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# THE HINDU ANALYSIS

4 June 2026

*Curated from The Hindu — UPSC Prelims & Mains Focus*

## TOPICS COVERED TODAY

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## 21 Dead in Delhi Hotel Fire, Foreigners Among Victims

GS 3 · Disaster Management

The Hindu, Pg 1

### WHY IN NEWS

Twenty-one people, including foreign nationals, died in a blaze that ripped through a hotel in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar. At least 47 persons were pulled out and taken to nearby hospitals.

### Key Facts of the Incident

- Of the deceased, **12 were foreign nationals** and the rest were Indians.
- The **Flourish Stay** bed-and-breakfast was operating **without clearance** from the fire department.
- The building owner, Lovkesh Bajaj, was apprehended; an FIR was registered under **Sections 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder)** and **326 (mischief by fire)** of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).
- The fire started on the ground floor of the six-storey building and spread upward; many trapped occupants jumped onto mattresses laid out by locals.

### Why Urban Fires Are Worsening

- **Illegal constructions:** violate the 3-metre setback rule, blocking ventilation and fire access; non-fire-resistant materials and old, overloaded wiring raise risk.
- **Poor urban planning:** congested layouts and narrow lanes delay fire engines; many older buildings have a single staircase against the NBC norm of two enclosed staircases (1 m wide) above 15 m.
- **Industrial oversights:** overheated machinery, unserviced HVAC systems, and unsafe handling of hazardous materials.
- **Climate-driven threat:** extreme heat drives heavy AC use, overloading electrical systems and causing compressor bursts.

## Regulatory & Institutional Framework

### ★ FIRE SAFETY ARCHITECTURE IN INDIA

- **National Building Code (NBC):** developed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS); first issued 1970, third edition in 2016. It is the primary fire-safety standard, covering construction, exit routes and maintenance, which states fold into local bylaws.
- **Model Building Bye-Laws 2016:** mandate fire-resistant materials, fire alarms and detection systems, and adequate light/ventilation to prevent smoke buildup.
- **Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act, 2005:** consolidates and updates fire-safety law, to be upheld by all states.
- **Model Bill, 2019:** a model framework for states to run fire and emergency services.
- **Modernization Scheme, 2023:** launched by the Centre after the 15th Finance Commission recommended Rs 5,000 crore to strengthen state fire services.

## The Way Forward

- **Smart infrastructure:** lowered sidewalks for fire-engine access, AI detection, self-regulating grids, fire-resistant materials and retractable staircases in high-rises.
- **Retrofitting:** flame-resistant paints, coatings and insulation to slow fire spread in existing buildings.
- **Overhauling firefighting:** more breathing apparatus so firefighters can enter smoke-filled buildings safely.
- **Safe industrial practice:** phase out hazardous materials and adopt strict storage protocols.

### MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

*Q. Unplanned urbanisation and population density have exacerbated fire hazards in Indian cities. Discuss with examples.*

GS Paper III · Disaster Management

2

## After Maoism, the Next Battle is for Adivasi Trust

GS 3 · Internal Security

The Hindu, Pg 6

### WHY IN NEWS

With Bastar officially declared Maoist-free (March 31, 2026), the Union Home Minister set **2031** as the next milestone for the welfare of Bastar's Adivasis — shifting the focus from security to trust and governance.

### The Two Channels of Governance

- **Elected channel:** Panchayati Raj Institutions with the **Gram Sabha** as the basic unit.
- **Appointed channel:** government officials such as tehsildars and District Collectors.
- Welfare schemes, roads and mobile towers improve ease of living, but the deeper issues relate to **jal, jangal and zameen** (water, forest, land) — the real determinant of trust.

### Implementing PESA in Earnest

- Across Fifth Schedule Area states, PESA implementation has been **dismal**; left to states, it was interpreted differently, often undermining its spirit.
- PESA elevates the Gram Sabha to the cornerstone of self-governance, with powers to safeguard Adivasi identity, manage community resources and resolve disputes by customary law.
- Attempts to dilute it persist — e.g., Chhattisgarh's 2022 move to replace "consent" with "consultation," and alleged forging of Gram Sabha records.

### ★ PESA ACT, 1996 — PRELIMS POINTERS

- Enacted on the **Bhuria Committee (1995)** recommendations for tribal self-rule.
- Extends provisions of **Part IX** of the Constitution to the Scheduled Areas (areas not covered by the 73rd CAA).
- Fifth Schedule applies to Scheduled Areas in states **other than** Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- **Ten states** have notified Fifth Schedule areas: Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana.

### MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

*Q. "The success of counter-insurgency operations against Naxalism ultimately depends on winning the trust of local communities rather than solely on security measures." Critically examine.*

10 Marks · 150 Words · GS Paper III

## 3

## Base and Framework — The Revamped IIP

GS 3 · Indian Economy

The Hindu, Pg 6

### WHY IN NEWS

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the latest Index of Industrial Production (IIP). The April 2026 print is the **first release under the new 2022-23 base series**; industrial output grew **4.9% year-on-year**.

### Resilient but Not Broad-Based

- **Capital goods** output expanded a robust **16%**, reflecting elevated public capex and infrastructure spending.
- **Consumer durables** grew only 4.3% and **non-durables** just 2.8%, suggesting rising fuel and energy costs are pressuring household consumption.

### What Changed in the Overhaul

#### ★ NEW 2022-23 SERIES — KEY REVISIONS

- A **fourth major sector** — water supply, sewerage and waste management — added with a weight of **2.02%**.
  - Electricity expanded into **Electricity and Gas Supply**; weight rose to **10.87%** from 7.99%.
  - **Manufacturing** remains dominant but its weight eased to **76.06%** from 77.63%.
  - **Mining and quarrying** weight cut to **11.05%** from 14.37%.
- The shifts signal greater importance of value-added infrastructure and utility services, and a diminished weight for primary resource extraction.
  - The government intends to move towards a **chain-linked framework** with more frequent updates to sectoral weights, keeping the IIP aligned with structural change.

## 4

## Preserving the Record — Right to be Forgotten

GS 2 · Polity &amp; Rights

The Hindu, Pg 6

### WHY IN NEWS

A Delhi High Court order (May 29) on the 'right to be forgotten' highlights the tension between the principle of **open justice** and the **right to informational privacy**.

### The Two Competing Principles

- **Open justice:** constitutional law allows public scrutiny of courts, aids public understanding of law, and creates a historical record of justice.
- **Informational privacy:** in **Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (2017)**, the Supreme Court recognised the right to control personal information about oneself.
- Digitisation let anyone — and search engines/automated archivers — access judgments, altering the consequences of publicity.

### The Argument of the Article

- In Europe, the right to be forgotten is weighed against freedom of expression and public interest; in India it should accommodate open justice without breaching privacy.
- The court (Justice Sachin Datta) held that merely updating records would not suffice as search engines may excerpt portions without context.
- The article argues the real problem is **incompleteness, not discoverability:** an acquittal or discharge should be findable alongside the original proceedings.
- Court records are official acts of the state; their obfuscation harms the public record (echoing the *Indian Kanoon* matter, 2024).

### ★ THE PROPOSED WAY OUT — DIGITAL ACCURACY

- Judicial records must remain **wholly public** yet be **updated** to reflect major actions and decisions, rather than preserving the accusation alone.
- The judiciary should require platforms and court registries to refresh databases regularly and display query results with proper context — protecting both fundamental rights and addressing the root cause.

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## The Startup India Scheme — A Decade On

GS 3 · Economy &amp; Growth

The Hindu, Pg 7

### WHY IN NEWS

The Indian startup economy has come of age in the 10 years since the 2015 Independence Day call to make India "Number 1" in startups. DPIIT recognition has expanded from **288 startups (3% of the total) in 2016** to **77% in 2025**.

### The Growth Story

- Three traits define startups: **innovation, use of technology, and market opportunity**.
- Funded ventures rose from 2,000 (of 10,000 startups) in 2016 to 75,000 (of 2,50,000) in 2025 — a 25-fold rise in startups and 38-fold in funded ventures.
- Tier-3 towns' share of new startups rose from ~15% (2016) to **71% (2025)**, while Tier-1 fell to 18% — spreading innovation beyond metros.
- Women's CAGR among founders was **20% vs 14% for men**, though women still account for about 21% of founders.

#### ★ STARTUP INDIA INITIATIVE (16 JAN 2016)

- Implemented by a dedicated team under **DPIIT**; aims to shift India from a job-seeking to a job-creating economy.
- Objectives: nurture innovation, promote entrepreneurship, enable investment, and drive employment-rich economic growth.

#### ★ STAND-UP INDIA SCHEME (5 APR 2016)

- Facilitates bank loans of **Rs 10 lakh to Rs 1 crore** to at least one **SC/ST** and one **woman** borrower per bank branch.
- Only for **greenfield** projects in manufacturing, services, trading or allied-to-agriculture; borrower must bring  $\geq 10\%$  own contribution (margin money up to 15% via convergence).

#### PRELIMS MCQ (UPSC 2014)

Q. What does venture capital mean?

- a A short-term capital provided to industries
- b A long-term start-up capital provided to new entrepreneurs
- c Funds provided to industries at times of incurring losses
- d Funds provided for replacement and renovation of industries

**Answer: (b) Long-term start-up capital provided to new entrepreneurs.**

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## S-400 Air Defence System

PRELIMS · Defence

The Hindu, Pg 10

### WHY IN NEWS

India received the **fourth squadron** of the Russian-made S-400 air defence system, arriving on schedule in May after delays linked to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

### The Deal & Status

- Part of a **\$5.43-billion** agreement signed with Russia in **2018** for **five** S-400 regimental systems.
- Three squadrons were already inducted; the fourth has now arrived; the **fifth is expected in 2027**.
- It will integrate **AI-enabled decision-support** for threat prioritisation, but the final engagement decision stays with the operator.

### ★ S-400 TRIUMF — KEY SPECS

- Long-range **Surface-to-Air Missile** system by **Almaz-Antey**; Indian designation **Sudarshan Chakra**; NATO name **SA-21 Growler**.
- Detection range up to **600 km**; tracks up to **300 targets**; engages **36 targets**; neutralises threats up to **Mach 14**; response time 9-10 seconds.
- Four missile types: 9M96E (120 km), 48N6E2 (200 km), 48N6DM (250 km), 40N6 (400 km).
- Fully mobile with rapid redeployment; provides layered defence against aircraft, drones, cruise/ballistic missiles and smart bombs.

### Strategic Value & Limitations

- Secures cities, nuclear plants and space facilities; offers area denial over Pakistani and Chinese airspace, including against J-20 fighters.
- **Limitations:** purely defensive (no offensive strike), and limited efficacy against hypersonic glide vehicles.

## 7

## North Eastern Council (NEC)

PRELIMS · Polity &amp; Governance

Current Affairs

### WHY IN NEWS

The NEC will hold its **73rd Plenary Session on 4 June 2026** in Shillong, Meghalaya, chaired by the Union Home Minister and NEC Chairman, Shri Amit Shah.

### About the Council

- Established under the **North Eastern Council Act, 1971**; the **apex regional planning body** for the North Eastern Region.
- Functions as a platform for inter-state coordination, regional prioritisation and development planning — strengthening cooperative federalism.

### ★ COMPOSITION & STRUCTURE

- **Members:** Governors and Chief Ministers of all NE states, plus three members nominated by the President.
- Works under the **Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region (MDoNER)**.
- **Union Home Minister** is the ex-officio Chairman; **MoS (Independent Charge), DoNER** is the Vice-Chairman.

### Mandate & Functions

- Prepares a regional plan for the **eight** NE states, emphasising schemes benefiting two or more states and inter-state transport, communication and connectivity.
- For **Sikkim**, it can formulate state-specific projects.
- Plays an **advisory and coordinating role**, not a direct implementing authority.



## Prelims Practice — Complex MCQs

12 UPSC-style questions drawn from today's analysis · with answer key

1 With reference to fire-safety governance in India, consider the following statements:

1. The National Building Code is developed by the Bureau of Indian Standards.
2. The NBC was first introduced in 2016.
3. The 15th Finance Commission recommended Rs 5,000 crore to strengthen state fire services.

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

**Answer:** (a) NBC was first introduced in 1970 (3rd edition 2016), so statement 2 is wrong.

2 The Sections under which the Delhi hotel-fire FIR was registered belong to which law?

- a Indian Penal Code, 1860                      b Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita  
c Disaster Management Act, 2005                      d Fire Prevention Act, 2005

**Answer:** (b) Sections 105 and 326 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

3 Consider the following about the PESA Act, 1996:

1. It was enacted on the recommendations of the Bhuria Committee.
2. It extends the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution to Scheduled Areas.
3. It applies to Scheduled Areas in Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram.

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

**Answer:** (a) The Fifth Schedule (and PESA) does NOT apply to Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram; statement 3 is wrong.

4 How many states have notified Fifth Schedule Areas in India?

- a Eight                                      b Nine  
c Ten                                      d Eleven

**Answer:** (c) Ten states (AP, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, HP, Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana).



9 The S-400 deal between India and Russia was signed in which year, and for how many systems?

- a 2016, four systems
- b 2018, five systems
- c 2018, four systems
- d 2020, five systems

**Answer:** (b) Signed in 2018 for five S-400 regimental systems (\$5.43 billion).

10 Consider the following about the North Eastern Council (NEC):

1. It was established under the North Eastern Council Act, 1971.
2. The Union Home Minister is its ex-officio Chairman.
3. It works under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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

**Answer:** (a) The NEC works under MDoNER, not the MHA; statement 3 is wrong.

11 Which of the following are members of the North Eastern Council?

1. Governors of all NE states.
2. Chief Ministers of all NE states.
3. Three members nominated by the President of India.

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

**Answer:** (d) All three categories are members of the NEC.

12 With reference to the Stand-Up India Scheme, consider the following:

1. It facilitates loans between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore.
2. It targets SC/ST and women entrepreneurs.
3. Loans are available for both greenfield and brownfield projects.

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

**Answer:** (a) Stand-Up India loans are only for greenfield (first-time) ventures; statement 3 is wrong.