



CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

FOR ALL GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS

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DAILY EDITION

1. National Affairs & Governance

1. BRICS NEW DELHI DECLARATION 2026

Context

India hosted the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on 12–13 September 2026, with the first day producing the New Delhi Declaration. The development placed multilateral reform, development cooperation and the evolving role of the expanded BRICS grouping at the centre of the day's international agenda.

About the Topic

The declaration reaffirmed the BRICS approach of sovereign equality, mutual respect, solidarity, inclusiveness, collaboration and consensus. It also emphasised cooperation through the political-security, economic-financial and cultural/people-to-people pillars, while supporting a more representative and effective multilateral system.

Key Facts

- The 18th BRICS Summit was held in New Delhi under India's 2026 chairship.
- Theme: "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."
- The declaration supported stronger cooperation with emerging markets and developing countries and recognised the role of partner countries.
- China is to assume the BRICS chairship in 2027 and host the next summit.

Relevant Background

BRICS has evolved from a forum of four emerging economies into a wider platform involving additional members and partner countries. India's chairship in 2026 has focused on practical cooperation, development-oriented outcomes and a stronger voice for the Global South.

Historical Background

- The BRIC grouping began with Brazil, Russia, India and China; South Africa joined in 2010, giving the grouping its BRICS name.
- The first BRIC summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009.
- BRICS cooperation traditionally covers political-security, economic-financial and people-to-people dimensions.
- The New Development Bank was established in 2015 as a key institutional outcome of BRICS cooperation.
- Expansion has increased the grouping's geographic and economic weight while also making consensus-building more complex.

2. INDIA–CHINA RELATIONS: MODI–XI BILATERAL MEETING

Context

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping met in New Delhi on 12 September on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit. Their discussion focused on stabilising bilateral relations, border peace, economic ties and greater people-to-people connectivity.





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About the Topic

Both sides stressed that differences should not become disputes. India emphasised mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interest, while the leaders discussed the need to maintain peace and tranquillity in border areas and address trade and supply-chain concerns.

Key Facts

- The meeting took place during Xi Jinping's first visit to India in several years.
- Both sides called for continued observance of existing border-related agreements and understandings.
- The boundary question was to be pursued through a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable approach.
- Trade imbalance, market access, business linkages and mobility were identified as areas requiring attention.

Relevant Background

India–China relations combine cooperation in trade and multilateral forums with unresolved strategic and boundary concerns. For examination purposes, the relationship is best understood through the interaction of border management, economic interdependence, regional geopolitics and multilateral platforms such as BRICS.

Historical Background

- The two countries established diplomatic relations in 1950, making India one of the earliest non-socialist countries to recognise the People's Republic of China.
- The 1962 war created a long-term security dimension in the relationship.
- The 1993 Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity and subsequent confidence-building agreements provided mechanisms for managing the Line of Actual Control.
- The 2005 agreement on political parameters and guiding principles sought to advance negotiations on the boundary question.
- The 2020 eastern Ladakh crisis significantly affected trust and military-to-military relations.

3. DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDOR NETWORK

Context

India completed the remaining sections of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, bringing the operational Dedicated Freight Corridor network to about 2,843 km. The development is important for logistics efficiency, railway capacity and the shift of freight from road to rail.

About the Topic

Dedicated Freight Corridors are high-capacity railway routes designed primarily for freight, allowing heavier and longer trains to move with less interference from passenger traffic. The Western and Eastern corridors form the core operational network.

Key Facts

- The operational DFC network comprises the Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors.
- The Western DFC links the northern production and consumption belt with the western port region.
- The Eastern DFC serves major coal, mineral and industrial freight flows in northern and eastern India.
- DFC infrastructure is intended to reduce congestion, transit time and logistics costs while improving freight reliability.

Relevant Background

Freight transport efficiency is closely linked to manufacturing competitiveness, port connectivity and supply-chain resilience. Dedicated corridors complement highways, logistics parks, ports and multimodal transport systems rather than functioning as isolated railway projects.





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Historical Background

- The idea of dedicated freight corridors emerged from the need to separate rapidly growing freight traffic from passenger services on congested railway routes.
- The Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited was created as the specialised implementing organisation.
- The Eastern and Western corridors were prioritised because of their high freight density and strong industrial-port linkages.
- Dedicated corridors permit higher axle loads and longer freight trains than many conventional routes.
- The corridors are a major component of India's broader logistics and multimodal connectivity strategy.

2. Art & Culture

4. BHARAT INNOVATES EXPOSITION 2026

Context

An exhibition titled Bharat Innovates was held at Bharat Mandapam alongside the BRICS Summit, showcasing Indian innovation and deep-tech capabilities to visiting leaders and delegates. The initiative linked science, technology, entrepreneurship and international cooperation.

About the Topic

The exposition presented Indian innovations across emerging technology areas and was designed to demonstrate how research and technology can contribute to development, resilience and global partnerships.

Key Facts

- The exposition was organised in New Delhi during the 18th BRICS Summit.
- It showcased Indian deep-tech and innovation-led solutions.
- The event connected research, startups, industry and international engagement.
- It provided a platform for presenting Indian technological capabilities to BRICS participants.

Relevant Background

Deep-tech refers broadly to technology grounded in substantial scientific or engineering advances, often requiring significant research, specialised talent and longer development cycles. India's deep-tech ecosystem is increasingly linked with strategic sectors such as space, semiconductors, AI, biotechnology and advanced materials.

Historical Background

- India's modern scientific institutions expanded substantially after Independence through organisations dedicated to atomic energy, space, defence research and higher education.
- The Indian space programme demonstrated how indigenous research institutions can support national development goals.
- Technology missions in areas such as telecommunications, computing and biotechnology helped build domestic capabilities.
- India's startup ecosystem has increasingly moved beyond consumer internet businesses into engineering-intensive and research-led sectors.
- Deep-tech policy has gained importance because strategic technologies can affect economic competitiveness as well as national security.





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3. Economy, Banking & Finance

5. BRICS ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION

Context

Financial and economic cooperation remained a major component of the BRICS agenda on 12 September. The expanded grouping is increasingly examining ways to strengthen trade, development finance, payment connectivity and resilience against external economic shocks.

About the Topic

BRICS economic cooperation operates through multiple mechanisms, including the New Development Bank, finance-minister and central-bank coordination, and initiatives aimed at improving trade and investment conditions. The wider objective is to increase the voice of emerging economies in global economic governance.

Key Facts

- BRICS cooperation includes an economic-financial pillar alongside political-security and people-to-people cooperation.
- The New Development Bank finances infrastructure and sustainable-development projects in member and eligible partner economies.
- BRICS discussions increasingly address payment systems, trade facilitation and financial resilience.
- Greater economic cooperation does not automatically imply a single common currency or a unified monetary system.

Relevant Background

Emerging economies have sought greater representation in international financial institutions and more diversified channels for development finance. BRICS provides a forum for discussing these issues while retaining national monetary and financial sovereignty.

Historical Background

- The BRICS idea developed from growing economic coordination among major emerging economies.
- The New Development Bank was agreed at the 2014 Fortaleza Summit and began operations in 2015.
- The Contingent Reserve Arrangement was created as a financial safety-net mechanism for members facing short-term balance-of-payments pressures.
- BRICS economic cooperation has expanded alongside the group's membership.
- India has consistently emphasised reform of global financial governance and greater representation for developing countries.

4. Defence, Science, Technology & Space

6. INS KULISH AT REAM NAVAL BASE, CAMBODIA

Context

Indian Navy ship INS Kulish arrived at Ream Naval Base in Cambodia on 12 September as part of the Eastern Fleet's operational deployment. The port call is aimed at strengthening maritime cooperation and professional links between the Indian and Cambodian navies.

About the Topic

The deployment reflects India's wider maritime outreach in the Indo-Pacific, including the Act East Policy and the MAHASAGAR vision. Naval visits of this type combine operational engagement, professional exchanges and relationship-building.





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Key Facts

- INS Kulish is a guided-missile corvette of the Indian Navy.
- The ship's visit is intended to strengthen India–Cambodia maritime cooperation.
- Activities include professional interactions, familiarisation visits, sports and structured naval engagements.
- The deployment supports India's broader Indo-Pacific maritime outreach.

Relevant Background

India's maritime strategy increasingly combines naval capability with partnerships, capacity building, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and maritime domain awareness. Southeast Asian countries are central to this approach because of their geographic position and the importance of the Indo-Pacific sea lanes.

Historical Background

- India and Southeast Asian states have deepened maritime engagement under the Act East Policy.
- The Indian Navy regularly undertakes overseas deployments and port calls to build interoperability and professional relationships.
- Ream Naval Base is located on Cambodia's Gulf of Thailand coast.
- India's MAHASAGAR vision emphasises mutual and holistic advancement for security and growth across regions.
- Maritime cooperation with ASEAN countries is also connected to India's broader Indo-Pacific outlook.

7. AI GOVERNANCE AND RISKS OF DUAL-USE TECHNOLOGY

Context

Concerns over the misuse of advanced artificial intelligence for cyber operations, surveillance and biological-weapons-related activity were highlighted in current technology discussions. The issue is increasingly relevant to national security as AI capabilities become more accessible.

About the Topic

Dual-use technologies can serve legitimate civilian purposes while also being adapted for harmful activities. AI governance therefore involves balancing innovation and access with safeguards against misuse, especially in high-risk domains.

Key Facts

- AI can lower barriers to sophisticated cyber and information operations.
- Generative AI may be used in both beneficial research and harmful applications.
- Biological security is a major concern because digital tools can accelerate information discovery and analysis.
- Effective governance requires technical safeguards, responsible deployment and institutional oversight.

Relevant Background

AI regulation is moving from a narrow technology-policy question toward a broader issue involving security, privacy, labour, competition and scientific governance. International cooperation is particularly important because digital systems operate across borders.

Historical Background

- Earlier computing technologies were already recognised as dual-use because the same systems could support civilian research and military applications.
- The emergence of the internet transformed cyber capabilities and created new cross-border security challenges.
- Machine learning expanded from specialised statistical systems into general-purpose models capable of generating text, code and other media.
- Recent generative AI systems have increased the scale and accessibility of advanced computational capabilities.





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- Governance debates now increasingly focus on safety, accountability, transparency and misuse prevention.

5. International Affairs

8. INDIA-UAE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND NEW INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Context

India and the United Arab Emirates reviewed bilateral cooperation during a leadership meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit. Discussions covered trade, investment, defence, space, nuclear energy, technology, infrastructure and the digital economy.

About the Topic

The relationship has developed into a broad strategic partnership with strong economic and people-to-people links. New investment proposals in sectors such as aluminium and advanced infrastructure add an economic dimension to the strategic relationship.

Key Facts

- India and the UAE maintain a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- Cooperation spans energy, defence, technology, space, infrastructure, fintech and education.
- UAE participation in BRICS under India's chairship adds a multilateral dimension to bilateral ties.
- Large-scale investment proposals can support manufacturing capacity and regional supply-chain integration.

Relevant Background

The UAE is an important partner for India because of energy links, trade, investment, diaspora connections and its location at the intersection of South Asia, West Asia and global maritime routes.

Historical Background

- India and the UAE established diplomatic relations in 1972.
- Economic ties expanded rapidly with growth in energy trade and investment flows.
- The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership framework strengthened cooperation across multiple sectors.
- The India-UAE CEPA entered into force in 2022 and sought to deepen bilateral trade and market access.
- The UAE has become an important destination for Indian professionals and a major partner in West Asian economic diplomacy.

9. HOUTHİ ACTİVİTY AND THE STRATEGİC İMPORTANCE OF BAB-EL-MANDEB

Context

Renewed Houthi military activity around Yemen and the Red Sea has again highlighted the strategic importance of the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait. Developments in this area have implications for maritime security, energy flows and international trade.

About the Topic

Bab-el-Mandeb connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and is a critical maritime gateway between the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean route through the Suez Canal. Disruption can force commercial vessels to take longer routes around southern Africa.

Key Facts

- Bab-el-Mandeb lies between Yemen and the Horn of Africa.
- It connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and the wider Indian Ocean.
- Security risks in the area can affect shipping costs, insurance and transit times.





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- The route is strategically important for India because of its trade and maritime interests.

Relevant Background

The Red Sea is part of the wider maritime corridor linking Europe, West Asia, East Africa and Asia. Security in this corridor therefore has effects far beyond the immediate conflict zone.

Historical Background

- The strait has long been strategically important because it forms the southern gateway to the Red Sea.
- The Suez Canal opened in 1869, greatly increasing the importance of the Red Sea–Mediterranean route.
- Control and security of maritime chokepoints have historically influenced naval strategy and commercial power.
- Modern container shipping has made disruptions at major sea lanes economically significant.
- The western Indian Ocean and Red Sea remain closely connected to India's maritime-security interests.

6. Environment, Geography & Disaster Management

10. EL NIÑO RISK AND PACIFIC OCEAN MONITORING

Context

Satellite observations and climate monitoring have drawn attention to major changes in the Pacific Ocean and the possibility of a strong El Niño phase. Such developments are important for India because El Niño can influence monsoon behaviour, agriculture, water resources and global climate patterns.

About the Topic

El Niño is the warm phase of the El Niño–Southern Oscillation, associated with unusual warming of central and eastern tropical Pacific waters and changes in atmospheric circulation. Its effects are not identical in every year, but it can alter rainfall and temperature patterns across regions.

Key Facts

- El Niño involves abnormal warming of tropical Pacific Ocean surface waters.
- It is associated with changes in trade winds, ocean upwelling and atmospheric circulation.
- El Niño can affect the Indian monsoon, although the strength of the relationship varies from event to event.
- Satellite observations help monitor sea-surface conditions, ocean circulation and climate indicators.

Relevant Background

Climate prediction combines ocean observations, atmospheric measurements, satellite data and numerical models. For India, seasonal rainfall forecasting is particularly important because agriculture and water availability remain sensitive to monsoon variability.

Historical Background

- The El Niño–Southern Oscillation has two major phases: El Niño and La Niña, with neutral conditions between them.
- El Niño is commonly associated with weakened trade winds and reduced cold-water upwelling along parts of the eastern Pacific.
- Major El Niño events can affect rainfall, drought, floods and temperature patterns across different continents.
- Indian monsoon variability is influenced by several factors, so El Niño is an important factor but not a sole determinant.
- Satellite-based ocean observation has become an essential component of modern climate monitoring.





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7. Education, Social Sector, Health & Schemes

11. LITERACY, ADULT EDUCATION AND ULLAS

Context

Recent national education initiatives have continued to focus on adult literacy, functional literacy and community participation. The ULLAS framework is aimed at expanding literacy and lifelong learning opportunities beyond conventional school education.

About the Topic

ULLAS is designed around the idea that literacy includes more than the ability to read and write; it also involves practical skills, continuing education and empowerment. The programme connects adult learners with learning opportunities through community-oriented mechanisms.

Key Facts

- ULLAS is associated with adult education and lifelong learning.
- The initiative seeks to improve functional literacy and learner empowerment.
- Community participation is important for reaching adult learners.
- Adult education contributes to social inclusion, financial awareness and informed citizenship.

Relevant Background

India's education policy increasingly treats literacy as a continuing process linked with skills, employability, digital access and participation in society. Adult education therefore complements school and higher education systems.

Historical Background

- India launched major adult-literacy campaigns after Independence, including the National Adult Education Programme.
- The National Literacy Mission was launched in 1988 to accelerate adult literacy.
- Saakshar Bharat later expanded adult literacy efforts, particularly among women and disadvantaged groups.
- The National Education Policy 2020 emphasised adult education and lifelong learning.
- Contemporary literacy programmes increasingly incorporate digital and functional competencies.

8. Sports

12. BRICS COOPERATION IN SPORTS TECHNOLOGY

Context

India's proposals on sports technology and sports-goods cooperation received support in the BRICS New Delhi Declaration. The development links sports with innovation, manufacturing, health, inclusion and people-to-people cooperation.

About the Topic

BRICS countries recognised the growing role of technology in performance, athlete welfare, governance and inclusion. India proposed greater institutional cooperation through a working group on sports technology and a platform for sports-goods manufacturers.

Key Facts

- The New Delhi Declaration backed India's proposal for a BRICS Working Group on Sports Technology.
- A sports-goods manufacturing conclave was also proposed as a cooperation mechanism.





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- Sports technology can cover performance analytics, equipment, injury prevention and athlete welfare.
- The initiative places sport within the wider BRICS people-to-people and development agenda.

Relevant Background

Sports is increasingly connected with advanced materials, sensors, data analytics, biomechanics and digital platforms. International cooperation can support technology transfer, manufacturing and athlete development.

Historical Background

- Modern sports science developed through the integration of physiology, biomechanics, nutrition and psychology.
- Technological advances have transformed timing, performance measurement and officiating.
- Data analytics is now widely used for athlete training and tactical decision-making.
- Advanced materials have improved sports equipment while reducing weight and increasing durability.
- Sports diplomacy is increasingly used to strengthen people-to-people ties among countries.

9. Important One-Liners

Section	Topic	One-Liner
International Affairs	BRICS New Delhi Declaration	The 18th BRICS Summit adopted the New Delhi Declaration on 12 September 2026.
International Affairs	BRICS Theme	The 2026 BRICS theme is “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.”
International Affairs	BRICS 2027	China is to chair BRICS in 2027 and host the next summit.
International Affairs	India–China Talks	The Modi–Xi meeting in New Delhi focused on border peace, trade, mobility and bilateral stability.
Economy	Dedicated Freight Corridors	India’s operational DFC network reached about 2,843 km after completion of remaining Western DFC sections.
Defence	INS Kulish	INS Kulish arrived at Ream Naval Base, Cambodia, as part of the Indian Navy’s Eastern Fleet deployment.
Technology	Bharat Innovates	Bharat Innovates at Bharat Mandapam showcased Indian deep-tech and innovation capabilities during the BRICS Summit.
Environment	El Niño	El Niño is the warm phase of ENSO and can influence global weather and India’s monsoon variability.
Education	ULLAS	ULLAS focuses on adult education, literacy and lifelong learning.
Sports	BRICS Sports Technology	The New Delhi Declaration backed India’s proposal for a BRICS Working Group on Sports Technology.
International Affairs	Bab-el-Mandeb	Bab-el-Mandeb connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and is a major global maritime chokepoint.
India–UAE	Strategic Partnership	India and the UAE reviewed cooperation in trade, investment, defence, technology, energy and infrastructure.

