

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Coal India to invest about **₹50,000 crore** across gasification, critical minerals and renewables.
- PM inaugurates the **National Green Tribunal's** International Conference on the Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics.
- Software services exports rise **8.2%** to **USD 221.4 billion** in FY26; US share **54.1%**.
- **WPI inflation** at **9.92%** in **August 2026**; fuel and power up **22.93%**.
- Joint Parliamentary Committee on the **FCRA (Amendment) Bill, 2026** holds its first meeting.
- India-Nepal **Inter-Governmental Sub-Committee** on trade, transit and unauthorised trade concludes.
- **Ministry of Ayush** expands artificial intelligence across Ayurveda research, education and health services.
- **Deep Ocean Mission**: India holds **three ISA contracts** over about **95,000 sq km** of seabed.
- **Swachhata Hi Seva 2026** runs **17 September to 17 October** on five pillars.
- India's first medal at the **20th Asian Games** - silver in the women's **10m air rifle** team event.

SECTION A — GS-III: ECONOMY, SCI-TECH & ENVIRONMENT

core Mains material + Prelims facts

Coal India Bets ₹50,000 Crore on Gasification, Critical Minerals and Renewables

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

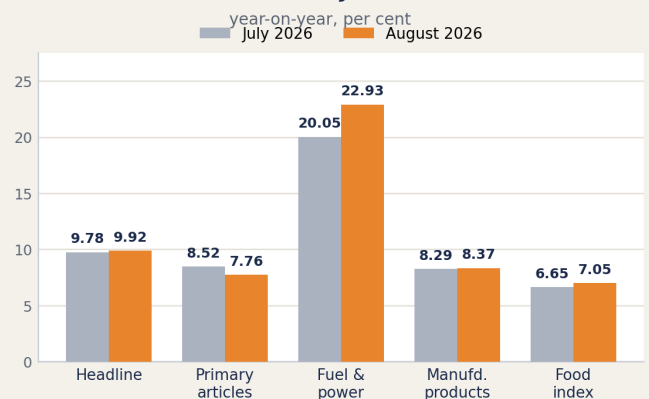
Syllabus Linkage	GS-3: Energy infrastructure, resource mobilisation. Prelims: coal gasification, syngas, critical minerals.
Context	Coal India has set out a diversification plan of nearly ₹50,000 crore across coal gasification, critical minerals and renewables - a hedge against import dependence and falling thermal coal demand.
Key Facts	■ Flagship: Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Ltd, a CIL-BHEL JV at Lakhanpur, Odisha, of about ₹25,000 crore. ■ It will make about 6.60 lakh tonnes of ammonium nitrate a year; tenders run with GAIL and BPCL. ■ Five domestic blocks with graphite and rare metals acquired; lithium options explored in Chile, Argentina, Australia. ■ Renewable target of 9.5 GW by 2030, pairing solar with battery energy storage systems (BESS).
Way Fwd	Gasification still hinges on assured coal linkage and a stable off-take price for syngas derivatives; mineral blocks must be tied to domestic refining capacity.
Concept	Coal gasification turns coal into syngas (CO + H ₂) for methanol, ammonium nitrate and urea; India targets 100 million tonnes by 2030 . Coal India is a Maharatna CPSE . India has notified 30 critical minerals under the National Critical Mineral Mission .

Wholesale Inflation Stays Elevated at 9.92% on Fuel and Food

[ECONOMY] HIGH-PROBABILITY: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-3: Inflation, monetary policy, price indices. Prelims: WPI vs CPI, base year, weights.
Context	WPI-based inflation rose to 9.92% year-on-year in August 2026 from 9.78% in July, on costlier mineral oils, food articles and basic metals. The index moved from 110.0 to 110.8 .
Key Facts	■ Fuel and power inflation surged to 22.93% from 20.05% in July - the single largest driver. ■ Manufactured products rose to 8.37% from 8.29%; the food index to 7.05% from 6.65%. ■ Primary articles inflation eased to 7.76% from 8.52%. ■ Top contributors: mineral oils, food articles, food products, basic metals and chemicals.
Way Fwd	With fuel doing most of the work, the question is how much passes into core retail prices; duty management on energy and buffer stocks in pulses and edible oil come before monetary tightening.
Concept	WPI tracks wholesale prices, base 2011-12 , released by the Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT , and excludes services . CPI (base 2012, NSO) anchors flexible inflation targeting at 4% +/- 2% . WPI weights: manufactured 64.23% , primary 22.62% , fuel 13.15% .

WHOLESALE INFLATION: JULY vs AUGUST 2026



WPI base year 2011-12 • index 110.0 → 110.8

COAL INDIA'S DIVERSIFICATION AT A GLANCE

beyond thermal coal: gasification, critical minerals, renewables

₹50,000 cr

total diversification
outlay (approx.)

₹25,000 cr

Lakhanpur gasification
JV with BHEL

6.60 lakh t

ammonium nitrate
per year

5 blocks

graphite & rare metals
acquired in India

9.5 GW

renewable capacity
target by 2030

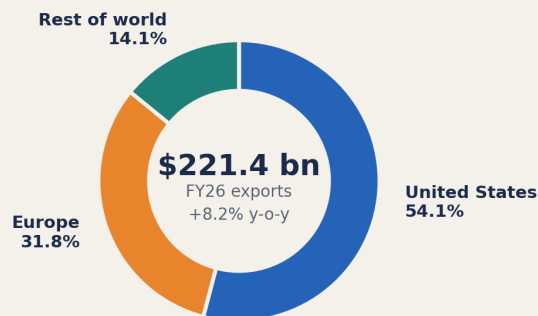
Software Services Exports Rise 8.2% to USD 221.4 Billion in 2025-26

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-3: External sector, balance of payments, services trade. Prelims: invisibles, off-site delivery, GCCs.
Context	The central bank's annual survey put software and ITES exports at USD 221.4 billion in 2025-26 , up 8.2% . Counting foreign affiliates of Indian firms, the figure rises to USD 239.3 billion .
Key Facts	- The United States took 54.1% of the basket; Europe 31.8%, with the United Kingdom the largest European market. 91.7% of exports were delivered off-site, underlining India's remote-delivery advantage. Computer services made up over two-thirds of the total; BPO led the ITES segment. - Local business of foreign subsidiaries of Indian firms grew from USD 13.9 billion to USD 17.9 billion.
Way Fwd	Concentration is the vulnerability - over half the basket rides on one market. Europe, West Asia and Africa, a shift from BPO to AI work, and more GCCs are the diversification routes.
Concept	Software exports are invisibles in the current account of the Balance of Payments ; with remittances they finance much of the merchandise trade deficit . GCCs are offshore units multinationals run in India for high-end work.

WHERE INDIA'S SOFTWARE EXPORTS GO

destination share, 2025-26



91.7% delivered off-site • \$239.3 bn including foreign affiliates

Deep-Sea Mining: India's Seabed Ambition Meets an Ecological Wall

[SCI-TECH] HIGH-PROBABILITY: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-3: Marine ecology, technology; GS-2: International bodies. Prelims: UNCLOS Part XI, ISA, nodules.
Context	India's Deep Ocean Mission and its seabed exploration contracts have sharpened the trade-off between securing critical minerals and protecting deep-ocean ecosystems that science has barely mapped.
Key Facts	- India holds three exploration contracts with the International Seabed Authority over about 95,000 sq km. - The blocks lie in the Central Indian Ocean Basin, the Central Indian Ridge and the Carlsberg Ridge. - Identified resource: about 366 million tonnes of polymetallic nodules rich in nickel, cobalt, copper, manganese. - Capability includes the MATSYA-6000 submersible and a mining system tested at about 5,270 metres.
Way Fwd	Put exploration and baseline science ahead of exploitation until the ISA finalises a binding code; pair it with marine protected areas, battery recycling and mineral substitution.
Concept	UNCLOS Part XI makes the international seabed (the Area) the Common Heritage of Mankind , run by the International Seabed Authority at Kingston, Jamaica . India's Deep Ocean Mission (2021, Ministry of Earth Sciences) is about ₹4,077 crore and includes Samudrayaan .

INDIA IN THE DEEP OCEAN

seabed minerals, science and the depth frontier



3
exploration contracts with the
International Seabed Authority

95,000
sq km of contract area across
three basins and ridges

366 mt
polymetallic nodules identified
(Ni, Co, Cu, Mn)

1,300
deep-sea organisms catalogued,
23 new to science

<1%
of the deep ocean mapped
in detail so far

Deep Ocean Mission, 2021 • about ₹4,077 crore • Samudrayaan

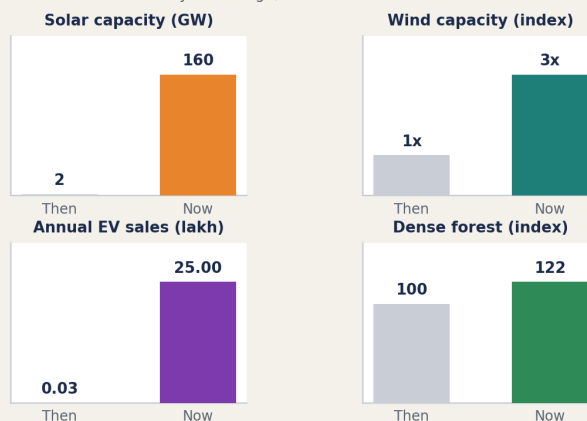
Green Tribunal's Global Conference Puts Climate Equity and Nuclear Power Centre Stage

[ENVIRONMENT] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-3: Environment and climate change; GS-2: Statutory bodies. Prelims: NGT Act 2010, benches, appeals.
Context	The International Conference on the Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics , hosted by the National Green Tribunal at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi , opened on 19 September 2026 .
Key Facts	- Developed countries were said to emit roughly six times more carbon per capita than India. - Solar capacity was cited as rising from about 2 GW to 160 GW in twelve years; wind roughly tripled. - Annual EV sales rose from about 3,000 to nearly 25 lakh; about 1.5 crore water-harvesting structures were built. - Avoided emissions were put at about 20 crore tonnes; dense forest cover up about 22%.
Way Fwd	The equity argument gains force only when matched by delivery on climate finance and technology transfer; at home, faster clearances for clean energy must not erode due process.
Concept	The NGT is a statutory body under the NGT Act, 2010 - India was the third country (after Australia and New Zealand) with a dedicated environment court. Principal bench: New Delhi ; zonal benches at Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, Chennai . Appeals lie to the Supreme Court within 90 days .

INDIA'S CLEAN-ENERGY MARKERS

twelve-year change, as cited at the conference



Also cited: ~1.5 crore water-harvesting structures
~20 crore tonnes of carbon emissions avoided

SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY

one number worth memorising

USD 221.4 billion

Software services exports, 2025-26

Up **8.2%** year-on-year. The **United States** accounted for **54.1%** and **Europe 31.8%** of the basket, while **91.7%** of delivery was **off-site**. Counting foreign affiliates of Indian companies, the total reaches **USD 239.3 billion**, a **9.5%** rise.

SECTION C — GS-II: GOVERNANCE, POLITY & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

institutions, schemes and diplomacy

Joint Parliamentary Committee Begins Scrutiny of the FCRA (Amendment) Bill, 2026

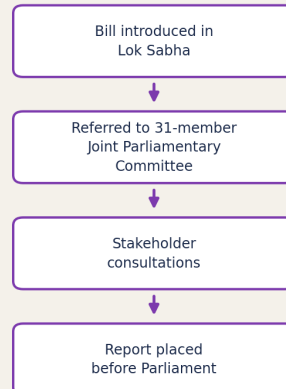
[POLITY] HIGH-PROBABILITY: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	GS-2: Parliamentary committees; civil society and NGOs. Prelims: FCRA timeline, JPC as an ad-hoc panel.
Context	The Joint Committee of Parliament examining the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 held its first meeting on 19 September 2026 , after the Bill went to the 31-member panel.
Key Facts	- A new Designated Authority will take custody of and dispose of assets built from foreign contributions on loss of registration. - Assets go into provisional custody and vest permanently in government if registration is not restored in time. - Maximum imprisonment for offences is proposed to fall from five years to one year. - Registration would cease automatically on non-renewal; places of worship must keep their religious character.
Way Fwd	The committee must reconcile security scrutiny of foreign funding with freedom of association; clear renewal timelines, reasoned orders and an independent appeal would meet most objections.
Concept	FCRA was enacted in 1976 , replaced by the FCRA, 2010 and amended in 2016, 2018, 2020 ; the nodal ministry is the Ministry of Home Affairs . The 2020 amendment required an account at the SBI, New Delhi Main Branch , capped administrative expenses at 20% and barred sub-granting .

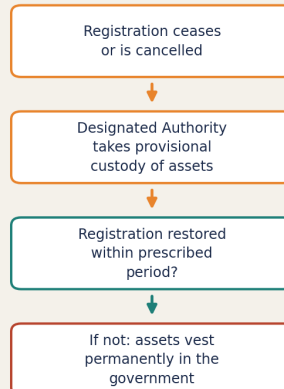
FCRA (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

the legislative route and the asset route

LEGISLATIVE ROUTE



ASSET ROUTE



Also proposed: maximum imprisonment cut from 5 years to 1 year • places of worship keep religious character • states need central nod to investigate

India-Nepal Sub-Committee on Trade, Transit and Unauthorised Trade Concludes

[IR] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	GS-2: India and its neighbourhood; bilateral agreements. Prelims: 1950 Treaty, Kalapani, trade shares.
Context	The Inter-Governmental Sub-Committee on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorised Trade concluded its meeting, alongside a visit by Nepal's Finance Minister to New Delhi.
Key Facts	■ Bilateral trade was about USD 9.38 billion in 2025-26; India is over 60% of Nepal's external trade. ■ India takes more than 80% of Nepal's goods exports and is its largest foreign investor. ■ India has extended about USD 750 million in Lines of Credit since 2006; the armies hold SURYA KIRAN. ■ Energy ties rest on the Power Exchange Agreement, 1971 and the Joint Vision Statement on Power, 2022.
Way Fwd	Trade facilitation - mutual recognition of standards, integrated check-posts, rail links - helps a landlocked economy more than tariff concessions; sensitivity on Kalapani keeps ties steady.
Concept	Nepal is landlocked and depends on Indian transit under the Treaty of Transit . The Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1950 gives reciprocal residence and employment rights and underpins the open border. Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiyadhura in Uttarakhand is the live territorial dispute.

SWACHHATA HI SEVA 2026

17 September to 17 October 2026 — five pillars

Swachhata Mein Sahbhag; Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat

1 Cleanliness Target Units transformed

2 Swachh Paathshala — Yuva for Swachhata

3 Safai Mitra Suraksha evam Samman Shivir

4 Jan Bhagidari for Swachhata

5 Swachhata se Samridhhi — waste to wealth

1 October 2026: 'Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath' shramdaan

2 October 2026: Swachh Bharat Diwas

Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 Runs on Five Pillars Till 17 October

[SOCIETY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	GS-2: Welfare schemes and interventions; GS-1: Social empowerment. Prelims: theme, pillars, dates.
Context	The annual Swachhata Hi Seva campaign runs from 17 September to 17 October 2026 on the theme Swachhata Mein Sahbhag; Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat , with citizen participation at its centre.
Key Facts	■ Five pillars: Cleanliness Target Units, Swachh Paathshala, Safai Mitra Suraksha evam Samman Shivir, Jan Bhagidari, Swachhata se Samridhhi. ■ A nationwide one-hour shramdaan - Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath - falls on 1 October 2026. ■ 2 October is Swachh Bharat Diwas, marked by gram sabhas and plantation drives. ■ It is run by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
Way Fwd	The unfinished agenda is sustained usage, faecal sludge management and the dignity and mechanisation of sanitation work; outcome audits of ODF-Plus villages matter more than campaign footfall.
Concept	Swachh Bharat Mission began on 2 October 2014 ; SBM-Grameen sits with the Ministry of Jal Shakti and SBM-Urban with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs . ODF-Plus means a village stays open-defecation-free while managing solid and liquid waste .

India Opens Asian Games Account with Women's 10m Air Rifle Team Silver

[REPORT] PRELIMS-FOCUS: Facts & Figures

Syllabus Linkage	GS-2/GS-3: Sports governance and athlete support. Prelims: host city, edition, sports count, TOPS.
Context	India won its first medal of the 20th Asian Games on 20 September 2026 - silver in the women's 10m air rifle team event at Aichi-Nagoya, Japan .
Key Facts	■ Elavenil Valarivan, Sonam Maskar and Vidarsa Vinod totalled 1,898 points; China took gold. ■ Suchika Tariyal assured India's first Asian Games medal in MMA, winning her 60 kg quarterfinal 2-0. ■ The Games run 19 September to 4 October 2026 across Aichi-Nagoya, with events in Tokyo, Gifu, Shizuoka; 43 sports. ■ India has fielded about 502 athletes in 35 sports, backed by TOPS and the Target Asian Games Group.
Way Fwd	Medal conversion now depends on long-cycle funding and sports-science support rather than one-off incentives; Khelo India and university competition remain the pipeline argument.
Concept	The Asian Games are held every four years by the Olympic Council of Asia ; the first edition was at New Delhi in 1951 and India hosted again in 1982 . TOPS funds elite athletes under the National Sports Development Fund .

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

six one-line facts

- **Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Ltd** is a joint venture of **Coal India** and **BHEL** at **Lakhanpur, Odisha**.
- India is the **third country** in the world, after **Australia** and **New Zealand**, to establish a dedicated **green tribunal**.
- **Polymetallic nodules** are rich in **nickel, cobalt, copper and manganese**.
- **WPI base year** is **2011-12**; **fuel and power** carries a weight of **13.15%**.
- The **International Seabed Authority** is headquartered at **Kingston, Jamaica**, under **UNCLOS Part XI**.
- The **9th India International Water Week** theme is **Climate Resilient Water Management**; partner countries are the **Netherlands** and **Germany**.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

2 Prelims MCQs + 1 Mains question

Q1. With reference to the National Green Tribunal, consider the following statements:

1. It is a constitutional body established under Article 323B.
2. India was the third country in the world to set up a specialised environmental court.
3. Appeals against its orders lie to the Supreme Court.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B — The NGT is a **statutory** body created by the **NGT Act, 2010**, not a constitutional body, so statement 1 is incorrect. India was the **third country** after **Australia** and **New Zealand** to set up a dedicated environmental court, and appeals from NGT orders lie to the **Supreme Court within 90 days** - statements 2 and 3 are correct.

Q2. Consider the following statements about the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in India:

1. It is released by the National Statistical Office.
2. It excludes services from its coverage.
3. Manufactured products carry the largest weight in the index.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B — WPI is released by the **Office of the Economic Adviser** in the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**, not the NSO - so statement 1 is incorrect. WPI covers only goods and **excludes services**, and **manufactured products** carry the largest weight at **64.23%** - statements 2 and 3 are correct.

Mains Practice

India's energy transition requires simultaneously decarbonising the power sector and securing supplies of critical minerals. Examine the challenges in this twin objective, with reference to recent diversification efforts by public sector undertakings and India's deep-ocean programme. (250 words, 15 marks)

Hint: Frame the twin objective: demand-side decarbonisation (renewables, storage, EVs) versus supply-side mineral security. Use **Coal India's ₹50,000 crore** pivot into gasification, five graphite and rare-metal blocks, overseas lithium exploration and a **9.5 GW** renewable target as the PSU example. Bring in the **Deep Ocean Mission**, **three ISA contracts** over **95,000 sq km** and **366 million tonnes** of nodules as the frontier option, then the counterweight - ecological uncertainty, an incomplete exploitation code and less than **1%** of the deep ocean mapped. Conclude with recycling, substitution, the **National Critical Mineral Mission** and strategic partnerships as the balanced path.

ONE-LINE REVISION — ₹50,000 crore Coal India pivot • NGT global climate conference • Water Week on climate resilience • USD 221.4 bn software exports • WPI 9.92% • FCRA Bill in a 31-member JPC • India opens Asian Games medal tally.

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team

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