CURRENT AFFAIRS — 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

Thursday, 17 September 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Prelims + Mains GS-wise digest

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UPSC CSE

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- PM opens SEMICON India 2026 at Yashobhoomi; ISM 2.0 outlay ₹1,27,500 crore
- EPFO statutory wage ceiling rises from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000 with effect from today
- Supreme Court directs RBI to secure genuine compliance with loan-recovery norms
- Supreme Court seeks Manipur affidavit on 25 unnatural deaths in relief camps
- New Zealand Parliament ratifies the India-New Zealand FTA by 93 votes to 29
- UPI MDR framework notified: 0.4% only on P2M above ₹2,000, from 15 October
- WPI inflation for August 2026 prints at 9.92% on the new 2022-23 base year
- World Ozone Day: India launches a Net Zero Portal and an NAPCC Dashboard
- India summons Pakistan's Charge d'Affaires over the PNS Hunain naval collision
- Chandrayaan-1 data reveals a lost lunar impact basin, the Australe Basin

SECTION A • GS-III: SCIENCE & TECH, ECONOMY AND SECURITY

SEMICON India 2026 opens; Semiconductor Mission 2.0 scales up to ₹1,27,500 crore

[SCI-TECH] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III: Science & Technology, indigenisation of technology; Indian economy — industrial policy. Prelims: India Semiconductor Mission, Design Linked Incentive, Yashobhoomi, node sizes.
Context	The Prime Minister inaugurated the fifth edition of **SEMICON India 2026** at **Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi** today, on the theme **"Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem"**. The event runs **17-19 September 2026** and showcases **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0**.
Key Facts	▪ **ISM 2.0** outlay **₹1,27,500 crore** (about **USD 13.5 billion**), against **₹76,000 crore** under Semicon 1.0 announced in **2021**. ▪ **12 semiconductor projects** approved across **six States**; **3** are already in commercial production. ▪ Six pillars: **chip design, equipment & materials, fabrication, advanced packaging, R&D and talent**. ▪ Targets include **200+ chip-design companies**, **1 lakh technicians** and **85,000 semiconductor engineers in a decade**; focus on **mature nodes of 28 nm and above**. ▪ **24 startups** supported under the **Design Linked Incentive (DLI)** scheme; **7 chips** fabricated at the **12 nm node**.
Way Fwd	Convert approved fabs into working supply chains — secure ultrapure materials and equipment, deepen design-to-fab linkages, and make talent pipelines keep pace with capital.
Concept	A **semiconductor fab** turns wafers into integrated circuits; **node size** (28 nm, 12 nm) is the process generation, not literal transistor width. **OSAT** means Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test. ISM sits under **MeitY** and is the industrial-policy arm of **Atmanirbhar Bharat** in electronics.

SEMICON INDIA 2026 • INDIA SEMICONDUCTOR MISSION 2.0

"Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem" | Yashobhoomi, New Delhi | 17-19 September 2026

₹1,27,500 cr	**USD 13.5 bn**	**₹76,000 cr**	**12 projects**	**3 fabs**	**85,000**
ISM 2.0 outlay	up from USD 8 bn	Semicon 1.0 outlay	approved, 6 States	in commercial output	engineers in a decade

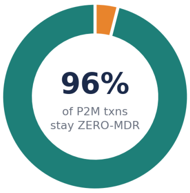
Six pillars: chip design • equipment & materials • fabrication • advanced packaging • R&D • talent

UPI merchant discount rate returns: 0.4% only on large P2M payments

[ECONOMY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III: Indian economy — digital payments, financial inclusion, banking. Prelims: NPCI, UPI, MDR, P2P vs P2M vs P2PM.
Context	**NPCI** issued its FAQ sheet on the new **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)** framework for **UPI**, and the Department of Financial Services clarified that UPI remains free for all peer-to-peer transfers and for **96%** of merchant transactions. The framework takes effect **15 October 2026**, ending six years of zero MDR.
Key Facts	▪ **0.4% MDR** on **person-to-merchant (P2M)** transactions **above ₹2,000**, capped at **₹300** per transaction. ▪ Notified essential services — **railways, telecom, insurance and fuel** — attract a flat **₹5** per transaction; capital-market transactions **0.02%**, capped at **₹300**. ▪ Fully exempt: **all P2P transfers**, **all P2M up to ₹2,000**, and small merchants under the **P2PM** framework receiving up to **₹1 lakh a month** via UPI QR. ▪ The **merchant**, not the consumer, bears the MDR; **5%** of collections goes to a small-merchant support fund. ▪ The government separately denied reports of any **GST on UPI transactions**.
Way Fwd	Price the rail without pricing out the small shop: monitor whether the ₹2,000 threshold holds as ticket sizes rise, and publish data on who actually absorbs the cost.
Concept	**MDR** is the fee a merchant pays the payment ecosystem per transaction, shared among acquirer, issuer and network. **UPI** is operated by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, an umbrella organisation set up under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**, regulated by the **RBI**.

UPI MDR FRAMEWORK • effective 15 October 2026



0.40%	P2M above ₹2,000 (cap ₹300)
₹5 flat	notified essential services
0.02%	capital-market txns (cap ₹300)
NIL	all P2P + P2M up to ₹2,000

Pangwala tribal gut study finds a deep antimicrobial-resistance reservoir

[SCI-TECH] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III: Science & Technology — biotechnology, health; GS-I: tribal communities. Prelims: metagenome sequencing, AMR, Scheduled Tribes of Himachal Pradesh.
Context	A study of the **Pangwala**, a Scheduled Tribe of the remote **Pangi Valley in Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh**, found that native residents and urban migrants keep a strikingly similar core gut microbiome — and that healthy, largely antibiotic-naive volunteers already carry **over 100 antibiotic-resistance genes**.
Key Facts	■ **28 volunteers** were profiled using **whole-metagenome shotgun sequencing**, covering bacteria, fungi and viruses. ■ Dominant species: ***Prevotella copri***, alongside **Bifidobacterium** and **Succinivibrionaceae**. ■ Stability despite diet change is explained by **functional redundancy** — different microbes performing the same job. ■ Highest resistance was to **vancomycin**, alone and with **teicoplanin**; the dominant mechanism was **antibiotic target alteration (about 76%)**. ■ The phage **Ceduovirus** was far more abundant in native residents (**16%**) than migrants (**0.04%**).
Way Fwd	Feed baseline resistome data from remote populations into the National Action Plan on AMR, so stewardship targets rest on Indian evidence rather than imported assumptions.
Concept	The **resistome** is the full set of antibiotic-resistance genes in a microbial community. **Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** spreads by **horizontal gene transfer** as much as by mutation, which is why a healthy gut can act as a silent reservoir. India's **National Action Plan on AMR** follows the **One Health** approach.

THE PANGWALA GUT RESISTOME

Pangi Valley, Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh

100+ antibiotic-resistance genes found in healthy volunteers	**76%** of mechanisms are antibiotic TARGET ALTERATION
28 volunteers profiled by whole-metagenome shotgun sequencing	**16% vs 0.04%** Ceduovirus phage share: native residents vs migrants

Dominant taxon: Prevotella copri
Top resistance: vancomycin & teicoplanin | funder: DHR, Govt of India

India summons Pakistan envoy after PNS Hunain collides with Indian warship

[DEFENCE] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 + GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: India and its neighbourhood, bilateral agreements; GS-III: security, maritime domain. Prelims: COLREGs, UNCLOS zones, 1991 India-Pakistan agreement.
Context	The **Ministry of External Affairs** today summoned **Pakistan's Charge d'Affaires** and lodged a strong protest over the collision of the Pakistan Navy vessel **PNS Hunain** with an Indian Navy warship in the **North Arabian Sea**, calling the conduct unacceptable and unprofessional.
Key Facts	■ **PNS Hunain** is a **98-metre offshore patrol vessel** of the Pakistan Navy. ■ The incident occurred on **16 September 2026** in **international waters**, roughly **220 km (about 120 nautical miles) east of the Oman coast**. ■ **No major damage** to the Indian warship and **no injuries** were reported. ■ India invoked **Article 10** of the **1991 India-Pakistan Agreement on Prevention of Airspace Violations and Advance Notice on Military Exercises, Manoeuvres and Troop Movements**, under which naval vessels shall not approach within **three nautical miles** of each other in international waters. ■ India also cited the **COLREGs** — the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.
Way Fwd	Confidence-building measures are only as good as their hotlines: revive naval-to-naval communication channels so an unprofessional manoeuvre does not become an incident.
Concept	A **Charge d'Affaires** heads a mission when no ambassador or high commissioner is in post. Under **UNCLOS**, the **territorial sea** extends 12 nautical miles, the **contiguous zone** 24 and the **Exclusive Economic Zone** 200; beyond the EEZ lie the **high seas**, where freedom of navigation applies but COLREGs still bind every vessel.

World Ozone Day 2026: India launches a Net Zero Portal and an NAPCC Dashboard

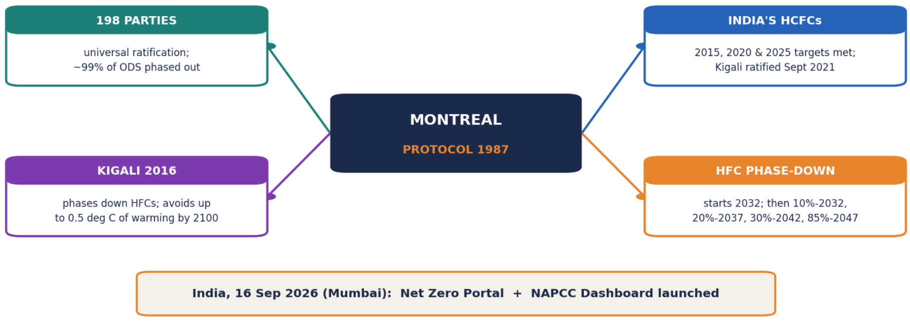
[ENVIRONMENT] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III: environment — conservation, international environmental agreements, climate change. Prelims: Montreal Protocol, Kigali Amendment, ODS, HFCs, NAPCC missions.
Context	India observed its **32nd World Ozone Day on 16 September 2026** with a national function in **Mumbai** on the global theme **"Global action for a cooler planet"**, marking a decade of the **Kigali Amendment**. Two digital platforms were launched.
Key Facts	■ The **Net Zero Portal** is a national registry where Indian entities voluntarily disclose greenhouse-gas emissions and declare net-zero targets. ■ The **NAPCC Dashboard** digitally tracks the missions under the **National Action Plan on Climate Change**. ■ The **Montreal Protocol** was signed on **16 September 1987** and has **198 parties** — universal ratification; about **99% of ozone-depleting substances** have been phased out. ■ The **Kigali Amendment (2016)** phases down **hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)**, which are potent greenhouse gases but **not** ozone-depleting; full implementation could avoid up to **0.5 degrees Celsius** of warming by 2100. ■ India **ratified the Kigali Amendment in September 2021**; its HFC phase-down begins in **2032**, with cuts of **10% by 2032, 20% by 2037, 30% by 2042 and 85% by 2047**.
Way Fwd	Make voluntary disclosure count: link the Net Zero Portal to carbon-credit trading and to the servicing-sector cooling workforce, so reporting translates into measurable abatement.

Concept	The **Montreal Protocol** is the only universally ratified environmental treaty and works on **common but differentiated responsibilities**, giving developing countries a grace period. **ODS** damage stratospheric ozone; **HFCs** replaced them but have very high **Global Warming Potential**, which is why Kigali was needed. **NAPCC (2008)** runs eight national missions.

OZONE REGIME & INDIA'S CLIMATE ARCHITECTURE — World Ozone Day, 16 September 2026

Theme 2026: "Global action for a cooler planet" — a decade of the Kigali Amendment



SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

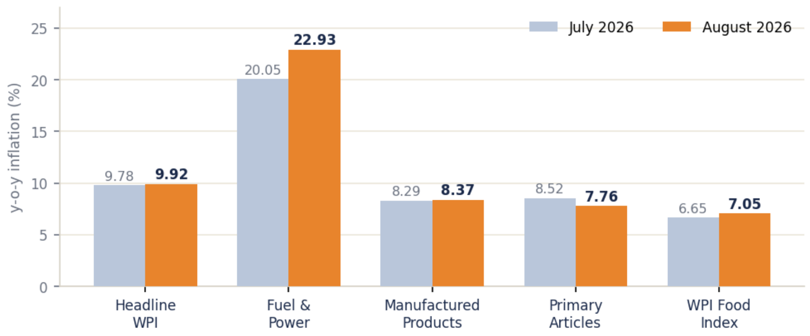
Wholesale Price Index inflation, August 2026 **9.92%**	Up from **9.78%** in July 2026 on the new **2022-23 base year**. Fuel and Power ran at **22.93%** and mineral oils at **38.48%**, while retail **CPI** inflation for the same month was only **4.82%** — the widest wholesale-retail wedge in years, and a reminder that WPI carries no services and a heavy fuel weight.

WPI inflation at 9.92% in August 2026 as fuel prices stay elevated

[ECONOMY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III: Indian economy — inflation, monetary policy, index numbers. Prelims: WPI vs CPI, base years, weights, releasing agencies.
Context	Wholesale price inflation rose to **9.92%** in **August 2026** from **9.78%** in July, the second month of the new **2022-23 base-year** series. Retail inflation for the same month was **4.82%** — an unusually wide wedge driven by fuel.
Key Facts	■ Sub-indices for August 2026: **Fuel and Power 22.93%**, **Manufactured Products 8.37%**, **Primary Articles 7.76%**, **WPI Food Index 7.05%**. ■ The spike is led by **mineral oils at 38.48%** and **crude petroleum and natural gas at 34.41%**, with Brent crude near **USD 100 a barrel**. ■ **CPI** for August 2026 was **4.82%**, with food inflation (**CFPI**) at **5.95%**; rural **5.23%** and urban **4.31%**. ■ The **new WPI series (base 2022-23)** was released in **June 2026**, raising the item basket from **697 to 957** and shifting weights to **Gross Value of Output**; crude petroleum moved from Primary Articles into Fuel and Power. ■ **WPI** is released by the **Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT**; **CPI** by the **National Statistics Office, MoSPI** (base year **2024**).
Way Fwd	Watch the pass-through: if elevated wholesale fuel costs feed into core retail prices, the neutral policy stance will come under pressure well before the next base-year revision.
Concept	**WPI** measures prices at the wholesale or producer stage and excludes services, so it carries a heavy weight of fuel and intermediate goods; **CPI** measures a household consumption basket and includes services. The RBI's **flexible inflation targeting** mandate, in force since **2016**, is anchored to **CPI at 4% with a band of plus or minus 2 percentage points**. A change of **base year** updates the basket and weights and does not by itself raise or lower the economy's size.

WPI inflation, August 2026 (new base year 2022-23)



THE WPI-CPI WEDGE

WPI Aug 2026	9.92%
CPI Aug 2026	4.82%
CPI food (CFPI)	5.95%
Repo rate	5.25%
RBI band	2% - 6%

Crude near USD 100/bbl lifts WPI's heavy fuel weight far more than CPI's consumer basket

SECTION C • GS-II: GOVERNANCE, POLITY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Supreme Court seeks Manipur affidavit on 25 unnatural deaths in relief camps

[POLITY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2**

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: judiciary, protection of vulnerable sections, government policies for internally displaced persons; GS-I: communalism and ethnic conflict.
Context	A Bench of **Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V. Mohana** expressed shock at **25 unnatural deaths** in **Manipur relief camps** and directed the **Chief Secretary** to file a detailed affidavit.
Key Facts	■ The affidavit must cover **post-mortem reports and causes of death**, and explain why post-mortems were conducted in only **20** of the cases. ■ The Court questioned the **"meagre" compensation of ₹20,000 to ₹30,000** per family when **₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh** was contemplated in comparable cases. ■ The **Manipur State Legal Services Authority** must ensure an **FIR is registered in every unnatural death**. ■ Investigation status placed before the Court: about **3,020 cases** across **8 districts** through **42 SITs**; **302 chargesheets**, **1,583 closure reports** and **1,135** still under investigation. ■ In the **CBI**'s 31 cases, only **6 of 978 cited witnesses** have been examined; the Court discussed **two additional NIA courts in Assam**.
Way Fwd	Standardise ex-gratia norms for relief-camp deaths and publish camp-wise health and mortality audits, so judicial monitoring is not the only accountability mechanism.
Concept	The Supreme Court's **continuing mandamus** lets it monitor compliance over time rather than dispose of a case in one order. **Legal Services Authorities** exist under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987** (Article 39A). Relief-camp residents are **internally displaced persons**, who remain citizens of their own State and are not covered by refugee law.

EPFO wage ceiling rises to ₹25,000 a month with effect from today

[SOCIETY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 + GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: welfare schemes and social-sector mechanisms; GS-III: employment, formalisation of the workforce. Prelims: EPF and MP Act 1952, EPS 1995, EDLI 1976.
Context	The Union Cabinet's decision of **16 September 2026** raising the statutory **EPFO wage ceiling from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000 a month** takes effect **today, 17 September 2026**. It is the first revision in **12 years**.
Key Facts	■ More than **51 lakh additional employees** in the **₹15,001 to ₹25,000** wage band enter the statutory social-security net. ■ Fiscal cost: **₹11,339 crore a year** against the existing **₹10,250 crore**, and about **₹56,696 crore over five years**. ■ The ceiling was last revised in **September 2014**, when it rose from **₹6,500 to ₹15,000**. ■ EPFO scale today: about **7.98 crore contributing members** across **7.68 lakh establishments**, and roughly **82 lakh EPS pensioners**. ■ Statutory basis: the **Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952**, with consequential changes to the **EPF Scheme 1952, EPS 1995 and EDLI Scheme 1976**.
Way Fwd	Formalisation must not become an employment tax: watch whether firms respond by restructuring pay or hiring off the rolls, and pair the ceiling rise with simpler compliance for small establishments.
Concept	The **EPF** is a defined-contribution retirement fund; the **EPS** is a defined-benefit pension; the **EDLI** provides life insurance linked to the provident fund. A **wage ceiling** sets the salary level up to which membership is compulsory and contributions are computed. EPFO is administered by a tripartite **Central Board of Trustees** under the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**.

Supreme Court tells RBI its loan-recovery norms exist only on paper

[POLITY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 + GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: judiciary, statutory regulatory bodies, fundamental rights; GS-III: banking and NBFC regulation. Prelims: Article 21, Article 14, Banking Regulation Act Section 35-A.
Context	Deciding **Hari Dutta Sharma v. State of Uttar Pradesh**, a Bench of **Justice P.S. Narasimha and Justice Alok Aradhe** held that the RBI's recovery guidelines **"have existed only on paper"** and directed the central bank to secure genuine compliance by banks and NBFCs alike.
Key Facts	■ Recovery agents seized the borrower's truck at about **1 a.m. on 9 April 2023** in **Ayodhya**, breaking the steering lock; it was sold for **₹4.50 lakh** on **31 August 2023** without proper notice. ■ Relief: refund of **₹4,50,000 with 6% interest**, compensation of **₹10,00,000** for mental agony and loss of livelihood, **₹50,000** costs, and closure of both loan accounts. ■ The Court invoked **Article 21** (right to livelihood) and **Article 14** (arbitrariness), and relied on **Section 35-A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**. ■ It distilled guiding principles: no undue harassment, **no force or stealth**, **prior notice** before repossession, due diligence on recovery agents, designated recovery locations and a credit-counsellor mechanism. ■ The RBI may **bar an institution from engaging recovery agents**; the Registry was directed to forward the judgment to the RBI.
Way Fwd	Convert the judgment into an enforceable code: a time-bound RBI circular with penalties and a public complaints dashboard will do more than another master circular.
Concept	**Section 35-A** of the Banking Regulation Act empowers the RBI to issue binding directions in the public interest. **NBFCs** are registered under the **RBI Act, 1934**; they lend but cannot accept demand deposits. The **Fair Practices Code** governs lender conduct. Note the distinction: **Article 300A** protects property as a constitutional right, while **Article 21** was the route used here because livelihood was at stake.

LAWFUL REPOSSESSION: THE COURT'S CHAIN

1. Valid contract clause
repossession power must be expressly and legally agreed

2. Written notice first
borrower gets prior notice and a chance to cure the default

3. No force or stealth
no muscle power, no odd hours, no midnight seizure

4. Trained agents, due diligence
verified agents; designated recovery locations

5. Notice before sale
fair valuation, account of sale proceeds to borrower

6. Grievance + counselling
RBI may bar a lender from using recovery agents

Violation engages Article 21 (livelihood) and Article 14

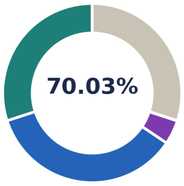
New Zealand Parliament ratifies the India-New Zealand FTA by 93 votes to 29

[IR] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 + GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: bilateral agreements involving India, effect of policies of developed countries; GS-III: external sector, trade. Prelims: tariff lines, TRQ, exclusion lists, CPTPP.
Context	On **16 September 2026** the **New Zealand Parliament** ratified the **India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement** by **93 votes to 29**, with both the governing and principal opposition parties in favour. The agreement was signed on **27 April 2026**.
Key Facts	■ Negotiations were launched in **March 2025** and concluded in about **nine months** — billed as India's fastest-concluded FTA. ■ **New Zealand** grants duty-free access on **100% of its tariff lines**; India opens **70.03%** of its tariff lines, covering about **95% of bilateral trade**. ■ India's schedule: **30%** of lines see immediate elimination, **35.60%** phased over **3 to 10 years**, **4.37%** reduced but not eliminated, **0.06%** under tariff rate quotas, and **29.97% excluded**. ■ **Dairy is fully excluded** by India, along with other sensitive agriculture and sugar — the headline defensive win. ■ Bilateral merchandise trade rose from **USD 873 million in 2023-24 to USD 1.3 billion in 2024-25**.

Way Fwd	Ratification is the easy half: MSME exporters need rules-of-origin guidance, shared testing and certification support if the 70% opening is to become actual shipments.
Concept	A **tariff line** is a single product code in the customs schedule. A **tariff rate quota** allows a fixed quantity at a low duty and charges a higher duty beyond it. An **exclusion list** protects sensitive sectors from any concession. New Zealand is a member of the **Commonwealth**, **APEC** and the **CPTPP**; its capital is **Wellington** and largest city **Auckland**.

INDIA - NEW ZEALAND FTA — ratified 16 Sep 2026



30.00%	duty cut immediately
35.60%	phased over 3-10 years
4.37%	tariff reduced, not removed
0.06%	tariff rate quotas
29.97%	EXCLUDED - dairy, sensitive agri

of India's tariff lines opened

NZ opens 100% of its tariff lines • passed 93-29

SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. **Gucchi** (**Morchella esculenta**), the Himalayan morel served at the BRICS 2026 gala dinner, sells for **₹15,000 to ₹40,000 a kg** and grows wild in **Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand**.

2. India exported about **500 tonnes of hilsa** (**Tenualosa ilisha**) to **Bangladesh** over two months — the first time the trade has run in this direction. Hilsa is **anadromous** and Bangladesh's national fish.

3. **PLFS bulletin, August 2026**: unemployment rate **5.0%**, **LFPR 55.6%**, worker-population ratio **52.8%**; released by the **NSO** under **MoSPI**.

4. **Merchandise trade, August 2026**: exports **USD 43.81 billion**, imports **USD 70.67 billion**, deficit **USD 26.86 billion**; the overall goods-and-services deficit narrowed to **USD 9.41 billion**.

5. **Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026**, the **22nd** India-US army exercise, runs **15-28 September 2026** at **Auli, Uttarakhand** and **Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan** — the first time on two terrains at once, with about **600 personnel** a side.

6. **PRL Ahmedabad** used **Chandrayaan-1**'s **Moon Mineralogy Mapper (M3)** to identify the **Australe Basin**, a lost lunar impact basin ringed by **orthopyroxene** and inferred to be **older than 4 billion years**.

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

PRELIMS MCQ 1

With reference to the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in India, consider the following statements:
1. It is released by the National Statistics Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
2. It does not cover services.
3. The Reserve Bank of India's flexible inflation-targeting mandate is anchored to the WPI.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b) 2 only

Why: Statement 1 is incorrect: the WPI comes from the Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT, while the CPI comes from the NSO under MoSPI. Statement 2 is correct: the WPI covers only goods. Statement 3 is incorrect: flexible inflation targeting is anchored to CPI at 4% with a 2-6% band.

PRELIMS MCQ 2

With reference to the Kigali Amendment, consider the following statements:
1. It was adopted under the Montreal Protocol and targets hydrofluorocarbons.
2. Hydrofluorocarbons are potent ozone-depleting substances.
3. India ratified the Amendment in 2021 and will begin its phase-down in 2032.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Why: Statements 1 and 3 are correct: the Kigali Amendment of 2016 phases down HFCs under the Montreal Protocol; India ratified it in September 2021 and starts its cuts in 2032, reaching 85% by 2047. Statement 2 is incorrect: HFCs do not deplete ozone at all — they are targeted as potent greenhouse gases.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

"India's semiconductor push has moved from incentive announcements to an ecosystem problem." In the light of India Semiconductor Mission 2.0, examine the constraints that stand between approved fabrication projects and a resilient domestic chip supply chain. (250 words, 15 marks)

Answer hint: Open with the scale shift: ₹76,000 crore to ₹1,27,500 crore, 12 approved projects, 3 in production. Structure the constraints under four heads — import-dependent upstream inputs, capital equipment and a narrow global vendor base, talent, and demand-side anchoring through design wins. Balance with enablers: DLI, EDA access, and mature 28 nm and above nodes as a realistic entry point. Conclude that resilience is measured in yield and supply-chain depth, not in approved outlay.

ONE-LINE REVISION

Remember today by five numbers: **₹1,27,500 crore** for Semiconductor Mission 2.0, **₹25,000** as the new EPFO wage ceiling, **9.92%** WPI inflation, **70.03%** of India's tariff lines opened to New Zealand, and **0.4%** UPI MDR above ₹2,000.

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team

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