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# The Hindu & Analysis

Newspaper Analysis for UPSC & State PSC Aspirants

29 AUGUST 2026 • SATURDAY

Mecca Pact & Bangladesh

IIP & Industrial Growth

India-US Javelin Deal

Thalassemia & Stem Cells

Taliban: 5 Years On

Himalayan Floods

ECI & the SIR

Compiled by *Sapna Chauhan*

GS PAPER I • II • III | PRELIMS + MAINS INTEGRATED

# Inside Today's Edition

Seven curated stories, decoded for the examination hall.

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## GS DISTRIBUTION

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| GS Paper II     | 5    |
| GS Paper III    | 4    |
| Prelims Facts   | High |
| Mains Value-Add | Rich |

## EDITOR'S FOCUS

Watch the defence thread running through today's paper — the **Mecca Pact** reshaping South Asian alignments and the **Javelin** deal deepening India's U.S. tilt. Pair the **IIP** revision and the **SIR** controversy as your economy and polity anchors.

## HOW TO READ EACH STORY

### Why in News

The trigger — the exact development that put the topic on the front page.

### Prelims Pointers

Crisp, fact-dense nuggets — names, numbers, articles & definitions to memorise.

### Value Addition

The analytical depth — significance, linkages and the "so-what" for Mains.

### Syllabus Link

The exact GS paper and syllabus keyword the topic maps to.

*"The newspaper is the aspirant's first classroom — read it not to know what happened, but to know what to write."*

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## WHY IN NEWS

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. Khalilur Rahman told Parliament that Dhaka would give “positive consideration” to joining the **Mecca Pact** — the trilateral defence agreement signed by Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan — should its members propose bringing Bangladesh into the framework.

- Responding to a supplementary question during the 13th Parliament's third session, Mr. Rahman clarified that accession is **not currently under discussion** and that Bangladesh has **not received any formal proposal** yet.
- “If they express interest in bringing Bangladesh into this pact, the government will certainly consider it positively,” he said, adding that the country's and its people's interests would be given the highest priority.
- The BNP-led government's stance drew support from major Opposition parties, including **Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami** and the **National Citizen Party (NCP)**, signalling rare cross-party convergence on the issue.
- The NCP cautioned, however, that any decision to join a collective-defence framework must rest on a comprehensive assessment of long-term national interests, security and strategic capabilities — not immediate diplomatic calculations.



Bangladesh's Parliament, Dhaka. Rahman said accession would depend on the intentions of the pact's existing signatories. **AFP**

## PRELIMS POINTERS

- ▶ The **Mecca Joint Defence Agreement** was signed in the Saudi city by Crown Prince **Mohammed bin Salman**, Turkish President **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** and Pakistan PM **Shehbaz Sharif**.
- ▶ It establishes a **mutual-defence clause**: an attack on any one signatory is treated as an attack on all three — a collective-security principle akin to **Article 5 of NATO**.
- ▶ Bangladesh is currently governed by an interim/BNP-led dispensation; the **NCP** is a newly-influential political formation in Dhaka.

## VALUE ADDITION • WHY IT MATTERS FOR INDIA

A pan-Islamic security architecture stitching together **Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan** — and potentially Bangladesh — would complicate India's neighbourhood calculus, creating a security bloc straddling both its western and eastern flanks.

It intersects with the **OIC dynamic**, the Pakistan–Türkiye defence-industrial nexus (drones, warships), and Riyadh’s bid to project itself as leader of the Muslim world. For India, it strengthens the case for deepening ties with **Gulf partners bilaterally** (UAE, Saudi Arabia) so that no single alignment is allowed to harden against New Delhi.

**SYLLABUS LINK** GS2: India and its neighbourhood; bilateral, regional and global groupings involving India or affecting India’s interests; effect of foreign-country policies on India.

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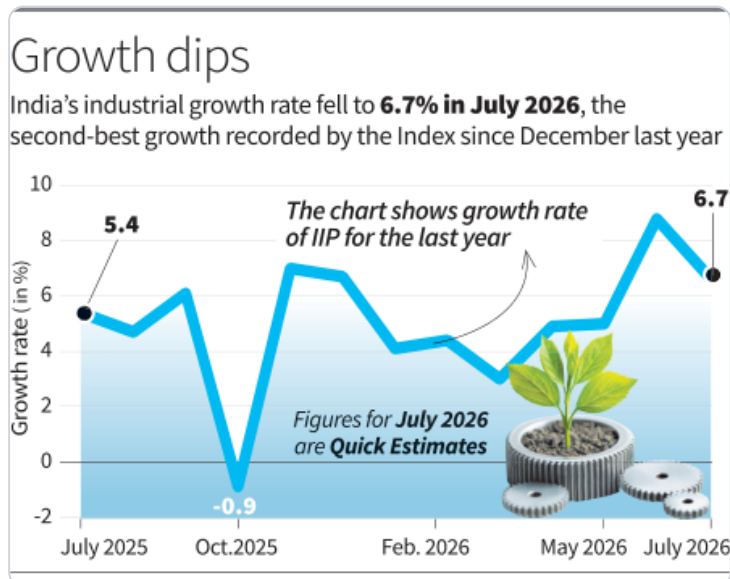
## Industrial growth slows to 6.7% in July — reading the IIP

GS 3 • INDIAN ECONOMY: GROWTH, INDICATORS & DATA

### WHY IN NEWS

India’s industrial growth in **July 2026 stood at 6.7%**, slower than the 8.8% seen in June, but still the second-best reading of the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** since December last year — buoyed by manufacturing, electricity and gas supply.

- The data, released by the **Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**, also saw June’s IIP growth revised up from a provisional 7.3% to **8.8%**.
- The **manufacturing** sector grew 7.3% in July (down from 9.5% in June), propelled by engineering, electronics, automobiles, and plastic & rubber products; rural consumption, however, showed weakness.
- Published monthly by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, the IIP measures short-term changes in the volume of industrial production and is a reliable barometer of the industrial sector’s health.
- **Base-year revision:** the IIP base has been officially updated from **2011-12 to 2022-23**, making it the latest major macro-indicator revised in 2026, alongside the GDP.

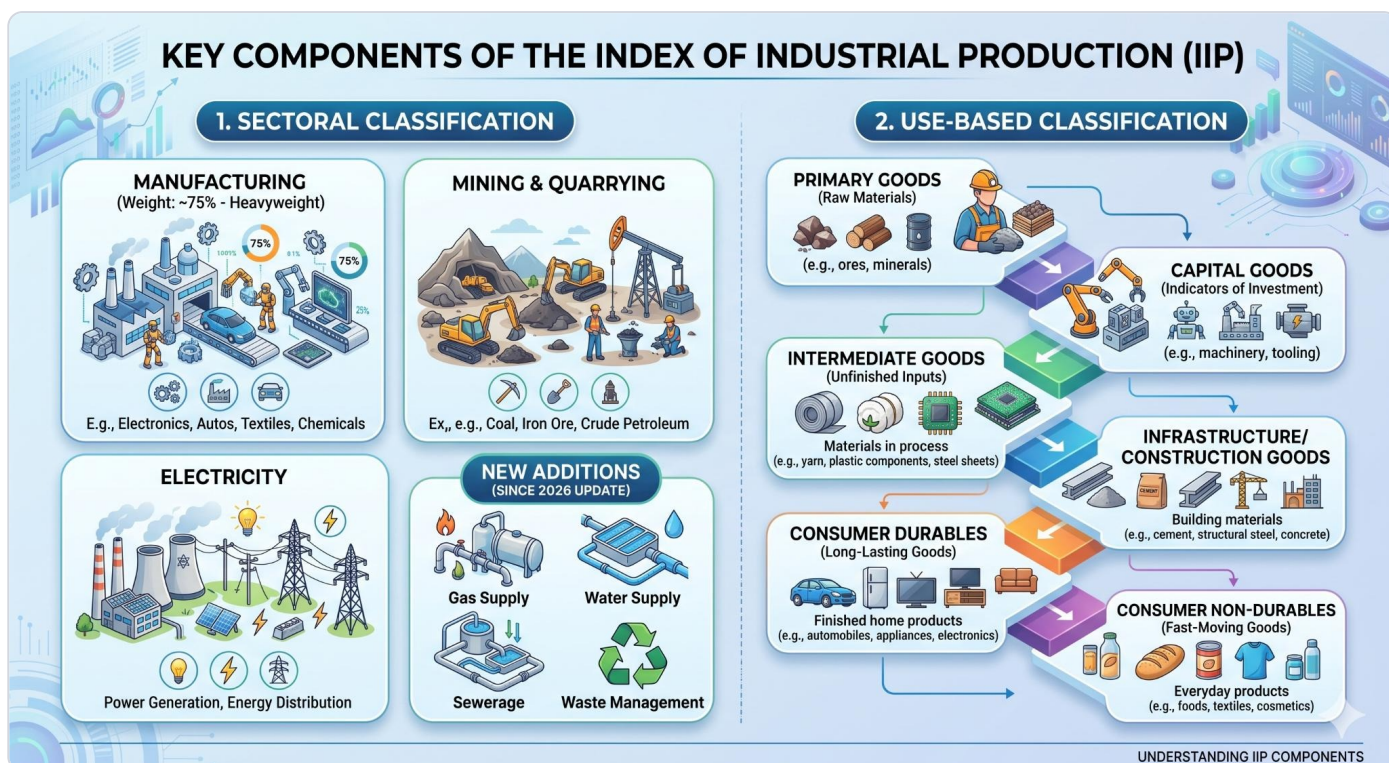


IIP growth over the last year; July 2026 figures are Quick Estimates.  
Source: MoSPI

### PRELIMS POINTERS

- ▶ **Broadened coverage:** the new series adds **gas supply, water supply, sewerage and waste management** to the traditional trio of mining & quarrying, manufacturing and electricity.
- ▶ **Electricity** is now split cleanly into **renewable** and **non-renewable** sources — sharpening the view of India’s green-energy transition.
- ▶ Two classifications to remember: **Sectoral** (Mining, Manufacturing, Electricity + new additions) and **Use-based** (Primary, Capital, Intermediate, Infrastructure/Construction, Consumer Durables, Consumer Non-durables).

- ▶ IIP is a **high-frequency** indicator; GDP is released only quarterly. Base year for IIP now aligns with the WPI/GDP revision cycle.





The Javelin is a medium-range, fire-and-forget ATGM. AFP

A shoulder-fired Javelin in action — designed to engage armour and fortified positions.

- The missile is being bought under the **emergency procurement powers** granted to the armed forces to augment critical operational capabilities following **Operation Sindoor**; the Army is procuring Javelins in limited numbers.
- Under the emergency framework, the forces can make purchases of up to **₹300 crore per equipment category**. Deliveries under the sixth tranche of emergency procurements are expected to begin by end-2026-27.
- The U.S. Embassy welcomed the LOA, saying it demonstrated the growing depth of the **U.S.-India Major Defence Partnership**; Ambassador Sergio Gor called the tie “growing deeper, more capable, and consequential.”
- The signing would facilitate discussions on **co-production** and strengthen the defence-industrial bases of both nations.

#### PRELIMS POINTERS

- ▶ **Fire-and-forget:** the Javelin’s guidance lets the operator fire and immediately reposition without steering the missile through its flight — using a top-attack trajectory to strike armour where it is weakest.
- ▶ Produced by the **Javelin Joint Venture** of RTX (**Raytheon**) and **Lockheed Martin**; operated by the U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps and several international customers.
- ▶ **FMS** is a government-to-government sales channel of the U.S.; the **LOA** is the formal offer-and-acceptance document that concludes an FMS case.

#### VALUE ADDITION • STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE

The deal matters on two axes: it rapidly strengthens India’s **anti-armour capability** in the wake of Operation Sindoor, and it deepens **defence-industrial cooperation** with Washington — complementing existing tracks such as **iCET**, GE-414 engine co-production and the drone (MQ-9B) acquisitions.

For Mains, frame it within India’s balancing act: diversifying away from over-dependence on a single supplier while pursuing **Atmanirbharta** in defence through technology transfer and co-production rather than off-the-shelf imports alone.



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## Two-year-old becomes stem cell donor — the Thalassemia story

GS 2 & 3 • HEALTH & SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (BIOTECHNOLOGY)

### WHY IN NEWS

A two-year-old girl in Bengaluru became a **blood stem cell donor** for her elder brother, who suffers from **thalassemia major** — offering a potential cure and spotlighting the difficulty of finding matched donors in India's genetically diverse population.

- Som was diagnosed with thalassemia major at five months; his sister was later diagnosed too. Neither had a full **Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA)** match within the family, leaving them dependent on regular transfusions.
- **Thalassemia** is a genetic blood disorder that lowers the body's ability to produce normal **haemoglobin**, resulting in fewer healthy red blood cells and **anaemia**.
- **Symptoms** range from growth delays, delayed puberty and bone abnormalities in mild cases to poor appetite, jaundice, dark urine and facial-bone deformities in severe cases.
- **Treatment** involves regular **blood transfusions** plus **iron-chelation therapy** to prevent iron overload; in severe cases a **bone-marrow or stem-cell transplant** can be curative.



India's genetic diversity makes finding a compatible unrelated donor particularly challenging.

### PRELIMS POINTERS

- ▶ **Burden:** India, often called the “**Thalassemia capital of the world**”, has an estimated **1–1.5 lakh** children living with the disease; roughly **42 million** Indians carry the beta-thalassemia trait.
- ▶ **Stem cells** are the body's raw materials — unspecialised cells from which all specialised cell types are generated; a single stem cell can become any of ~220 cell types.
- ▶ **HLA matching** (12/12 being a perfect match) is decisive for transplant success; the DKMS Foundation India assists economically weaker patients with high-resolution HLA typing and donor registries.
- ▶ Only about **0.09%** of Indians in the relevant age group are registered as blood stem-cell donors — a key reason matches are scarce.



### Unique Regenerative Abilities:

Can be guided into becoming specific cells to regenerate/repair damaged tissues.



**Drug Screening and Development:** Generate specific human tissues for **in vitro** drug screening and toxicity testing.



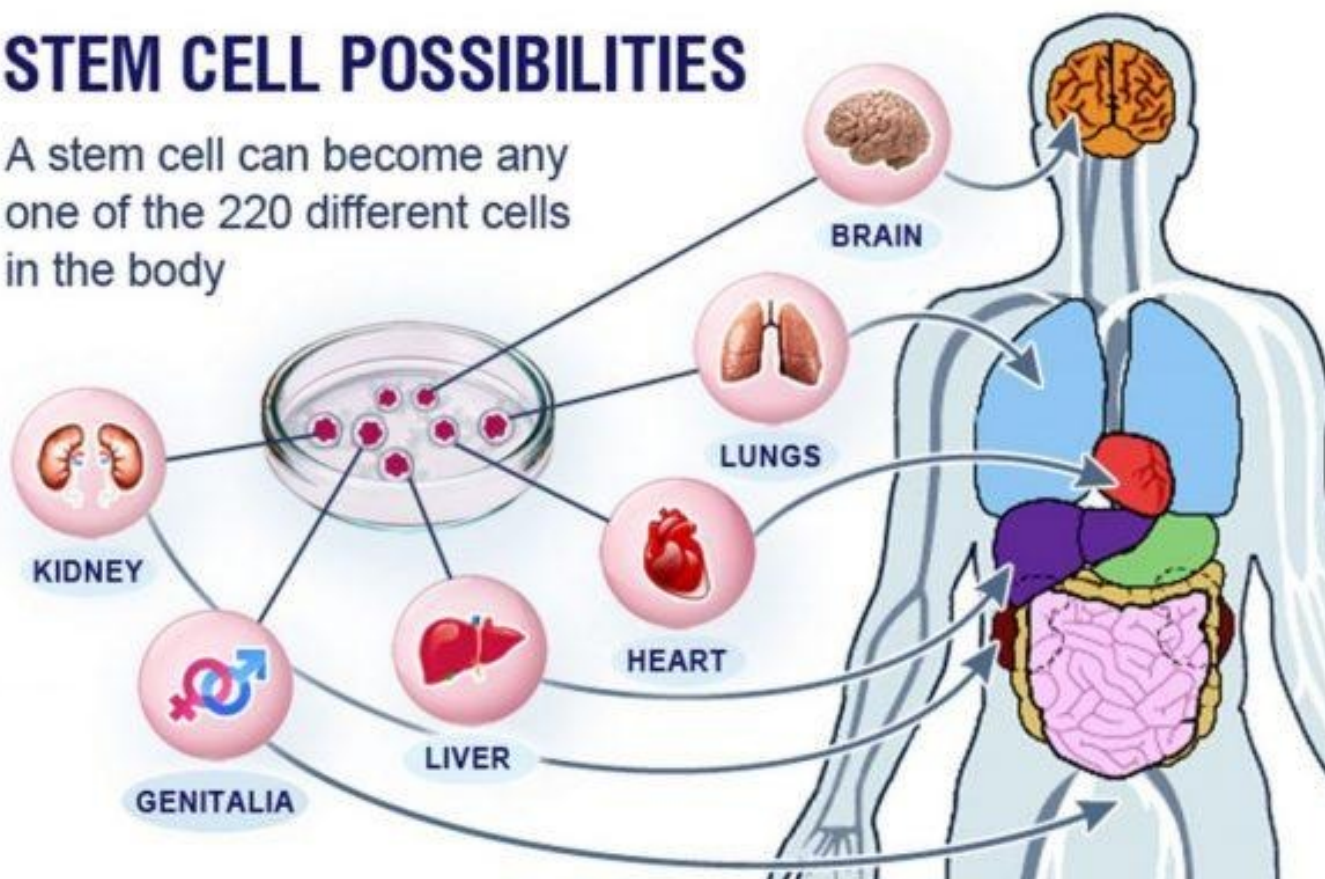
### Understanding of Diseases:

By observing the growth of these cells into mature cells in bones, heart muscle, nerves, etc.

Why stem cells matter: regeneration, drug screening & disease modelling.

## STEM CELL POSSIBILITIES

A stem cell can become any one of the 220 different cells in the body



Stem-cell possibilities — a single stem cell can differentiate into any of the body's ~220 cell types.

### VALUE ADDITION • POLICY & THE WAY FORWARD

Thalassemia is a **preventable** disorder: pre-marital and prenatal **carrier screening**, genetic counselling and antenatal diagnosis can sharply cut new cases. Schemes such as the **National Health Mission** support hemoglobinopathy control, and Thalassemia is covered under the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**.

The way forward: expand **voluntary stem-cell donor registries**, incentivise HLA typing, and scale emerging **gene-therapy** cures (e.g., CRISPR-based therapies) alongside a robust, safe voluntary blood-donation ecosystem.

**SYLLABUS LINK** GS2: Issues relating to development and management of Health. GS3: Science & Technology — developments in biotechnology and their applications.



## WHY IN NEWS

Five years after the August 15, 2021 takeover, the **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA)** under Taliban rule presents a binary record — relative stability and security on one side, and deep repression and economic fragility on the other.



**Mahesh Sachdev**

Retired Indian Ambassador, specialising in West Asian and oil issues

- After 47 years of bloodletting, terrorism and foreign occupation, the current “stability” is a respite; the IEA 2.0 transition — though as chaotic as 1996 — spared the country from mass retribution, and Afghanistan is now largely stable and secure.
- During the past five years, an estimated **5.7 million refugees** from Pakistan and Iran have returned to Afghanistan.
- Taliban 2.0 swiftly reinstated the harshest rules in the contemporary Islamic world: a **ban on music, no education for girls beyond class six**, gender segregation, lifting the ban on child marriages, and a narrow power base excluding women, non-Pashtuns and minorities — defended by citing Sharia, Sunni Deobandi Islam, Hanafi jurisprudence and Pashtun tradition.
- Two decades of the U.S. campaign against the Taliban — which caused **6,379 deaths** and cost **\$2.26 trillion** — now seem in vain.

## PRELIMS POINTERS

- ▶ Nearly half of Afghanistan's **49 million** population lives under the national poverty line; the HDI score is **0.496**, among the world's lowest; formal unemployment is put at **13.3%**.
- ▶ The population rose by 11% in 2025 (largely due to return migration), causing a **4% decline in per-capita GDP** despite economic growth.
- ▶ **UNSC Resolution 2593 (2021)** demands, inter alia, that Afghan territory not be used for terrorism and that human rights — including the rights of women, children and minorities — be upheld; it remains the cornerstone of global policy on the IEA.
- ▶ No country has extended **formal (de jure) recognition**, though several — including India — maintain functional engagement; Russia has recognised the IEA.

## VALUE ADDITION • NEW DELHI'S AFGHAN ENGAGEMENT

India was initially sceptical of the IEA but has since come full circle — conforming to global norms by withholding full diplomatic recognition while pursuing **substantive bilateral engagement**. It has reopened a technical mission in Kabul, provided humanitarian assistance, mentored Afghan cricket, and seen India-Afghan trade hover around **\$1 billion** despite Pakistan's denial of overland transit.

The strategic logic: a progressive, moderate Afghanistan is an asset to India and the world; New Delhi seeks to build a pathway to normalisation, ideally through a **multilateral donors' conference**, while gently nudging the IEA on girls' education and inclusive governance.

**SYLLABUS LINK** GS2: India and its neighbourhood; effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests; important international institutions.



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## A shared disaster: the Himalayan cross-border floods

GS 3 & 2 • DISASTER MANAGEMENT & REGIONAL COOPERATION

### WHY IN NEWS

For Nepal, India and China, the devastating **cross-border floods** triggered by a Himalayan glacial collapse are a stark reminder that cooperation must transcend the boundaries of geopolitics.



### Bhaskar Koirala

Nepali scholar; founder of the Nepal Institute of International and Strategic Studies; launched the first Nepal-India-China Trilateral Track II Dialogue (2014)

- On **August 26, 2026**, what first appeared to be a 4.4-magnitude earthquake near the Nepal-China border triggered the collapse of an enormous **glacial slab**, plunging a kilometre to the valley floor and causing devastating **flash floods**; the USGS later confirmed the seismicity was the glacial collapse and landslide itself, not tectonic shifts.
- Preliminary estimates suggest **579 people have perished** in Nepal, with nearly **2,000 missing** — many believed to be foreigners; a staggering **475 MW** of generating capacity was wiped off Nepal's grid.
- China's **Gyirong Port** — the largest land-trade port in the Tibet Autonomous Region and the primary Nepal-China gateway, upgraded in 2017 at a cost of **\$175.8 million** — now lies buried beneath sediment and debris.
- **Flood fallout for India:** floodwaters reached the **Gandak, Kosi and Ganga** in Bihar, prompting maximum alert at Patna, especially at the **Valmikinagar Barrage** and vulnerable embankments.

### PRELIMS POINTERS

- ▶ **GLOF** (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood) and glacial-slab collapse are climate-linked Himalayan hazards; the region is seismically active (Himalayan collision zone) and glacially sensitive.
- ▶ Rivers to remember: the **Kosi** ("Sorrow of Bihar"), **Gandak** and **Ganga** are transboundary rivers rising in Nepal/Tibet; the **Valmikinagar Barrage** lies on the Gandak.
- ▶ India's response: the **NDRF** deployed across the Bihar-UP border; the **IAF** dispatched over 47.5 tonnes of relief; New Delhi activated a **HADR** (Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief) programme.

The disaster underscores how a single Himalayan event cascades across **three sovereign countries**. The challenge is to transcend the parochial features of geopolitics — without ignoring the compulsions of realpolitik — and build a feasible framework for **collaboration and coordination**.

Mains angle: argue for institutionalised **trans-Himalayan disaster cooperation** — shared early-warning systems, real-time hydrological data exchange, joint GLOF monitoring and a standing HADR compact — anchored in bodies like the **ICIMOD** and existing India–Nepal river mechanisms, insulated from political friction.

**SYLLABUS LINK** GS3: Disaster and disaster management. GS1: Geophysical phenomena. GS2: India's relations with neighbours; bilateral groupings.



## 7 'Unkind cuts': the scale of the ECI's SIR deletions

GS 2 • POLITY, ELECTIONS & CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES

### WHY IN NEWS

The **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** being conducted by the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has struck out a fifth of the names from the electoral rolls in **Telangana and Karnataka** — nearly **22%** and **19.5%** respectively — raising alarm over large-scale disenfranchisement.

- Cleared to proceed after a Supreme Court judgment, the SIR has produced cuts **among the highest in the country**. They are steepest in the capital cities: five constituencies in **Bengaluru** lost more than half their electors, and nine of **Hyderabad's** 15 saw deletions of over 40%.
- Such cuts cannot simply be a trimming of bloated rolls at the margins; if the deletions were justified, those struck off should have **left the State** — yet a mere intra-State move would only relocate a voter's name, not remove it. Neither survey data nor population estimates bear this out.
- During the **Bihar SIR**, the Court asked why parties filed so few objections seeking inclusion of wrongly deleted names — a question that may hold for the southern States too; a plausible reason is that a voter ID is used only once in a few years, reducing citizens' alacrity.
- Proving a "smoking gun" is hard because of the ECI's **opacity**: it has not published the mandatory **elector-to-population ratio** for any State, the only test of under-enrolment.

### PRELIMS POINTERS

- ▶ The **ECI** is a constitutional body under **Article 324**; electoral rolls are governed by the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**, and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.
- ▶ **SIR** = Special Intensive Revision, a door-to-door verification exercise distinct from the routine annual Summary Revision.
- ▶ The Karnataka CEO reportedly scattered deletion lists across multiple Google Drive links without old booth numbers and released no gender-wise breakdown — making verification arduous.

The right to vote underpins **universal adult franchise** (Article 326). Faulty deletions risk **disenfranchisement** without due process, disproportionately hitting the urban poor and migrants. In West Bengal, the ECI's disputed "logical discrepancy" process pushed lakhs to tribunals: barely **82,000** of nearly **38 lakh** appeals before 19 tribunals have been decided, with over **90%** favouring restoration.

Mains framing: an institution once envied for enrolling millions must not become an obstacle to franchise. The remedy lies in **transparency** (publishing enrolment ratios, machine-readable lists), robust **grievance redressal**, and adherence to natural-justice safeguards before any name is struck off.

**SYLLABUS LINK** GS2: Salient features of the Representation of People's Act; appointment, powers and functions of Constitutional Bodies (Election Commission).

## Practice Zone

*Translate today's news into examination-ready answers.*

### MAINS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

**Q1. The emergence of a pan-Islamic security architecture linking Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan, with a possible Bangladeshi accession, complicates India's neighbourhood calculus. Critically examine its implications for India's strategic autonomy and suggest a calibrated response.**

प्रश्न 1. सौदी अरब, तुर्किये और पाकिस्तान को जोड़ते हुए एक अखिल-इस्लामिक सुरक्षा ढांचे का उद्भव, जिसमें बांग्लादेश की संभावित सहभागिता शामिल है, भारत के पड़ोस समीकरण को जटिल बनाती है। इसके भारत की रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता पर प्रभाव की समीक्षा कीजिए और एक संतुलित प्रतिक्रिया सुझाइए।

GS Paper II • International Relations

15 marks • 250 words

**APPROACH** → Define the Mecca Pact and its NATO-like mutual-defence clause; map the twin-flank challenge (west + east); weigh OIC and Pak-Türkiye defence nexus; argue for deepened Gulf bilateralism (UAE, Saudi), I2U2 and de-hyphenation as the calibrated response.

**Q2. “A single Himalayan hazard can cascade across three sovereign nations, yet disaster cooperation remains hostage to geopolitics.” In light of recent trans-Himalayan floods, discuss the case for an institutionalised regional disaster-management framework among India, Nepal and China.**

प्रश्न 2. “एक ही हिमालयी आपदा तीन संप्रभु राष्ट्रों में शृंखलाबद्ध तरीके से फैल सकती है, फिर भी आपदा सहयोग भू-राजनीति का बंधक बना हुआ है।” हाल की हिमालयी बाढ़ के आलोक में, भारत, नेपाल और चीन के बीच एक संस्थागत क्षेत्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन ढांचे की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

GS Paper III • Disaster Management

15 marks • 250 words

**APPROACH** → Use the Aug 26 glacial-collapse event as the anchor; show the cascade (Gyirong Port → Nepal casualties → Kosi/Gandak/Ganga floods in Bihar); propose shared early-warning, real-time hydrological data exchange, joint GLOF monitoring, a standing HADR compact via ICIMOD — insulated from political friction.

## PRELIMS MCQS

**1. The “Mecca Pact” recently in the news is a defence agreement among which of the following?**

- |                                     |                                        |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| (a) Saudi Arabia, Iran and Pakistan | (b) Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan |
| (c) Saudi Arabia, Egypt and UAE     | (d) Türkiye, Qatar and Pakistan        |

**2. With reference to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), consider the following statements:**

1. It is released monthly by the National Statistical Office under MoSPI.
2. Its base year has recently been revised to 2022-23.
3. The new series includes water supply, sewerage and waste management.

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

**3. In the IIP's use-based classification, cement, structural steel and concrete are classified under:**

- |                                       |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| (a) Capital Goods                     | (b) Intermediate Goods |
| (c) Infrastructure/Construction Goods | (d) Primary Goods      |

**4. The Javelin missile, recently procured by India, is best described as a:**

- |                                          |                                              |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| (a) Surface-to-air missile               | (b) Fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile |
| (c) Submarine-launched ballistic missile | (d) Anti-radiation missile                   |

**5. India is procuring the Javelin through which route, and it was enabled by which powers?**

- |                                  |                                                          |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| (a) Direct Commercial Sale; MTCR | (b) Foreign Military Sales; emergency procurement powers |
| (c) Offset route; Make-II        | (d) G2G under iCET; SP model                             |

**6. With reference to Thalassemia, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a genetic disorder affecting haemoglobin production.
2. India carries one of the world's highest burdens of beta-thalassemia trait.
3. A bone-marrow or stem-cell transplant can be curative in severe cases.

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

**7. The term “HLA matching”, often discussed with transplants, relates most directly to:**

- (a) Blood group compatibility only
- (b) Immune-system tissue-type compatibility
- (c) Rh-factor screening
- (d) Bone-density matching

**8. UN Security Council Resolution 2593, frequently cited on Afghanistan, primarily demands that:**

- (a) The Taliban be granted immediate recognition
- (b) Afghan territory not be used for terrorism and rights be upheld
- (c) Foreign troops remain stationed indefinitely
- (d) Sanctions on all humanitarian aid be imposed

**9. The Valmikinagar Barrage, in the news due to recent floods, is located on which river?**

- (a) Kosi
- (b) Gandak
- (c) Ghaghara
- (d) Sone

**10. The Election Commission of India derives its powers of superintendence and control of elections from which Article of the Constitution?**

- (a) Article 280
- (b) Article 315
- (c) Article 324
- (d) Article 338

#### ANSWER KEY & RATIONALE

**1 — (b)** The Mecca Joint Defence Agreement was signed at Mecca by Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan, with a NATO-style mutual-defence clause.

**2 — (d)** All three are correct: the IIP is monthly (NSO/MoSPI), its base year is revised to 2022-23, and the new series adds water supply, sewerage and waste management.

**3 — (c)** Building materials like cement, structural steel and concrete fall under Infrastructure/Construction Goods in the use-based classification.

**4 — (b)** The Javelin is a medium-range, fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile using a top-attack profile against armour.

**5 — (b)** It is bought via the U.S. Foreign Military Sales route, enabled by the armed forces' emergency procurement powers post-Operation Sindoor.

**6 — (d)** All statements are correct; India is often called the “thalassemia capital of the world”, and transplants can be curative in severe cases.

**7 — (b)** Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) matching concerns immune-system tissue-type compatibility, decisive for transplant success (12/12 = perfect).

**8 — (b)** UNSC Res. 2593 (2021) demands Afghan territory not be used for terrorism and that human rights, including those of women and minorities, be upheld.

**9 — (b)** The Valmikinagar Barrage lies on the Gandak river in Bihar (West Champaran).

**10 — (c)** Article 324 vests superintendence, direction and control of elections in the Election Commission of India.

#### QUICK REVISION RECAP • 60-SECOND SWEEP

**Mecca Pact:** Saudi-Türkiye-Pakistan mutual-defence deal; Bangladesh weighing entry — a twin-flank challenge for India.

**IIP:** 6.7% in July 2026 (June revised to 8.8%); base year now 2022-23; new series adds gas/water/sewerage/waste; electricity split renewable vs non-renewable.

**Javelin:** Fire-and-forget ATGM via U.S. FMS route under emergency powers post-Op Sindoor; RTX + Lockheed Martin JV; co-production talks ahead.

**Thalassemia:** Genetic haemoglobin disorder; India = “thalassemia capital”; ~42 mn carriers; HLA-matched stem-cell transplant can cure; only 0.09% registered as donors.

**Taliban 5 yrs:** Stable but repressive (girls barred beyond class 6); HDI 0.496; no de jure recognition (Russia excepted); India engages without recognising.

**Himalayan floods:** Aug 26 glacial-slab collapse; 579 dead, ~2,000 missing in Nepal; Gyirong Port buried; Kosi/Gandak/Ganga alert in Bihar; NDRF + IAF HADR.

**ECI SIR:** ~22% (Telangana) & 19.5% (Karnataka) rolls deleted; opacity on elector-to-population ratio; Article 324; concerns over franchise (Art. 326).

### PRELIMS TRAP-SETTERS • DON'T GET FOOLED

**Mecca Pact members:** It is Saudi Arabia, Türkiye & Pakistan — **not** Iran. Iran is **not** a signatory.

**IIP vs GDP:** IIP is a **monthly, high-frequency** indicator; GDP is quarterly. IIP does **not** measure the services sector.

**Javelin maker:** Produced by the RTX-Lockheed Martin joint venture — **not** a single company, and **not** made in India (yet; co-production is only proposed).

**Recognition of IEA:** Functional engagement ≠ formal recognition. India has **not** extended de jure recognition; Russia has.

**ECI & Article:** Election Commission = **Article 324**. Article 280 = Finance Commission; Article 315 = UPSC/SPSC; Article 338 = NCSC.

***That's a wrap for 29 August 2026.***

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