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In Today's Edition

- | | |
|--|------|
| 01. Modi Flags 'Weaponisation' of Tech & Critical Minerals at BRICS | GS 3 |
| 02. Acharya Vinoba Bhave — The 'National Teacher' of India | GS 1 |
| 03. 'UCC in all 21 NDA-ruled States by 2029', says Amit Shah | GS 2 |
| 04. Terror's Changing Face: India's Shift to Proactive Counter-Terrorism | GS 3 |
| 05. 'A Rising Graph': Doping as a Deep-Rooted Culture in Indian Sport | GS 2 |
| 06. 'Building Consensus': The 18th BRICS Summit & the Power Shift | GS 2 |

WHY IN NEWS

At the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, PM Modi warned against the “weaponisation” of technology and access to critical minerals, and unveiled a slate of new BRICS initiatives to strengthen supply chains and build resilience against pandemics, conflicts and climate disasters.

- Speaking on the final day of the summit, Modi said the rising number of **global conflicts** has an increasingly negative, far-reaching impact on the lives of ordinary people.
- As the **11-member grouping** enters its third decade, the world expects **concrete results**, not “merely ideas and commitments”.

Modi flags weaponisation of tech, critical minerals

BRICS, now in its third decade, should focus on concrete actions, not 'merely ideas', says Modi; he lists initiatives to bolster supply chains, boost resilience against pandemics and climate disasters

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Warning against the “weaponisation” of technology and access to critical minerals, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday highlighted new BRICS initiatives to strengthen supply chains and increase resilience against disruptions, pandemics, and climate disasters.

The rising number of global conflicts has an increasingly negative and far-reaching impact on the lives of ordinary people, Mr. Modi said on the final day of the BRICS Summit here.

As the 11-member grouping enters its third decade, the world expects concrete results from the group, not “merely ideas



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a session on the second day of the BRICS Summit at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on Sunday. PTI

and commitments”, the Prime Minister noted.

Mr. Modi also pointed out that the confidence of Global South countries in BRICS has grown because “their voices are heard, their experiences are respected, and solutions are developed not for them, but together with them”.

“The weaponisation of technology and critical minerals can hinder our shared progress,” Mr. Modi said.

“Therefore, we have emphasised inclusivity in the adoption of technology. Pandemics, climate disasters, and supply-chain disruptions have shown

that in today's interconnected world, no crisis remains confined to a single region,” he said.

CONTINUED ON

» PAGE 10

EDITORIAL

» PAGE 6

DETAILED COVERAGE

» PAGE 11

‘Modi flags weaponisation of tech, critical minerals’ — The Hindu, Page 1.

- Confidence of the **Global South** in BRICS has grown because “their voices are heard, their experiences respected, and solutions developed not for them but together with them”.
- “The **weaponisation of technology and critical minerals** can hinder our shared progress,” Modi said, stressing inclusivity in technology adoption.
- New initiatives announced: **BRICS Incubator Network** (linking start-ups & incubators), a proposed **BRICS Startup Innovation Fund**, and **BRICS CONNECT** (skills, employability, women in workforce, social security).
- Also launched: **BRICS Network on Digital Agriculture** (AI, geospatial tech & Digital Public Infrastructure for farmers), the **BRICS MSME Cooperation Portal**, and the **BRICS Urban Mobility Hub**.

★ VALUE ADDITION — CRITICAL MINERALS & WEAPONISATION

- **Critical minerals** (lithium, cobalt, nickel, rare earths) are vital for EV batteries, semiconductors, defence & clean energy; supply is geographically concentrated (esp. China for processing).

- “Weaponisation” = using export controls / chokepoints on tech & minerals as geopolitical leverage — a growing concern after recent rare-earth curbs.
- India’s response: **National Critical Mineral Mission (2025)**, **KABIL** for overseas acquisition, and Critical Minerals list of the Ministry of Mines.

★ PRELIMS POINTERS

- BRICS founded 2009 (as BRIC; South Africa joined 2010). Expanded from Jan 2024; now an **11-member** grouping.
- 2025–26 chairship: **India** (its 4th); the summit adopted the **New Delhi Declaration**.
- New India-pushed BRICS mechanisms: Incubator Network, Startup Innovation Fund, CONNECT, Digital Agriculture Network, MSME Portal, Urban Mobility Hub.

ANALYSIS / WAY FORWARD

BRICS’ credibility now rests on **deliverables over declarations**. For India, championing supply-chain resilience and de-risking critical-mineral access aligns strategic autonomy with Global-South leadership — but success hinges on **concrete, financed institutions** rather than another round of communiqués.

Syllabus Link — GS Paper II & III: Important International Groupings; India & the Global South; supply-chain security; critical minerals & strategic resources.

02 Acharya Vinoba Bhave — The ‘National Teacher’ of India

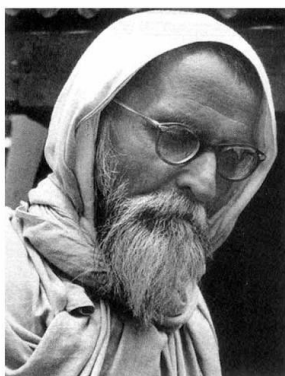
GS 1 · MODERN HISTORY

Personalities

Freedom Fighter

WHY IN NEWS

The Prime Minister paid homage to freedom fighter, philosopher and social reformer Acharya Vinoba Bhave on his birth anniversary (11 September). Revered as Gandhi’s spiritual successor, he led the Bhoodan (land-gift) movement.



Acharya Vinoba Bhave
(1895–1982).

- Born **Vinayak Narahari Bhave** (11 Sept 1895 – 15 Nov 1982) at Gagode village, Konkan (Raigad, Maharashtra).
- Hailed as the **Maanas Putra** (spiritual successor) of Mahatma Gandhi and the **National Teacher of India**; a staunch advocate of **non-violence, Sarvodaya** (welfare of all) and land reforms.
- In March 1916 he burned his college certificates, went to **Varanasi** seeking spiritual truth, and met Gandhi at Ahmedabad on 7 June 1916, dedicating his life to Gandhi’s constructive programmes.

- Gandhi named him ‘**Vinoba**’, placing him in the lineage of Maharashtra’s saints Jnanoba and Tukoba; introduced him publicly via the essay *Who is Vinoba?*

- At Wardha (1921) he took charge of the Satyagraha Ashram's branch, founded the **Gram Seva Mandal (1934)**, and pioneered village sanitation, basic education (**Nai Talim**) and Khadi spinning.
- Took part in the **Nagpur Flag Satyagraha (1923)**, Salt Satyagraha and Civil Disobedience; chosen by Gandhi as the **first Individual Satyagrahi (1940)** against WWII participation (Nehru was second).

★ VALUE ADDITION — BEYOND THE TEXT — BHOODAN & LEGACY

- Launched the **Bhoodan (Land-Gift) Movement** in 1951 at Pochampally (Telangana); later **Gramdan** (village-gift).
- First recipient of the **Ramon Magsaysay Award (1958)**; awarded the **Bharat Ratna posthumously (1983)**.
- Key writings: *Geeta Pravachane* (talks on the Gita), *Swaraj Shastra*; propounded the philosophy of **Sarvodaya**.

★ PRELIMS POINTERS

- Bhoodan Movement began at **Pochampally, 1951**; part of the Sarvodaya ideal of a stateless, self-reliant village society.
- First **Individual Satyagrahi** (1940) hand-picked by Gandhi; second was Jawaharlal Nehru.
- Bharat Ratna 1983 (posthumous); first Magsaysay awardee from India (1958).

ANALYSIS / WAY FORWARD

Vinoba's constructive nationalism — land reform through **moral persuasion** rather than coercion — remains a template for participatory rural development, Gram Swaraj and community-led welfare that resonates with today's decentralisation debates.

Syllabus Link — GS Paper I: Modern Indian History — personalities in the freedom struggle; Gandhian constructive programme; post-independence social reform movements.

03 'UCC in all 21 NDA-ruled States by 2029', says Amit Shah

GS 2 · POLITY

Page 12

UCC · Article 44

WHY IN NEWS

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said a Uniform Civil Code will be implemented by 2029 in the 21 States where the BJP/NDA are in power, reviving the constitutional debate around Article 44.

- **UCC** = a single set of laws governing personal matters — marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance and succession — for all citizens, irrespective of religion.
- It is a **Directive Principle** under **Article 44**: the State “shall endeavour to secure” a UCC — a guiding principle, **not a legally enforceable right**.

UCC in all 21 NDA-ruled States by 2029, says Shah

Minister says government will deport all illegal immigrants; on the Gen Z protests, he says all must express opinions freely; Congress says Minister evaded questions on the Maharashtra coop 'scam'

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

A Uniform Civil Code will be implemented by 2029 in the 21 States where the Bharatiya Janata Party and the NDA are in power, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said here on Sunday. He said the government was committed to deporting every illegal immigrant from the country.

Mr. Shah, who spoke to the press, refused to give a timeline for the implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Manipur. However, he said the government was discussing with allies and political parties the use of the 1951 baseline for it.

Speaking about the Gen Z protests in July, he said everyone must express opinions in a democracy. "We want to communicate with everyone. We don't want to run the country in an Emergency-like situation. Congress culture was different. Our culture is different," he said.

Mr. Shah, who is on a two-day visit to Maharashtra, was speaking on the



Home Minister Amit Shah addressing a press conference with Devendra Fadnis, left, and Eknath Shinde in Mumbai. PTI

occasion of the *Seva San-kalp Abhiyaan*, a month-long national drive from September 17 to October 17 to celebrate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday and the completion of his 25 years of service as a Chief Minister and as the Prime Minister.

The Congress slammed the Home Minister for evading questions on the allegations of corruption surrounding the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank Limited 'scam' involving alleged financial irregularities of ₹25,000 crore through improper loan disbursements and distress sale of cooperative su-

gar factories. Mr. Shah is also the Union Minister of Cooperation, and when asked whether his Ministry planned to present a White Paper in the case, owing to the differences in the probe findings by the Central and the State agencies, he said, "Why should we? The agencies are doing their work. They will file a chargesheet in the court. I now request you all to limit yourselves to the topic of the 25 years of service."

Maharashtra Congress president Harshawardhan Sapkal said the Union Minister "ran away" from the press conference as he did not have the "courage" to

answer questions on the multi-crore 'scam'.

Mr. Shah's visit to the State comes amid differences over making functional Marathi compulsory for cab and auto drivers. He will attend the Hindi Divas celebration here on Monday.

Asked about the conflicts over language and regional identity arising from migration, he said, "It is our government's policy to prioritise the mother tongue, and the Constitution has issued specific directives to the States in this regard. I do not believe this will become a major issue. While isolated incidents may occur if certain individuals attempt to stoke tensions, the States have experienced leadership and will certainly find a way to resolve such issues."

Mr. Shah, who presented the 52nd India Gem and Jewellery Awards at another event, urged the diamond industry to take a lead in the lab-grown diamond ecosystem. "The market for lab diamonds is poised to expand to nearly 50 times. This represents a huge opportunity."

'UCC in all 21 NDA-ruled States by 2029, says Shah' — The Hindu, Page 12.

- Constituent Assembly views: **K.M. Munshi** (UCC for national unity & secularism), **Alladi Krishnaswami Aiyar** (promotes harmony), **B.R. Ambedkar** (kept it optional and in DPSPs as a compromise).
- Family & succession laws fall under the **Concurrent List (Entry 5, List III)** — both Parliament and States can legislate; but a pan-India law under Article 44 must be enacted **only by Parliament**.
- Shah also said the government is committed to deporting every illegal immigrant, and refused a timeline for the **NRC** in Manipur (discussing the 1951 baseline).

★ VALUE ADDITION — JUDICIAL MILESTONES ON UCC

- **Shah Bano (1985)**: upheld a Muslim woman's right to maintenance; linked UCC to national integration.
- **Sarla Mudgal (1995) & John Vallamattom (2003)**: courts urged the **Union** (not States) to enact a UCC.
- **Shayara Bano (2017)**: struck down instant triple talaq, reigniting — but separating — the UCC debate from human-rights concerns.
- **Uttarakhand** became the first State to enact a UCC (2024, effective 2025).

★ PRELIMS POINTERS

- Article 44 is a **standalone DPSP** with no other constitutional cross-reference to a UCC.
- Personal & succession law = **Concurrent List**; a nationwide UCC requires **Parliamentary** enactment.
- Goa has long had a common civil code (Portuguese Civil Code, 1867); Uttarakhand's is the first post-Constitution State UCC.

ANALYSIS / WAY FORWARD

A UCC promises **gender justice and equality before law**, but its route matters: given the Concurrent-List position and India's plural personal-law traditions, **consultative, phased reform** — codifying and harmonising rather than imposing — is likelier to secure legitimacy than a top-down mandate.

04 Terror's Changing Face: India's Shift to Proactive Counter-Terrorism

GS 3 · INTERNAL SECURITY

Page 6

PRAHAAR · Counter-Terror

WHY IN NEWS

A lead analysis traces India's journey from 'defensive restraint' to 'proactive counter-terrorism', and flags PRAHAAR — India's first comprehensive National Counter-Terrorism Policy (Feb 2026).

- Cross-border terror began in Kashmir in the early 1990s, but the first major shock was the assassination of ex-PM **Rajiv Gandhi by the LTTE** (21 May 1991, Sriperumbudur).
- Pakistan's direct role was first exposed in the **IC-814 hijack (24 Dec 1999)**; India was forced to release Masood Azhar and others.

Terror's changing face, India's counter-terror strategy

The terror attack carried out by al-Qaeda on the Twin Towers in New York on September 11, 2001 was neither the first major terrorist attack in the world nor the first against the United States. But it fundamentally changed how terrorism would be fought in the decades that followed.

Over the past 25 years, the global security landscape, including that of India, has changed inversely. The forms of terrorism have evolved, the instruments used to perpetrate terror have changed, and so too have the strategies adopted by countries around the world to counter terrorism.

We no longer hear of large terror groups operating under ruthless terrorist leaders such as al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden or Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who led the Islamic State and called for the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate. Instead, terror groups have morphed into smaller, more autonomous entities. Lone-wolf attacks are becoming the norm, while technologies such as drones, cyber capabilities, and even artificial intelligence are being used not only by terror groups but also by nations combating terrorism.

From an Indian standpoint, 9/11 certainly helped bring greater attention to India's concerns over cross-border terrorism, particularly in Kashmir. However, it was not until the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks (November 2008) that the world truly stood in solidarity with India and acknowledged its fight against cross-border terrorism. Over the years, India's strategy towards terrorism has evolved — from a passive strategy of merely warning Pakistan but not punishing it, to a bold and active strategy that classifies any act of terrorism backed by support from across the border as an 'act of war'.

The starting years saw a passive response. Although cross-border terror commenced in Kashmir in early 1990s, the first major terror attack did not come from the Kashmir Valley. The assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam terror group of Sri Lanka on May 21, 1991 in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu shook the nation.

With no clearly defined counter-terror strategy and a rapidly expanding terror network in Kashmir, India found itself stretched. The March 1993 Mumbai serial blasts, which killed over 250 people in 11 coordinated blasts across the city, and the synchronised blasts across Coimbatore city (Tamil Nadu) in February 1998 exposed the inadequacies of India's internal security mechanisms to detect and fight terror inside the country.

However, the direct role of Pakistan was first exposed with the hijack of Indian Airlines flight IC-814, on December 24, 1999. Under tremendous public pressure and with very few options, India agreed to release derailed Pakistan-based terrorists such as Ahmed Omar Saeed and



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Gaza's Story of
Unending War'

Masood Azhar in exchange for more than 160 civilian hostages. The attack on India's Parliament in New Delhi by the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist group on December 13, 2001 outraged India and led to a large-scale military mobilisation under 'Operation Parakram'. With India and Pakistan having acquired nuclear weapons, the threat of escalation grew, prompting the international community to rush in to cool tempers. After almost two years of a tense standoff, the military disengagement took place without any direct punishment on Pakistan. The 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks — widely considered India's 9/11 moment — also did not lead to any military action against Pakistan.

There were other terror attacks too, such as the 2002 Ashwaththam Temple attack, the 2006 Varanasi serial bomb blasts, and the 2008 German Bakery blast in Pune. Delhi, too, was not left untouched by terror. Even before the Parliament attack, an Army garrison within the Red Fort was targeted on December 22, 2000 by Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists, resulting in the deaths of three soldiers. In October 2005, over 60 people were killed in serial blasts that rocked popular Delhi markets, including Sarojini Nagar and Paharganj. Again, in September 2008, months before the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, multiple blasts rocked commercial areas of Delhi, including Connaught Place, Greater Kailash, and Kirti Bhawan. On September 7, 2011, a briefcase bomb exploded outside the Delhi High Court, killing 18 people. The attack was claimed by Harakat-ul-Jihad Islami (HJI), a terror group affiliated with al-Qaeda and largely based in Pakistan. In all these cases, and many others, India chose not to respond directly and decisively, even after conclusive proof of Pakistan's direct support for these attacks. How and when, then, did India change its strategy?

Taking the fight across the border

It was after a change of government at the Centre in May 2014, and its resolve not to let terror go unpunished, that India changed its strategy towards cross-border terrorism. The terror attack on September 18, 2016 by Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorists on an Army camp in Uri, Kashmir, led to the first cross-border surgical strikes (September 28-29). The strikes not only sent a strong message but also served as a clear statement of intent. Soon thereafter, following the terror attack on a Central Reserve Police Force convoy in Pulwama, Kashmir, on February 14, 2019, the Indian Air Force (IAF) launched strikes on a JeM terror camp in Balakot. This marked the first time that the IAF had crossed into Pakistani airspace to carry out a strike against a terror target.

However, it was the terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, 2025 that outraged the nation like never before. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was on a visit to Saudi Arabia, returned to India and soon after, the Indian armed forces

launched Operation Sindoor on May 6-7, hitting the heart of the Pakistan-based terror network. In a matter of 96 hours, the leaders and headquarters of the terror networks LeT and JeM were destroyed and Pakistani military assets were pulverised.

Where India stands on terror now

India has come a long way since the menace of cross-border terrorism took root in Kashmir in the early 1990s. From a passive and reactive policy, India has emerged as a leading voice in the global fight against terrorism. Soon after Operation Sindoor, India declared three clear intentions — first, that the era of restraint and patience is over, and Pakistan will have to pay a direct and heavy price for any terror attack in the future. Second, that any future act of cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan will be treated as an 'act of war'. Third, that Pakistani nuclear blackmail will no longer be a restraining factor.

India also unveiled 'PRAHAAR', its first comprehensive National Counter-Terrorism Policy and Strategy, on February 23, 2026. The policy provides a national counter-terrorism framework for preventing and responding to terrorist activities and radicalisation through coordinated "whole-of-government" and "whole-of-society" approaches.

Although the number of terror-related incidents in Kashmir has declined drastically, the possibility of a few terrorists infiltrating across the Line of Control (LoC) and evading intelligence and security agencies remains. The answer lies in a four-fold strategy. First, continue to hunt down and eliminate the remnants of the terror network in the country, particularly in Kashmir. Second, take pre-emptive military action against any potential terror threat building across the LoC, including at terrorist launch pads. With years of experience and a deeply embedded intelligence network, this is possible. Third, undertake an exhaustive de-radicalisation programme across the country that not only motivates young people to join the mainstream but also makes the prospect of joining or supporting a terror outfit unattractive and prohibitively costly. Fourth, take all necessary steps to cut off terror financing, in close coordination with friendly countries.

Twenty-five years after 9/11, the threat of terrorism across the globe has not been eliminated but has instead morphed into new forms. At the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit in Bishkek on September 1, Mr. Modi called out the double standards on terrorism and said, "We must send a strong message to countries that use terrorism as an instrument of policy and provide safe haven and support to terrorists that terrorism can never be a strategic asset for anyone." At the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, an exclusive paragraph on the Pahalgam terror attack was included in the Delhi Declaration, clearly underscoring the growing global consensus on combating terrorism.

'Terror's changing face, India's counter-terror strategy' — The Hindu, Page 6.

- Terrorism has morphed from large groups (al-Qaeda, IS) to **lone-wolf** attacks using drones, cyber tools and even AI.
- India moved from a **passive/reactive** policy to a **bold, proactive** one — treating terror backed by cross-border support as an "act of war" (e.g., **Uri surgical strikes 2016, Balakot 2019, Operation Sindoor May 2025**).
- **PRAHAAR** (unveiled 23 Feb 2026) is India's **first National Counter-Terrorism Policy & Strategy** — a "whole-of-government" and "whole-of-society" framework to prevent and respond to terror & radicalisation.

★ VALUE ADDITION — THE FOUR-FOLD APPROACH

- **Hunt & eliminate** the remnants of terror networks, particularly in Kashmir.

- **Pre-emptive military action** against threats building across the LoC, including launch pads.
- **Exhaustive de-radicalisation** — make joining/supporting terror outfits unattractive & costly, and pull youth into the mainstream.
- **Cut off terror financing**, in close coordination with friendly countries.

★ PRELIMS POINTERS

- **PRAHAAR**: India's first comprehensive National Counter-Terrorism Policy & Strategy (23 Feb 2026).
- Operation Sindoor (May 2025): post-Pahalgam action; India declared the era of 'restraint and patience' over.
- At the SCO Summit (Bishkek) & 18th BRICS Summit, India pushed a strong anti-terror consensus; the Pahalgam attack found mention in the **New Delhi Declaration**.

ANALYSIS / WAY FORWARD

India's doctrine now rests on **deterrence by punishment**. For durability, kinetic action must be paired with the softer pillars of PRAHAAR — **de-radicalisation, choking finance and diplomatic coalition-building** — so that counter-terror is preventive, not merely reactive.

Syllabus Link — GS Paper III: Internal Security — role of external state & non-state actors; terrorism & its financing; security challenges; counter-terror policy.

05 'A Rising Graph': Doping as a Deep-Rooted Culture in Indian Sport

GS 2 · GOVERNANCE / HEALTH

Page 6

Doping · NADA / WADA

WHY IN NEWS

An editorial flags at least 13 doping positives in the run-up to the Commonwealth and Asian Games, once again putting India — a repeat leader on global doping charts — in an embarrassing spotlight.

- Positives span **athletics, weightlifting, wrestling, wushu and judo**; dope-tainted names were pulled from the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games squad, costing India berths.
- India has topped the global doping charts for **three consecutive years**; the AIU flagged India as "extremely high risk" and international agencies ran surprise tests in Bhubaneswar & Bengaluru.
- Lucrative **cash incentives** for medallists push athletes & coaches to take shortcuts, risking health, reputation and national pride.
- **NADA** has increased intelligence-led tests & raids but is **seriously understaffed**; the editorial argues it should function **independently of government control**.
- Remedies urged: proper implementation of the **National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Act, 2025**; more staff & budget (cut in the current budget); and **cutting the supply line** of banned substances (India has become a trade hub).

A rising graph

Doping is now a deep-rooted culture in Indian sports

At least 13 doping positives in the run-up to the recent Commonwealth Games and the upcoming Asian Games have again put India in an embarrassing spotlight. For a country that has been notoriously leading the global doping charts for three consecutive years, the spate of positive results across disciplines including athletics, weightlifting, wrestling, wushu and judo, has not only brought shame but has also robbed India of some berths in these prestigious events. The dope-tainted names have forced authorities to pull them out of the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games squad. More such names are expected to trickle out in the coming weeks. Lucrative cash incentives for Asian Games medalists are a major factor driving athletes and coaches to take shortcuts, risking their health and reputation, as well as the country's pride. While the spike in dope-positive results ahead of major multi-sport events is not new, the jump this time is a cause for concern. The matter getting raised during the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) workshops in Delhi, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) downgrading India due to an extremely high risk of doping, and an international agency recently conducting surprise tests in Bhubaneswar and Bengaluru indicate the seriousness of the issue.

Even though National Sports Federations have been expressing concern, it cannot be said that they are strict to the core to curb the menace. Despite being seriously understaffed, the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), which shoulders the primary anti-doping responsibility in India, has significantly increased the number of tests and raids based on intelligence gathering. But it needs to do more in a vast and populous country to discourage doping. Besides, NADA needs to get out of the government's control to function truly independently in order to enhance its effectiveness. Proper implementation of the National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Act, 2025, to give more powers to NADA and its allied bodies, is another requirement. With dope testing becoming costlier and NADA needing more staff, the government can bolster the fight against doping by increasing the overall budget allocation, which was reduced in the current budget. The other challenge is to cut the supply line, as India has become a hub for the trade in banned substances sourced from different countries. An Indian serving a jail term in Kenya for illegally importing performance-enhancing drugs stands as proof of this. As India prepares for the 2030 Commonwealth Games and hopes to host the Olympics in the future, it needs to act resolutely to weed out a deep-rooted doping culture in Indian sports.

'A rising graph' editorial — The Hindu, Page 6.

★ VALUE ADDITION — NADA & WADA AT A GLANCE

- **NADA:** India's autonomous anti-doping body (est. **2005**); plans & coordinates testing per the WADA Code; runs the **#PlayTrue** campaign.
- **WADA:** founded **1999** by the IOC; equal partnership & funding between the Sport Movement and Governments; publishes the annually-updated **Prohibited List** and the **World Anti-Doping Code**.
- The **2025 Amendment Act** aligns India with the WADA Code and the **UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport**.

★ PRELIMS POINTERS

- **NADA** est. 2005 (autonomous); **WADA** est. 1999 by the IOC, HQ Montreal.
- National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Act, **2025** amends the 2022 Act; aligns with the WADA Code & UNESCO Convention.
- Context: 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games; India eyes the **2030 Commonwealth Games** & a future Olympics bid.

ANALYSIS / WAY FORWARD

Clean sport needs both **deterrence and prevention**: an independent, well-funded and fully-staffed NADA, rigorous supply-side crackdowns, athlete education, and re-aligned incentives — so that podium ambition never comes at the cost of integrity or athletes' health.

Syllabus Link — GS Paper II: Statutory & regulatory bodies; government policies & interventions; issues relating to health & sports governance.

WHY IN NEWS

An editorial reads the 18th BRICS Summit and New Delhi Declaration as a push for *reformed multilateralism* in a world 'riven with unilateral actions by superpowers'.

- Success measured on three parameters: **high-level participation**, weight given to **intra-BRICS trade cooperation**, and **consensus in a time of war** forged by Indian negotiators.
- India ensured **Iran and the UAE** — rivals in the West Asian conflict — held their highest-level bilateral meeting since the war began.

Building consensus

The 18th BRICS Summit pushed for changes in traditional power equations

Reaffirming the importance of reformed multilateralism in a world riven with unilateral actions by superpowers emerged as a binding theme of the 18th BRICS Summit and the New Delhi Declaration. The Summit's success could be measured by three main parameters — the participation of members at the highest levels, the importance given to intra-BRICS trade cooperation mechanisms and the consensus achieved by Indian negotiators in forging a joint statement in a time of war. The government should be commended for ensuring that Iran and the UAE, two rivals in the West Asian conflict, used the occasion for their highest-level bilateral meeting since the war began. The New Delhi Declaration, which was issued despite scepticism about all the differences within the grouping, presented the BRICS as a formidable front in its 20th year. Among the BRICS members, the position of Saudi Arabia, which has yet to formally join the group, remains ambiguous, as Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud arrived after the main session where the joint statement was adopted on Saturday. For the other members, however, the consensus was clear on issues of global importance. The declaration made a call for the reform of the Security Council and support for a greater role for Brazil and India while recommending new initiatives for global governance. It condemned western sanctions and tariffs and resolved to improve intra-BRICS trade

riffs and resolved to improve intra-BRICS trade and transact more in local currencies. It also condemned unilateral wars, without criticising any member. While the statement omitted references to the U.S.-Israel attacks on Iran, the assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, and of Iran's retaliatory attacks on its neighbours, especially the UAE, it is understood that this was due to a last-moment compromise effected between the two countries so as to forge the agreed text. It also took an exceptionally strong position on Israel's actions in Palestine and Lebanon.

India's fourth BRICS chairship has given ballast to its reputation as a Global South balancer with easy access to both sides of a divided world, while delivering bilateral benefits. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's close attention to Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian would have gone some way in assuaging hurt feelings, when New Delhi appeared to be tilting towards the U.S. and Israel in the war. Mr. Modi's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping also afforded the two countries a chance to reaffirm their political will to normalise ties. And his meeting with important leaders from the ASEAN grouping and African nations paid much-needed attention to India's ties with them. This BRICS Summit will be remembered for a moment of solidarity among countries that have many differences but are together in desiring a shift in traditional power equations to one more driven by their emerging economies.

'Building consensus' editorial — The Hindu, Page 6.

- The **New Delhi Declaration** called for **UN Security Council reform** and a greater role for Brazil and India; condemned **western sanctions & tariffs**; and resolved to boost intra-BRICS trade in **local currencies**.
- It condemned **unilateral wars** without naming any member and took a strong position on Israel's actions in Palestine and Lebanon; references to the Iran-Israel strikes were omitted as a last-minute compromise.
- India's **fourth BRICS chairship** reinforced its image as a **Global-South balancer** with access to both sides of a divided world, while delivering bilateral gains (Modi-Pezeshkian, Modi-Xi meetings).

★ **VALUE ADDITION — BRICS & THE NEW DELHI DECLARATION**

- BRICS is in its **20th year** (as BRIC since 2006/first summit 2009); Saudi Arabia's membership remains ambiguous.
- Themes: reformed multilateralism, UNSC reform, de-dollarisation via **local-currency trade**, opposition to unilateral sanctions & tariffs.
- India's value-add: a **bridge/balancer** between the Global South and the West — strategic autonomy in practice.

★ PRELIMS POINTERS

- 18th BRICS Summit hosted by **India (New Delhi)**; outcome: the **New Delhi Declaration**.
- Declaration backed UNSC reform & a greater role for Brazil & India; pushed local-currency trade.
- This is India's **4th** BRICS chairship; grouping now 11 members after the 2024 expansion.

ANALYSIS / WAY FORWARD

The summit's real achievement was **consensus amid conflict**. For India, the payoff is reputational — a credible **Global-South balancer** — but converting solidarity into durable institutions (trade, finance, currency) will decide whether BRICS reshapes power equations or remains symbolic.

Syllabus Link — GS Paper II: International relations; important groupings & agreements; India's foreign policy; reform of global governance institutions.

PRACTICE ZONE

Test Yourself

2 Mains questions (bilingual) • 10 Prelims MCQs with answer key & rationale

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

MAINS Q1

“India's counter-terrorism doctrine has shifted from defensive restraint to proactive deterrence.” In light of the PRAHAAR policy, examine this evolution and the challenges to its durability. (250 words / 15 marks)

“भारत की आतंकवाद-रोधी रणनीति रक्षात्मक संयम से सक्रिय निवारण की ओर बढ़ी है।” प्रहार नीति के आलोक में इस विकास और इसकी स्थायित्व की चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिए।

Approach — Intro with the passive→proactive shift (Uri/Balakot/Sindoor) • Body: PRAHAAR's four-fold strategy & whole-of-society framing; challenges — LoC infiltration, radicalisation, financing, escalation risk • Conclude with a balanced deterrence-plus-prevention model.

MAINS Q2

Discuss the constitutional position of a Uniform Civil Code under Article 44. In a federal polity where personal law lies in the Concurrent List, critically evaluate State-level UCC legislation. (250 words / 15 marks)

अनुच्छेद 44 के अंतर्गत समान नागरिक संहिता की संवैधानिक स्थिति की चर्चा कीजिए। संघीय व्यवस्था में, जहाँ व्यक्तिगत कानून समवर्ती सूची में है, राज्य-स्तरीय समान नागरिक संहिता का आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Approach — Intro: Art.44 as a DPSP • Body: CA debates (Munshi/Ambekar), judicial nudges (Shah Bano→Sarla Mudgal), Concurrent-List/Entry-5 tension, Uttarakhand precedent, gender-justice vs pluralism • Conclude: consultative, phased harmonisation over imposition.

PRELIMS MCQS

Q1. With reference to the 18th BRICS Summit (2026), consider the following statements:

1. It was hosted by India and adopted the 'New Delhi Declaration'.
2. BRICS is currently an 11-member grouping.
3. The Declaration called for reform of the UN Security Council.

How many of the statements are correct?

- (A) Only one (B) Only two
(C) All three (D) None

Q2. 'BRICS CONNECT', highlighted by PM Modi, primarily aims to promote:

- (A) Skills, employability, women in workforce & social security (B) A common BRICS currency
(C) A joint military command (D) A shared satellite navigation system

Q3. Acharya Vinoba Bhave is associated with which of the following?

1. Bhoodan Movement
2. First Individual Satyagrahi (1940)
3. Founding of the Gram Seva Mandal

Select the correct answer:

- (A) 1 and 2 only (B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only (D) 1, 2 and 3

Q4. The Uniform Civil Code is mentioned in which part of the Constitution?

- (A) Fundamental Rights (B) Directive Principles of State Policy (Art. 44)
(C) Fundamental Duties (D) Fourth Schedule

Q5. Under the Seventh Schedule, personal laws (marriage, succession, etc.) fall under the:

- (A) Union List (B) State List
(C) Concurrent List (D) Residuary powers of Parliament

Q6. 'PRAHAAR', seen in the news, refers to India's:

- (A) First indigenous aircraft carrier (B) National Counter-Terrorism Policy & Strategy
(C) New surface-to-surface missile (D) National critical-minerals mission

Q7. The assassination of former PM Rajiv Gandhi (1991) was carried out by:

- (A) Jaish-e-Mohammed (B) Lashkar-e-Taiba
(C) Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) (D) Harkat-ul-Jihad Islami

Q8. Consider the following about the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA):

1. It was established in 2005.
2. It functions in accordance with the WADA Code.
3. It publishes the annual global Prohibited List.

Which statements are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only (B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only (D) 1, 2 and 3

Q9. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) was founded in 1999 by the:

- (A) United Nations (B) UNESCO
(C) International Olympic Committee (IOC) (D) World Health Organization

Q10. 'Critical minerals', flagged at BRICS, are strategically important mainly because they are essential for:

- (A) Fertiliser production (B) EV batteries, semiconductors & clean-energy tech
(C) Textile manufacturing (D) Freshwater desalination

ANSWER KEY

Q1 **C**

Q2 **A**

Q3 **D**

Q4 **B**

Q5 **C**

Q6 **B**

Q7 **C**

Q8 **A**

Q9 **C**

Q10 **B**

Q1 (C): All three are correct — India hosted the summit (its 4th chairship), BRICS is now 11 members, and the New Delhi Declaration backed UNSC reform.

Q2 (A): BRICS CONNECT focuses on skills, employability, women in the workforce, social security and capacity building.

Q3 (D): All three are correct. He launched Bhoodan (1951), was Gandhi's chosen first Individual Satyagrahi (1940), and founded the Gram Seva Mandal (1934).

Q4 (B): Article 44 is a Directive Principle — a guiding, non-justiciable principle, not an enforceable right.

Q5 (C): They fall under Entry 5 of the Concurrent List (List III); both Parliament and State legislatures can legislate, but a nationwide UCC needs a Parliamentary law.

Q6 (B): PRAHAAR (unveiled 23 Feb 2026) is India's first comprehensive National Counter-Terrorism Policy and Strategy, using whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches.

Q7 (C): Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by the LTTE at Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, on 21 May 1991.

Q8 (A): NADA (est. 2005) follows the WADA Code. The Prohibited List is published by WADA, not NADA — so statement 3 is wrong.

Q9 (C): WADA was founded in 1999 on the initiative of the IOC, funded jointly by the Sport Movement and Governments.

Q10 (B): Critical minerals (lithium, cobalt, rare earths, etc.) are vital for EV batteries, semiconductors, defence and clean-energy technologies; supply concentration makes them a strategic concern.

QUICK REVISION RECAP

- **BRICS (18th Summit):** New Delhi Declaration; India's 4th chairship; UNSC reform; local-currency trade; Incubator Network, CONNECT, Digital Agriculture, MSME Portal.
- **Vinoba Bhave:** Gandhi's spiritual heir; Bhoodan (1951, Pochampally); first Individual Satyagrahi (1940); Magsaysay 1958; Bharat Ratna 1983 (posthumous).
- **UCC:** Article 44 DPSP; personal law in Concurrent List (Entry 5); Shah Bano/Sarla Mudgal/Shayara Bano; Uttarakhand first State UCC.
- **PRAHAAR:** India's first National Counter-Terrorism Policy (Feb 2026); four-fold strategy; whole-of-government/society.
- **Doping:** NADA (2005) & WADA (1999); National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Act 2025; India top of doping charts 3 years running.

★ PRELIMS TRAP-SETTERS

- ✗ The Prohibited List is published by NADA. — It is published by **WADA**, updated annually. NADA implements it in India.
- ✗ A nationwide UCC can be enacted by any State legislature. — A pan-India UCC under Art. 44 needs **Parliament**; States can legislate only for themselves (Uttarakhand).
- ✗ Vinoba Bhave was the second Individual Satyagrahi. — He was the **first**; Nehru was the second.
- ✓ Operation Sindoor was launched after the Pahalgam attack (2025). — Correct — India declared its era of 'restraint' over and struck Pakistan-based networks.
- ✓ BRICS presently has 11 members. — Correct — after the January 2024 expansion.

PRELIMS BYTES — RAPID FIRE

- **KABIL** = Khanij Bidesh India Ltd — acquires strategic mineral assets abroad; complements the National Critical Mineral Mission (2025).
- **Nai Talim** — Gandhi's scheme of 'basic education' through productive craft; championed by Vinoba at Wardha.
- **Goa** is the only Indian State with a long-standing common civil code (Portuguese Civil Code, 1867).
- **Operation Sindoor** (May 2025) followed the **Pahalgam** attack (22 April 2025).
- **WADA** HQ: Montreal, Canada; **NADA** under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
- **New Delhi Declaration** pushed intra-BRICS trade in **local currencies** and UNSC reform.
- **Pochampally** (Telangana) — birthplace of the Bhoodan Movement (1951).
- **Uttarakhand** — first Indian State to enact a UCC (2024, effective 2025).
- **IC-814** hijack (Dec 1999) first exposed Pakistan's direct hand in cross-border terror.
- **#PlayTrue** — NADA's athlete-education campaign for clean sport.

★ EDITORIAL VOCABULARY

- **Weaponisation**: using trade, technology or resource access as coercive geopolitical leverage.
- **De-dollarisation**: reducing reliance on the US dollar by trading in local/alternative currencies.
- **Sarvodaya**: Gandhian ideal of the 'welfare/upliftment of all'.
- **Deterrence by punishment**: preventing attacks by threatening costs that outweigh any gain.
- **Directive Principle**: a non-justiciable constitutional guideline for governance (Part IV).

CONNECT THE DOTS

Today's edition threads a single strand — **India as a proactive, agenda-setting power**. At **BRICS** it shapes supply-chain and critical-mineral norms; through **PRAHAAR** it moves from restraint to deterrence; in the **UCC** debate it tests the limits of constitutional reform in a federal polity; and on **doping** it confronts the governance gap between ambition and integrity. Each is an exercise in converting **intent into durable institutions** — the recurring test of India's rise.

“The world expects concrete results from BRICS — not merely ideas and commitments.”

— सफलता विचारों से नहीं, ठोस परिणामों से मिलती है।
