesh Tech Sector Expansion and Semiconductor Summit-2026

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Major Tech Capital Injection:** Madhya Pradesh issued Letters of Intent for land allotment across five projects worth Rs 9,625 crore, expected to generate over 4,450 direct high-skill jobs in the state.
- **Hyperscale Data Centre in Gwalior:** CyTac RE plans to establish a 50-MW hyperscale data centre at Ganga Malanpur in Gwalior with an investment of Rs 6,415 crore.

- **Lithium-Cell Manufacturing Plant:** Una Ecosystems Pvt Ltd proposed a Rs 2,000-crore investment for a 1.5 GWh capacity lithium-cell manufacturing facility at Electronics Manufacturing Cluster-2 in Bhopal.
- **Semiconductor Summit-2026 Engagement:** The summit hosted over 1,000 delegates, including representatives from global chip hubs such as Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and Sweden, to foster semiconductor supply chains, chip design, and AI.
- **Global Capability & Electronics Clusters:** Key projects include a Rs 500-crore Global Capability Centre by Auriga IT Solutions in Indore, alongside electronics manufacturing units by Meena Circuits (Rs 400 crore) and Kaynes Electronics (Rs 310 crore) in Bhopal.
- **Centers of Excellence:** The state government announced plans to establish a Semiconductor Centre of Excellence and a Centre of Excellence for Photonics and Quantum Technologies to drive deep-tech research and quantum computing.

Essential Definitions

- **Hyperscale Data Centre:** A large-scale facility designed to provide robust, scalable computing infrastructure and massive data storage capabilities essential for cloud computing and big data analytics.
- **Global Capability Centre (GCC):** A dedicated offshore facility established by major corporations to handle strategic functions, technology research, software development, and specialized operations.
- **Lithium-Cell Gigafactory:** A large-scale manufacturing plant producing high-energy-density lithium-ion battery cells crucial for electric vehicles and renewable energy storage systems.

Legal and Constitutional Framework



- **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):** The overarching central policy framework providing fiscal incentives for semiconductor fabs, display fabs, compound semiconductors, and chip design ecosystems across Indian states.
- **Article 246 (Seventh Schedule - Union & Concurrent Lists):** Covers Union capabilities over communications, foreign technology partnerships, and industrial growth alongside state power over land allotment, infrastructure, and local economic promotion.
- **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023:** Regulates the storage, processing, and management of personal data within data centres and technological ecosystems operating in India.
- **National Policy on Electronics (NPE):** Directs state-level cluster creation, intellectual property generation, and electronic system design and manufacturing (ESDM) incentives.

Conclusion

Substantial investments in semiconductor infrastructure, lithium storage, and deep-tech research mark a strategic transition for inland states, diversifying industrial capability and strengthening national technological self-reliance.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Government Policies and Interventions for Development in Various Sectors; Centre-State Relations in Industrial Promotion.
- **GS Paper III:** Indian Economy and Issues Relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, and Development; Technology Missions; Indigenization of Technology and Developing New Technology.

5. Cyclonic Formation in Bay of Bengal and East Coast Preparedness

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Bay of Bengal Cyclonic Formation:** India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an alert for a low-pressure area over the southeast Bay of Bengal, expected to intensify into Cyclone Arnab.
- **Projected Landfall and Trajectory:** Moving west-northwestwards, the system is forecast to make landfall along the north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha coast around October 28.
- **Naming and Nodal Attribution:** Named 'Arnab'—a nomenclature contributed by Bangladesh under the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)/ESCAP regional cyclone naming protocol.
- **Cyclonene Frequency Asymmetry:** Out of an annual average of four cyclones developing across the North Indian Ocean, roughly three originate in the Bay of Bengal due to warmer sea surface temperatures and high humidity.
- **Fishermen Advisory & Marine Warning:** IMD advised total suspension of fishing operations and urged fishermen at sea to return to the coast immediately till October 29 due to squally wind conditions reaching gale force.
- **Monsoon Interaction:** The developing system interacts with active northeast monsoon currents, bringing heavy rainfall across Tamil Nadu, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and coastal Karnataka.

Essential Definitions

- **Tropical Cyclone:** A rapid rotating storm system originating over tropical oceans, characterized by a low-pressure centre, strong winds, and heavy spiral rainbands.
- **Depression / Deep Depression:** Stages of cyclonic development categorized by maximum sustained surface wind speeds between 31–49 km/h (depression) and 50–61 km/h (deep depression) before reaching cyclonic storm intensity.
- **Landfall:** The intersection of the eye or centre of a tropical cyclone with a coastline, bringing extreme wind, storm surges, and torrential rainfall.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Disaster Management Act, 2005:** Institutional framework establishing the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) for early warning dissemination, evacuation, and disaster mitigation.
- **Article 21 of the Constitution:** Incorporates the right to life and personal safety, obligating the state to deploy proactive disaster response and early warning systems to protect vulnerable coastal communities.
- **Seventh Schedule (State List, Entry 14 & Concurrent List, Entry 23):** Governs state-level disaster response, relief, and social security coordination with central agencies like IMD and NDRF.

Conclusion

Timely meteorologic tracking by the IMD combined with pre-disaster evacuation measures under statutory disaster management frameworks remains crucial to mitigating loss of life and socio-economic disruption during post-monsoon cyclone events along India's eastern seaboard.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper I:** Physical Geography—Important Geophysical Phenomena (Tropical Cyclones), Distribution of Key Natural Resources.
- **GS Paper III:** Disaster and Disaster Management; Environmental Impact and Vulnerability Analysis.

6. Revision of Periodic Labour Force Survey to Track Gig and Unpaid Household Work

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Restructuring the PLFS Framework:** The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) under MoSPI proposed structural modifications to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) sampling design starting January 2027 to capture gig workers and unpaid labor.
- **Identification of Digital Platform Workers:** A separate Second Stage Stratum (SSS) will be introduced in both rural and urban sampling frameworks to identify households containing at least one digital platform worker during specified reference periods.
- **Quantifying Unpaid Care and Household Work:** The revised schedule will incorporate dedicated questionnaire entries measuring unpaid caregiving (childcare, elderly/sick care), domestic chores (cooking, cleaning), volunteer work, and unpaid trainee roles.
- **Focus on Hidden Women's Labor:** By measuring own-use production of goods and domestic caregiving, the survey aims to formally quantify women's indirect economic contributions that facilitate other household members' entry into paid employment.
- **Measuring Labour Underutilisation:** The survey schedule will incorporate refined metrics to capture disguised unemployment, underemployment, and broader labour underutilisation across diverse economic sectors.
- **Sampling Optimization:** Sample allocation and stratification criteria are updated—incorporating 4 SSSs in rural areas and 5 SSSs in urban areas—to ensure better population representation and minimize operational sampling errors.



Essential Definitions

- **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):** A nationwide survey launched by NSSO in April 2017 to estimate key employment and unemployment indicators (like LFPR, WPR, and UR) at short time intervals.
- **Gig and Platform Worker:** Individuals who perform jobs or provide services through digital platform business models, relying on algorithm-driven matching rather than traditional employer-employee relationships.

- **Unpaid Care Work:** Non-remunerated domestic duties, caregiving for dependents, and voluntary community service that generate economic value but remain outside conventional GDP calculations.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Code on Social Security, 2020:** First statutory framework in India defining platform and gig workers, mandating social security schemes, occupational safety, and welfare funds for platform-based labor.
- **Article 39(a) & (d) of the Constitution:** Directive Principles guiding state policy toward securing adequate means of livelihood for all citizens and ensuring equal pay for equal work regardless of gender.
- **Article 42 of the Constitution:** Mandates the state to make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief.
- **Collection of Statistics Act, 2008:** Authorizes central statistical agencies to collect, compile, and analyze socio-economic data for national policymaking and planning.

Conclusion

Modernizing statistical instruments like the PLFS ensures accurate mapping of emerging gig economies and unpaid domestic contributions, creating data-driven foundations for inclusive social safety nets and gender-sensitive economic policies.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections; Government Policies and Interventions for Development in Various Sectors.
- **GS Paper III:** Indian Economy and Issues Relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development, and Employment; Inclusive Growth and Issues Arising from It.

7. India-Azerbaijan Relations and Post-Operation Sindoor Diplomatic Engagement

Key Highlights & Summary

- **High-Level Bilateral Engagement:** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov in Baku, marking the first bilateral visit by an Indian EAM in eight years.
- **Easing Post-Operation Sindoor Friction:** The diplomatic outreach follows a period of strain triggered by Azerbaijan's condemnation of India's May 2025 'Operation Sindoor', which targeted terror infrastructure in Pakistan.
- **Diversified Sectoral Cooperation:** Both nations agreed to expand economic activities, trade, investment, energy, tourism, cultural exchanges, and connectivity infrastructure to reset bilateral relations.
- **Shared Counter-Terrorism Principles:** EAM Jaishankar emphasized that terrorism, conflict, and instability are common threats, establishing a foundation for mutual security alignment.
- **Support for South Caucasus Peace Process:** India extended formal support to the peace process between Azerbaijan and Armenia, signaling a balanced approach in the strategically vital South Caucasus region.

- **Strategic Realignment:** The meeting reflects India's broader diplomatic strategy to engage key Eurasian stakeholders, counter the Turkey-Azerbaijan-Pakistan axis, and safeguard regional transit interests.

Essential Definitions

- **Operation Sindoor:** A cross-border anti-terror military operation executed by India in May 2025 against terror targets based in Pakistan.
- **South Caucasus Geopolitics:** The strategic transcontinental region between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, encompassing Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, linking Europe with Central Asia and the Middle East.
- **INSTC (International North-South Transport Corridor):** A multi-modal transportation route connecting India, Iran, Azerbaijan, and Russia to move freight between India, Central Asia, and Europe.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 51 of the Constitution:** Directive Principles of State Policy mandate the state to promote international peace and security, maintain just and honorable relations between nations, and foster respect for international law.
- **UN Charter Article 51:** Recognizes the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a member state, underpinning India's counter-terrorism operations.
- **Seventh Schedule (Union List, Entry 10 & Entry 14):** Grants exclusive executive and legislative authority to the Union Government over foreign affairs, diplomatic representation, and treaties with foreign nations.



Conclusion

India's diplomatic outreach in Baku represents a calibrated effort to manage bilateral differences over cross-border counter-terrorism operations, balance South Caucasus geopolitics, and secure long-term transit and energy partnerships across Eurasia.

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UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Bilateral, Regional, and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's Interests; Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India's Interests.
- **GS Paper III:** Internal Security; Cyber Security and Counter-Terrorism Frameworks.

8. AI Integration in National Mobile Monitoring System for Rural Employment Scheme

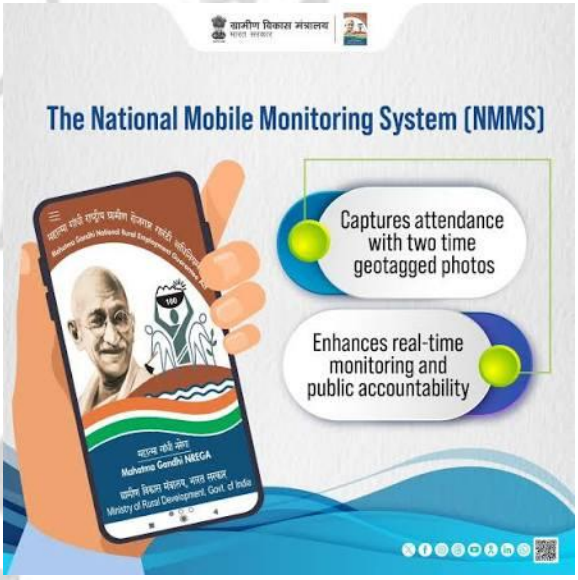
Key Highlights & Summary

- **Upgraded NMMS App Deployment:** Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced an upgraded National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) app featuring AI-based facial recognition to verify worker attendance in the rural employment scheme (VB-GRAM G).

- **Anti-Tampering and Liveness Detection:** The upgraded application incorporates liveness detection and safeguards against device cloning to ensure that physical, live workers are captured instead of static or dummy photographs.
- **Plugging Attendance Fraud:** The technical intervention targets vulnerabilities such as photo-to-photo capturing, duplicate images across multiple muster rolls, and discrepancies between morning and afternoon attendance captures.
- **Multi-Layered Verification System:** The platform integrates an AI-based photo de-duplication module that automatically withholds wage lists and Fund Transfer Orders (FTOs) when suspicious entries or duplicated photos are flagged.
- **Inclusion Safeguards and Offline Functionality:** To prevent exclusion in low-connectivity areas or among elderly workers and persons with disabilities, the system permits offline attendance recording and an authorized exception mechanism.
- **Fiscal Transparency & Wage Protection:** The initiative seeks to prevent leakage of public funds while ensuring genuine, eligible rural workers receive complete wage transfers for verified work.

Essential Definitions

- **National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS):** A mobile application deployed by the Ministry of Rural Development to record geo-tagged, time-stamped attendance of beneficiaries at rural employment worksites.
- **Liveness Detection:** An AI computer vision mechanism that verifies whether a biometric sample (e.g., face capture) originates from a live human present at the scene rather than a digital screen, photo, or mask.
- **Fund Transfer Order (FTO):** An electronic mandate generated within government financial management systems (like PFMS) to trigger direct wage credit into beneficiary bank accounts.



Legal and Constitutional Framework

VIDHVATH IAS ACADEMY

- **Article 21 of the Constitution:** Guarantees the fundamental right to life and livelihood, underscoring that welfare administrative checks must not cause arbitrary exclusion of vulnerable beneficiaries.
- **Article 39(a) of the Constitution:** Directive Principles of State Policy mandating the State to direct its policy toward securing an adequate means of livelihood for all citizens.
- **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023:** Regulates the collection, processing, and storage of facial biometrics and personal data collected by government apps, mandating data minimization and secure storage.
- **Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-GRAM G) Framework:** Statutory operational guidelines directing digitized attendance, wage calculation, and public transparency mechanisms in rural worksites.

Conclusion

Integrating advanced artificial intelligence tools into rural welfare schemes strengthens fiscal accountability and eliminates systemic leakages, provided robust exception handling ensures no genuine beneficiary is denied their statutory right to work and wages.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections by the Centre and States; Governance, Transparency, Accountability, and E-governance Applications.
- **GS Paper III:** Indian Economy and Issues Relating to Employment, Mobilization of Resources, Development, and Inclusive Growth; Technology Inclusion in Public Delivery Systems.

9. UN Security Council Legitimacy Deficit and Institutional Reform Demands

Key Highlights & Summary

- **India's Call for UNSC Reform:** India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, stated at the UN General Assembly that the UNSC faces a severe "legitimacy deficit" due to its failure to resolve grave global conflicts.
- **Rejection of Post-1945 Status Quo:** India asserted that authority derived from WWII victory cannot compensate for current unrepresentativeness, emphasizing that an institution created "by the victors, for the victors" must adapt beyond 1945 dynamics.



- **Asia-Pacific Under-Representation:** Highlighted that the Asia-Pacific Group, accounting for over 60% of the global population, faces gross under-representation in the 15-nation council.
- **Rejection of Partial Reforms:** India stressed that expanding only the non-permanent category leaves the central power imbalance untouched, reiterating the demand for expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories.
- **Candidacy for Non-Permanent Seat:** India declared its bid for a non-permanent UNSC seat for the 2028-29 term to continue pushing for equitable global governance.
- **Suppression of Historical Contributions:** The intervention pointed out the historical suppression of sacrifices made by developing nations during the world wars while non-victor concerns were systematically excluded.

Essential Definitions

- **UN Security Council (UNSC):** The principal organ of the United Nations responsible for maintaining international peace and security, composed of 5 permanent members (P5) with veto power and 10 non-permanent members.
- **Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN):** A group of state-led discussions within the UN General Assembly working towards comprehensive reform of the Security Council, covering categories of membership, veto, and regional representation.
- **G4 Alliance:** A coalition comprising India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan supporting each other's bids for permanent seats on the UN Security Council.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 23 of the UN Charter:** Regulates the composition of the Security Council, requiring amendments to alter membership structures or seat allocations.
- **Article 108 of the UN Charter:** Specifies the legal amendment procedure, requiring a two-thirds vote in the General Assembly and ratification by two-thirds of UN members, including all P5 members.
- **Article 51 of the Indian Constitution:** Directs the State to promote international peace and security, foster respect for international law, and encourage settlement of international disputes.

Conclusion

Comprehensive structural reform of the Security Council, expanding both permanent and non-permanent categories, is imperative to restore the credibility, legitimacy, and operational efficacy of the United Nations in addressing contemporary multilateral challenges.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Important International Institutions, Agencies, and Fora—their Structure, Mandate, and Functioning; Bilateral, Regional, and Global Groupings involving India.

10. Global Oil Price Surge and Economic Implications for India

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Surge to Near Six-Month High:** Benchmark Brent crude futures accelerated 3.8% to an intra-day high of $117.42 per barrel, following Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia's civilian and energy infrastructure.
- **Impact on Indian Crude Basket:** According to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), India's crude oil basket averaged $119.99 per barrel on Friday and $120.08 per barrel for the ongoing month.
- **Divergence from RBI Projections:** Current benchmark prices significantly exceed the Reserve Bank of India’s economic baseline projections, which assumed crude prices averaging $95 per barrel in the second half of the fiscal year.
- **Inflationary and Fiscal Pressures:** Economists estimate that public sector support of 1.7% of GDP cushions shocks at $100 per barrel, but every $10 per barrel increase in crude adds 20 bps of required fiscal support if retail pump prices remain steady.
- **Downstream City Gas Price Hikes:** In response to rising input gas pressures, Adani Total Gas raised Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) retail prices by ₹4.45 per kg across outlets in Gujarat, Haryana, and Rajasthan.
- **Supply Chain Disruption Risks:** Renewed geopolitical volatility in the Middle East has heightened concerns over global oil supply disruptions and persistent imported inflation.

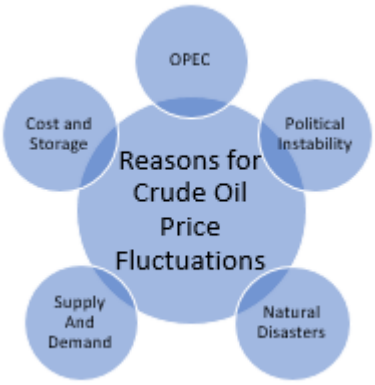
Essential Definitions

- **Brent Crude:** A major international trade benchmark for sweet light crude oil, serving as a pricing baseline for world oil purchases.
- **Indian Crude Basket:** A weighted average price derived from Oman and Dubai sour crude and Brent sweet crude, representing the profile of crude oil processed by Indian refineries.

- **Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC):** An attached office of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas that assists in policy formulation, monitors oil and gas sectors, and tracks import-export data.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Seventh Schedule (Union List, Entry 53):** Grants exclusive powers to the Union Parliament over petroleum and petroleum products, oilfields, and mineral oil resources.
- **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006:** Statutory body regulating the refining, transportation, distribution, and sale of petroleum and natural gas to safeguard consumer interests.
- **Essential Commodities Act, 1955:** Empowers the central government to control the production, supply, and distribution of petroleum products during emergency supply shocks.



Conclusion

Volatile crude prices driven by Middle Eastern geopolitical tensions underscore India's macro-economic vulnerability to imported energy shocks, emphasizing the urgency for strategic petroleum reserves and expedited transition to renewable energy frameworks.

UPSC Relevance

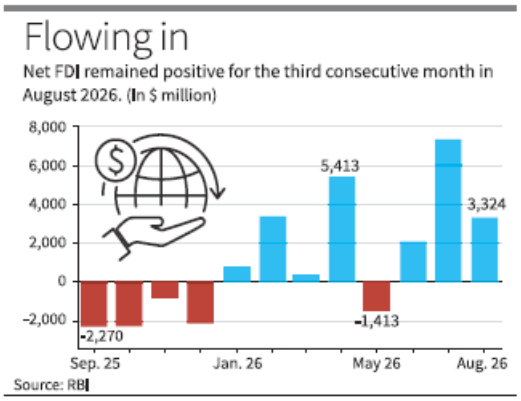
- **GS Paper III:** Indian Economy and Issues Relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, and Inflation; Energy Security and Infrastructure.

11. Net FDI Inflows and External Sector Resilience in India

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Positive Net FDI Momentum:** According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) bulletin, net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India remained positive for the third consecutive month in August 2026, reaching $3.3 billion driven by strong gross inflows and moderated outward investments.
- **Sectoral Concentration:** Over two-thirds of total gross FDI inflows were concentrated in the communication, miscellaneous services, and manufacturing sectors, highlighting targeted investor interest.
- **Major Source Countries:** The United States, Singapore, and Mauritius served as the primary source countries, collectively accounting for approximately 72% of total gross FDI inflows into India.
- **Moderation in Outward Direct Investment:** Outward direct investment by Indian entities fell to $1.9 billion—a decline of over 43% from July—with over half directed towards Singapore, Netherlands, and the United States.
- **surge in Remittances:** Inward remittances rose significantly to $5.8 billion in August, marking a nearly 52% month-on-month growth and providing strong support to India's current account balance.
- **Structural Turnaround:** Net FDI remained positive in seven out of eight months in 2026, registering a sharp recovery from the five consecutive months of negative net FDI recorded between August and December 2025.

Essential Definitions



- **Net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):** The net value of long-term capital inflows entering an economy minus outward direct investment made by domestic entities abroad and repatriation of capital by foreign firms.
- **Gross FDI Inflow:** The total aggregate direct investment entering a country as foreign equity, reinvested earnings, and intra-company loans before deducting repatriation or outward flows.
- **Outward Direct Investment (ODI):** Cross-border investments made by resident Indian companies or entities into foreign enterprises, joint ventures, or wholly-owned subsidiaries.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999:** Overarching statutory framework regulating cross-border financial transactions, foreign investments, capital account conversions, and NRI remittances.
- **Consolidated FDI Policy:** Issued periodically by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), outlining sector-specific caps, automatic vs. government approval routes, and compliance norms.
- **Seventh Schedule (Union List, Entry 36 & Entry 52):** Grants exclusive powers to the Union Parliament over foreign exchange, currency, banking, and regulation of foreign trade and commerce.

Conclusion

Sustained net FDI inflows alongside rebounding inward remittances reflect strong investor confidence and macroeconomic stability, fortifying India's balance of payments against global economic volatility.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper III:** Indian Economy and Issues Relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development, and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Dynamics.

12. France and U.K. Joint Nuclear Air Strike Simulation Exercise

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Historic Joint Exercise:** French and British air forces conducted exercise 'Rummy', marking the first joint exercise simulating a nuclear strike between Western Europe's two nuclear powers.
- **Operational Assets Involved:** French Rafale fighter jets, taking off from northeastern France and escorted by Royal Air Force (RAF) Typhoon jets, executed a simulated nuclear strike mission over the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Interoperability without Warheads:** The exercise did not involve live nuclear weapons and focused strictly on enhancing operational coordination and interoperability between both air forces.
- **European Nuclear Deterrence Framework:** The drill aligns with French President Emmanuel Macron's proposal to extend the protection of France's nuclear umbrella to European Union allies following Brexit.

- **Strategic Coordination:** French Defence Minister Catherine Vautrin emphasized that maintaining independent nuclear forces does not preclude tactical coordination, directly strengthening overall NATO security.
- **Bilateral Defense Milestone:** U.K. Defence Minister Wes Streeting hailed the landmark maneuver as a "new chapter" in U.K.-France defense cooperation, signaling strong credible deterrence across Europe.

Essential Definitions



- **Nuclear Deterrence:** A strategy where a state uses the threat of retaliatory nuclear counter-strikes to deter an adversary from initiating a first strike or major aggression.
- **Nuclear Umbrella:** A guarantee by a nuclear-armed power to protect a non-nuclear allied state using its nuclear arsenal.
- **Interoperability:** The operational capability of different military forces, hardware systems, and command structures to execute joint tactical operations efficiently.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), 1968:** Recognizes both France and the United Kingdom as nuclear-weapon states (NWS), governing international nuclear compliance and non-transfer mandates.
- **Lancaster House Treaties (2010):** Bilateral security treaties signed between the U.K. and France establishing framework agreements for joint defense and nuclear research cooperation.
- **North Atlantic Treaty (1949) - Article 5:** Forms the legal bedrock of collective defense among NATO members, establishing that an attack against one member state is considered an attack against all.

Conclusion

The joint Franco-British nuclear strike simulation represents a pivotal shift towards integrated European defense capabilities, reinforcing deterrence postures across the Atlantic alliance amidst evolving global security dynamics.

VIDHVATH IAS ACADEMY

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Bilateral, Regional, and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's Interests; Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed Countries on Global Security.
- **GS Paper III:** International Security Dynamics; Nuclear Non-Proliferation Doctrines and Global Strategic Balance.
