



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 concluded the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on 13 September with the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration. The summit brought together the expanded BRICS membership at a time of major geopolitical, economic and technological change.

About the Topic

The declaration set out a broad agenda covering global governance reform, trade, development finance, technology, health, energy, climate and security. India used its chairship to emphasise resilience, innovation, cooperation, sustainability and a stronger voice for the Global South.

Key Facts

- The 18th BRICS Summit was held in New Delhi on 12–13 September 2026 under India's chairship.
- The chairship theme was "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."
- The New Delhi Declaration was adopted by consensus and contains a wide range of political and economic commitments.
- BRICS cooperation continues to emphasise reform of global institutions and greater representation of developing countries.

Relevant Background

BRICS is a flexible multilateral platform rather than a military alliance. Its importance comes from the combined economic, demographic, energy and geopolitical weight of its members and partners, as well as its role in debates on the future of global governance.

Historical Background

- The BRIC acronym was coined in 2001 to describe Brazil, Russia, India and China as major emerging economies.
- The first BRIC leaders' summit was held at Yekaterinburg in 2009.
- South Africa joined in 2010, creating BRICS.
- The New Development Bank and Contingent Reserve Arrangement were established at the 2014 Fortaleza Summit.
- The grouping has expanded beyond its original five members, increasing both its global reach and the complexity of consensus-building.

2. INDIA-CHINA BILATERAL ENGAGEMENT

Context

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held a bilateral meeting during the BRICS Summit in New Delhi. The engagement was closely watched because India-China relations continue to combine economic interdependence with unresolved strategic and boundary concerns.

About the Topic

The leaders discussed maintaining peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control and improving the overall relationship. The talks also covered economic cooperation, trade and people-to-people exchanges, with mutual respect, sensitivity and interest highlighted as important principles.





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Key Facts

- The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi.
- Border peace and tranquillity remain central to the stabilisation of bilateral relations.
- Economic engagement includes trade, investment, supply chains and market access.
- India and China continue to cooperate in some multilateral forums despite strategic differences.

Relevant Background

The India–China relationship has several layers: the unresolved boundary question, trade dependence, regional security, multilateral cooperation and competition for influence in Asia. Sustainable improvement requires both border stability and mechanisms to manage broader differences.

Historical Background

- India and the People's Republic of China established diplomatic relations in 1950.
- The 1962 border war left a lasting strategic imprint on bilateral relations.
- The 1993 Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity created a framework for managing tensions along the LAC.
- Several subsequent confidence-building agreements sought to prevent escalation along the border.
- The 2020 eastern Ladakh crisis severely affected strategic trust and military-to-military relations.

2. Art & Culture

3. CULTURAL HERITAGE COOPERATION UNDER BRICS

Context

The New Delhi Declaration placed renewed emphasis on protecting cultural heritage, including heritage located in conflict-affected areas, and on the return of antiquities and culturally significant objects to their countries of origin.

About the Topic

The initiative connects cultural cooperation with international law, heritage conservation and people-to-people relations. For India, the issue is closely linked with efforts to recover antiquities and strengthen international cooperation against illicit trafficking of cultural property.

Key Facts

- BRICS cooperation includes preservation of cultural heritage and promotion of cultural exchanges.
- The declaration supported efforts to protect heritage in conflict-affected regions.
- Repatriation of antiquities is connected with provenance, ownership and international cooperation.
- Illicit trafficking of cultural property can damage archaeological knowledge as well as national heritage.

Relevant Background

Cultural property can be vulnerable to theft, illegal excavation and destruction during conflict. International cooperation is therefore important for documentation, conservation, customs enforcement, museum standards and the lawful return of objects.

Historical Background

- UNESCO adopted the 1970 Convention concerning illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property.
- India has used diplomatic channels and international cooperation to recover antiquities taken out of the country.
- Archaeological sites and movable antiquities provide evidence about past societies, technologies and belief systems.
- Conflict zones have repeatedly demonstrated the vulnerability of monuments, museums and archaeological collections.





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- Modern heritage policy increasingly combines conservation with digital documentation and provenance research.

3. Economy, Banking & Finance

4. BRICS ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND LOCAL-CURRENCY PAYMENTS

Context

Economic and financial cooperation was a major theme of the BRICS Summit, including discussion of trade facilitation, financial resilience and the greater use of national currencies in cross-border transactions.

About the Topic

The emphasis is on reducing transaction frictions and improving resilience while retaining national monetary sovereignty. Discussions around local-currency settlement are different from creating a single BRICS currency or a common central bank.

Key Facts

- BRICS economic cooperation covers trade, investment, development finance and financial stability.
- Local-currency settlement can reduce dependence on a third currency for selected bilateral transactions.
- The New Development Bank remains a major institutional mechanism for development finance.
- BRICS financial cooperation does not by itself establish a common currency.

Relevant Background

International payment systems are shaped by exchange-rate risk, correspondent banking, settlement infrastructure and access to reserve currencies. For emerging economies, diversified payment arrangements can reduce some vulnerabilities but require compatible financial infrastructure and confidence between participating institutions.

Historical Background

- The New Development Bank was created by the BRICS countries and began operations in 2015.
- The Contingent Reserve Arrangement provides a framework for liquidity support in certain balance-of-payments situations.
- International trade traditionally relies heavily on major reserve currencies for invoicing and settlement.
- Local-currency settlement requires banks and payment systems capable of handling multiple currencies.
- Greater financial diversification can improve resilience but does not eliminate exchange-rate or convertibility risks.

5. WORLD CIRCULAR ECONOMY FORUM 2026

Context

India is set to host the World Circular Economy Forum 2026 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, from 15 to 18 September. The forum is being positioned as a global platform for cross-sector partnerships on circular finance, innovation and resource efficiency.

About the Topic

A circular economy seeks to reduce waste and resource depletion by designing products and systems around durability, reuse, repair, remanufacturing and recycling. The approach contrasts with a linear model based largely on take–make–dispose consumption.

Key Facts

- The World Circular Economy Forum 2026 will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The 2026 theme is “Circular Economy: Transition for People and Prosperity.”





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- The forum is expected to bring together stakeholders from governments, business, finance and civil society.
- Circular finance and innovation are important components of the forum's agenda.

Relevant Background

Circular economy policies are increasingly connected with climate action, resource security, industrial competitiveness and sustainable consumption. For a large manufacturing and consumption economy such as India, efficient use of materials can reduce pressure on imports and ecosystems.

Historical Background

- The circular-economy concept developed from earlier ideas on industrial ecology, cleaner production and resource efficiency.
- Traditional linear production systems generally depend on extraction, production, consumption and disposal.
- Recycling alone is narrower than a circular economy because circularity also prioritises prevention, reuse, repair and longer product life.
- Resource efficiency is important for reducing material and energy intensity of economic activity.
- India's circular-economy agenda intersects with waste management, manufacturing, renewable energy and sustainable lifestyles.

4. Defence, Science, Technology & Space

6. INS KULISH AT REAM NAVAL BASE

Context

INS Kulish arrived at Ream Naval Base in Cambodia as part of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet operational deployment. The visit supports maritime cooperation and professional exchanges between India and Cambodia.

About the Topic

The port call reflects India's broader maritime engagement with Southeast Asia under the Act East Policy and its Indo-Pacific outlook. Naval deployments also provide opportunities for interoperability, maritime awareness and relationship-building.

Key Facts

- INS Kulish is an Indian Navy guided-missile corvette.
- The ship arrived at Ream Naval Base in Cambodia during its Eastern Fleet deployment.
- The visit includes professional and community-oriented engagements.
- Maritime cooperation with Southeast Asian countries is a component of India's wider Indo-Pacific outreach.

Relevant Background

India's maritime diplomacy combines naval capability with capacity building, humanitarian assistance, disaster response and cooperative security. Southeast Asia is strategically important because of its location near major sea lanes linking the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Historical Background

- India's Act East Policy evolved from the earlier Look East Policy and places greater emphasis on strategic and economic engagement with Southeast Asia.
- The Indian Navy conducts overseas deployments to strengthen operational relationships and maritime partnerships.
- Ream Naval Base is located on Cambodia's Gulf of Thailand coast.
- ASEAN centrality is an important principle in India's Indo-Pacific engagement.
- Maritime security cooperation also supports freedom of navigation, disaster response and protection of sea-based trade.





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7. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DUAL-USE SECURITY RISKS

Context

Advanced artificial intelligence is increasingly being discussed as both a major productivity technology and a potential source of security risks. The issue received attention during current global debates on safeguards, cyber operations and the misuse of powerful AI systems.

About the Topic

Dual-use technology can be used for legitimate civilian purposes as well as harmful or military applications. AI systems can assist scientific research, software development and public services while also lowering barriers to sophisticated cyber, disinformation and other malicious activities.

Key Facts

- Generative AI can produce text, code, images and other forms of content at scale.
- AI can be incorporated into cyber operations, creating both defensive and offensive applications.
- High-risk AI governance requires safeguards, accountability and appropriate human oversight.
- International cooperation is increasingly important because AI systems and their impacts cross national boundaries.

Relevant Background

AI governance is broader than regulating algorithms alone. It involves data, compute infrastructure, cybersecurity, intellectual property, safety evaluation, privacy, competition and the responsibilities of developers and deployers.

Historical Background

- Early computing systems were already recognised as capable of serving both civilian and military purposes.
- The spread of the internet created new opportunities for cross-border cyber operations.
- Machine learning expanded the ability of computers to identify patterns and generate predictions from large datasets.
- Generative AI has broadened access to advanced content-generation and coding capabilities.
- Current governance debates increasingly focus on risk assessment, transparency, accountability and misuse prevention.

5. International Affairs

8. INDIA-UAE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Context

India and the United Arab Emirates continued high-level engagement during the BRICS Summit, reviewing cooperation across trade, investment, defence, technology, energy and infrastructure.

About the Topic

The bilateral relationship has developed into a broad strategic partnership supported by strong commercial links and a large Indian community in the UAE. The UAE's role in BRICS also provides a multilateral dimension to the relationship.

Key Facts

- India and the UAE maintain a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- Cooperation spans energy, defence, space, infrastructure, technology and finance.





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- The India–UAE CEPA seeks to deepen bilateral trade and market access.
- The UAE is an important destination for Indian professionals and a major source of investment interest.

Relevant Background

The UAE occupies a strategic position between the Indian Ocean, the Gulf and major Eurasian trade routes. For India, the partnership is relevant to energy security, investment, logistics, diaspora relations and West Asian diplomacy.

Historical Background

- India and the UAE established diplomatic relations in 1972.
- Energy trade was an early foundation of the economic relationship.
- The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership framework expanded cooperation beyond energy and commerce.
- The India–UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement entered into force in 2022.
- Defence and maritime cooperation have grown alongside economic and diplomatic ties.

9. BRICS AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE REFORM

Context

India used the BRICS platform to reiterate the case for a more representative and inclusive global governance system, including reform of institutions such as the United Nations Security Council.

About the Topic

The issue reflects a long-standing concern of developing countries that post-World War II institutions do not fully represent present-day economic and demographic realities. India links reform with a stronger role for the Global South in rule-making.

Key Facts

- India supports reform of the UN Security Council and greater representation for developing countries.
- BRICS provides a platform for discussing global governance alongside economic cooperation.
- Global governance reform is linked with representation, legitimacy and decision-making power.
- India presents BRICS as an inclusive platform rather than a formal military alliance.

Relevant Background

Global institutions were largely designed in the aftermath of the Second World War. The rise of new economic powers has generated pressure for institutional reform, but changes to major international bodies require broad political agreement.

Historical Background

- The United Nations was established in 1945 after the Second World War.
- The UN Security Council has five permanent members with veto power and ten elected members.
- India has sought permanent membership in a reformed Security Council.
- The G4 grouping of India, Brazil, Germany and Japan has supported mutual claims for permanent representation.
- Reform debates also concern representation of Africa, Latin America and other under-represented regions.



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6. Environment, Geography & Disaster Management

10. CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND RESOURCE SECURITY

Context

The global circular-economy agenda has gained prominence as countries seek to reduce waste, improve material efficiency and lower environmental pressures. India's hosting of the World Circular Economy Forum places these issues directly in the national policy spotlight.

About the Topic

Circularity aims to keep materials and products in productive use for as long as possible. It can reduce pressure on landfills and primary resource extraction while creating opportunities in repair, recycling, remanufacturing and sustainable design.

Key Facts

- Circular economy emphasises resource efficiency, reuse, repair, remanufacturing and recycling.
- It can support climate goals by reducing material and energy demand in some production systems.
- Circularity requires changes in product design as well as waste-management infrastructure.
- Resource security is increasingly connected with strategic minerals and industrial competitiveness.

Relevant Background

Environmental management is shifting from treating waste after disposal toward preventing waste at the design and production stages. This approach requires coordination among manufacturers, consumers, municipalities, regulators and financial institutions.

Historical Background

- The waste hierarchy generally gives priority to prevention and reduction before reuse, recycling and disposal.
- Extended Producer Responsibility places responsibility on producers for managing certain post-consumer products or materials.
- Industrial ecology studies material and energy flows across industrial systems.
- Urbanisation increases the importance of efficient municipal solid-waste management.
- Critical-mineral supply chains make material recovery and recycling increasingly relevant to national security and industrial policy.

7. Education, Social Sector, Health & Schemes

11. TRADITIONAL MEDICINE AND GLOBAL HEALTH COOPERATION

Context

The BRICS New Delhi Declaration supported stronger international cooperation in Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine and backed an expert group approach to strengthen evidence-based collaboration.

About the Topic

The focus is on integrating relevant traditional practices with health systems while emphasising scientific evidence, safety, quality and appropriate regulation. The issue is relevant to public health, research and India's international health diplomacy.

Key Facts

- BRICS cooperation is expanding into Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine.
- Evidence, safety, quality and research are important for responsible integration of traditional practices.
- Universal Health Coverage aims to ensure access to needed health services without financial hardship.





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- India's AYUSH ecosystem includes Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy.

Relevant Background

Traditional knowledge remains widely used in many societies, but modern health systems require systematic evaluation of efficacy, safety, quality and interactions with conventional treatments. International standards can help improve research and responsible use.

Historical Background

- Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani developed as established systems of traditional medicine in South Asia.
- The Ministry of AYUSH was created in 2014 by upgrading the earlier Department of AYUSH.
- WHO has worked with countries on benchmarks and standards for traditional and complementary medicine.
- India has promoted international cooperation on yoga and traditional medicine through bilateral and multilateral platforms.
- Universal Health Coverage is closely associated with access, quality and financial protection in health services.

8. Sports

12. INTERNATIONAL SPORTS: ALEXANDER ZVEREV AND THE 2026 GRAND SLAM SEASON

Context

Alexander Zverev's success during the 2026 Grand Slam season has featured prominently in international sports coverage, providing a current reference point for tennis-related competitive examinations and general awareness.

About the Topic

Grand Slam tournaments are the four most prestigious annual events in men's and women's tennis: the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and US Open. Results at these events have major implications for world rankings and sporting records.

Key Facts

- Alexander Zverev is a German professional tennis player.
- The US Open is one of tennis's four Grand Slam tournaments.
- The Grand Slam calendar includes the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and US Open.
- Grand Slam singles titles contribute significantly to a player's career record and ranking points.

Relevant Background

Tennis is governed internationally through organisations including the International Tennis Federation and the major professional tours. Grand Slam tournaments are operated separately from the weekly tour structure but are central to the sport's competitive calendar.

Historical Background

- The modern four-tournament Grand Slam structure consists of the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and US Open.
- Wimbledon is played on grass, the French Open on clay, and the Australian and US Opens on hard courts.
- The French Open is held at Roland-Garros in Paris.
- The US Open is held at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York.
- Grand Slam tournaments award substantially more ranking points and prize money than regular tour events.





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9. Important One-Liners

Section	Topic	One-Liner
National Affairs	BRICS Summit	The 18th BRICS Summit concluded in New Delhi on 13 September 2026.
National Affairs	New Delhi Declaration	BRICS leaders adopted the New Delhi Declaration covering governance, development, trade, technology, health and sustainability.
International Affairs	India–China	Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping held bilateral discussions on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit.
Economy	Circular Economy	India will host the World Circular Economy Forum 2026 in Gandhinagar from 15–18 September.
Economy	WCEF Theme	The 2026 World Circular Economy Forum theme is “Circular Economy: Transition for People and Prosperity.”
Defence	INS Kulish	INS Kulish arrived at Ream Naval Base, Cambodia, during the Indian Navy’s Eastern Fleet deployment.
Technology	AI Governance	Advanced AI is increasingly treated as a dual-use technology requiring safety and misuse safeguards.
Culture	Heritage Protection	BRICS cooperation includes preservation of cultural heritage and repatriation of antiquities.
Health	Traditional Medicine	BRICS backed an expert-group approach to cooperation in Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine.
International Affairs	Global Governance	India continued to advocate more representative and inclusive global institutions.
Sports	Tennis	The Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and US Open constitute tennis’s four Grand Slam tournaments.
Strategic Affairs	India–UAE	India and the UAE continue cooperation across trade, investment, defence, technology and energy.

