

03 July 2025

1. International Relations: India and EU Sign Landmark Digital Partnership Pact; Focus on UPI Integration and AI Governance, Source: The Indian Express

News: In a major diplomatic and economic victory, India and the European Union have signed a comprehensive "Strategic Digital Partnership" agreement during the India-EU Summit in Brussels. The cornerstone of this pact is the agreement to begin technical trials for integrating India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with the EU's Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) Instant Credit Transfer system. If successful, this would allow for seamless, real-time cross-border payments, significantly benefiting trade, tourism, and remittances for the large Indian diaspora in Europe.



Analysis

- Beyond payments, the partnership establishes a joint task force on the governance of Artificial Intelligence (AI), aiming to create a common regulatory framework that promotes innovation while addressing ethical concerns and data privacy.
- The pact also includes collaboration on 6G technology research, cybersecurity, and the establishment of secure and resilient semiconductor supply chains, reducing dependence on East Asia.
- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar hailed the agreement as a "defining moment in India-EU ties," reflecting a convergence of democratic values in the digital age.
- Analysts view this as a strategic move by both India and the EU to create a "third way" in technology governance, distinct from the US and Chinese models.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper-II: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests. Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests.

GS Paper-III: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life. Awareness in the fields of IT, Computers, robotics.

ADD.: 1/53 2nd floor, near Gurudwara, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi, 110092

PH. NO.: 7388368910, +91 9717323955

 www.prashikshanas.com

 prashikshanasofficial@gmail.com

03 July 2025

2. Economy: GDP Growth Surges to 7.9%; Manufacturing and Services Fire on All Cylinders, says NSO Data, Source: Economic Times

News: India's economy has started the fiscal year 2025-26 with a robust performance, clocking a GDP growth of 7.9% for the first quarter (April-June 2025), according to provisional data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). This strong showing surpasses most analysts' expectations and provides a significant boost to the government's target of achieving a \$7 trillion economy by 2030. The growth was primarily driven by a stellar 9.5% expansion in the manufacturing sector, indicating that the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes are bearing significant fruit, particularly in electronics, automobiles, and pharmaceuticals.



Analysis

- The services sector also remained a powerful engine, growing at 8.2%, with trade, hotels, and transport showing sustained recovery to pre-pandemic growth trends.
- However, the agricultural sector recorded a modest growth of 2.8%, with officials citing the slightly delayed onset of the monsoon in some parts of the country as a concern.
- The Chief Economic Adviser stated that strong domestic consumption, coupled with a revival in private capital expenditure, underpins the positive outlook.
- While global headwinds remain a risk, the strong domestic fundamentals suggest that India is well-positioned to remain the world's fastest-growing major economy.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper-III: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development, and employment. Government Budgeting. Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy, and their effects on industrial growth

ADD.: 1/53 2nd floor, near Gurudwara, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi, 110092

PH. NO.: 7388368910, +91 9717323955

 www.prashikshanas.com

 prashikshanasofficial@gmail.com

03 July 2025

3. Environment & Climate Change: Monsoon Covers Entire Country a Week Ahead of Schedule; IMD Warns of Extreme Rainfall Events, Source: Hindustan Times

News: The Southwest Monsoon has advanced rapidly in the past week, covering the entire country today, nearly a week ahead of its normal date of July 8th, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) announced. While the early arrival and overall positive rainfall departure (+6% for the country as a whole) have brought relief to the agricultural sector, the IMD has also issued a stark warning. The weather agency has pointed to an increasing trend of erratic and extreme rainfall events, a pattern consistent with climate change models for the subcontinent.



Analysis

- Several states, including Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Assam, have received over 40% of their monthly quota of rain in just a few days, leading to flash floods and urban waterlogging.
- Concurrently, some regions in the interior peninsula are still witnessing deficient rainfall, highlighting the spatial and temporal variability of this year's monsoon.
- Climate scientists note that a warmer Arabian Sea and altered global wind patterns are contributing to these intense, short-duration downpours.
- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued advisories to states, urging them to prepare for localized disasters and activate their response mechanisms.
- The focus is now on managing the water from these intense spells to prevent disasters and recharge groundwater.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper-I: Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, tsunamis, Volcanic activity, cyclones, etc., geographical features and their location changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna, and the effects of such changes.

GS Paper-III: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment. Disaster and disaster management.

ADD.: 1/53 2nd floor, near Gurudwara, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi, 110092

PH. NO.: 7388368910, +91 9717323955

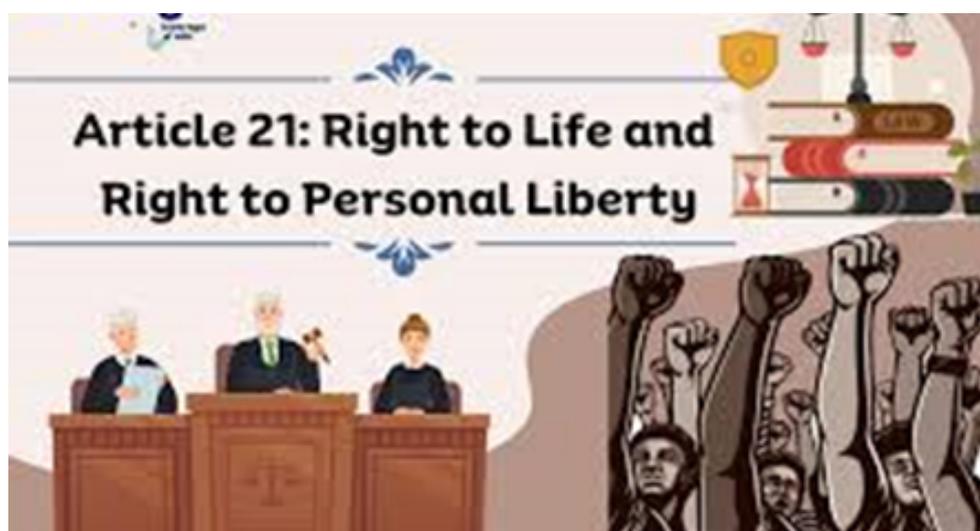
 www.prashikshania.com

 prashikshaniaofficial@gmail.com

03 July 2025

4. Social Justice: Supreme Court Expands Scope of Article 21; Declares 'Right to be Free from Digital Addiction' a Fundamental Right, Source: The Indian Express

News: In a landmark judgment with far-reaching implications for the digital age, the Supreme Court of India has ruled that the "Right to be free from addictive digital technology" is an intrinsic part of the Right to Life and Personal Liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution. The five-judge constitutional bench, while hearing a PIL on the adverse mental and physical health effects of social media and online gaming on children and young adults, observed that "a life of dignity in the 21st century is impossible without the freedom to disconnect."



Analysis

- The Court directed the Union Government to frame guidelines for tech companies within six months to incorporate "safety by design" features.
- These include mandatory break-time reminders, default settings for non-addictive usage, and transparent disclosure of algorithms that promote compulsive use.
- The judgment emphasized that while technology is a tool for empowerment, its unregulated and manipulative use, particularly for commercial gain at the cost of user well-being, violates fundamental rights.
- Legal experts have hailed the verdict as a pioneering step in constitutional jurisprudence, adapting fundamental rights to the challenges posed by modern technology.
- Tech companies will now have to re-evaluate their user engagement models for the Indian market.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper-II: Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions, and basic structure. Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

GS Paper-IV: Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions; dimensions of ethics.

ADD.: 1/53 2nd floor, near Gurudwara, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi, 110092

PH. NO.: 7388368910, +91 9717323955

 www.prashikshanas.com

 prashikshanasofficial@gmail.com

03 July 2025

5. Infrastructure: Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail: 350 km Viaduct Completed; First Trial Run Expected in mid-2026, Source: Hindustan Times

News: The National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) today announced the completion of 350 kilometers of viaduct for the ambitious Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) project, popularly known as the bullet train. This marks a significant construction milestone, covering approximately 70% of the total 508 km corridor. The work includes the erection of girders over crucial river bridges and railway crossings in both Gujarat and Maharashtra.



Analysis

- Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inspected the progress in Gujarat and stated that the project is now on a fast track, with work on stations and electrical systems proceeding in parallel.
- He announced that the first trial run of the E5 Series Shinkansen trainsets is now targeted for the section between Surat and Bilimora by August 2026.
- The completion of the viaduct over such a long stretch is a testament to India's engineering prowess, involving the casting and launching of thousands of pre-stressed concrete girders.
- The project, once completed, is expected to be a game-changer for regional connectivity and economic development, cutting travel time between the two financial hubs to just over two hours.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper-III: Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways, etc.

ADD.: 1/53 2nd floor, near Gurudwara, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi, 110092

PH. NO.: 7388368910, +91 9717323955

 www.prashikshanas.com

 prashikshanasofficial@gmail.com

03 July 2025

6. Agriculture: Government Launches FPO-Samridhhi Portal to Link 10,000 FPOs with Digital Markets and Credit, Source: The Indian Express

News: The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has launched the 'FPO-Samridhhi' portal, a new digital ecosystem designed to integrate Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) with financial institutions and online agricultural markets. This one-stop platform aims to address the key challenges of market access and credit availability faced by the 10,000 FPOs being promoted under the central government's flagship scheme. The portal will act as a unified interface where FPOs can create profiles, showcase their produce, and directly connect with bulk buyers, exporters, and food processing units.



Analysis

- A significant feature is its integration with the e-NAM platform and the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), expanding the market reach for FPOs exponentially.
- Furthermore, the portal is linked with a consortium of public sector banks and NABARD to facilitate a streamlined process for FPOs to apply for working capital and term loans.
- The system will use a "digital scorecard" based on an FPO's governance, turnover, and compliance to assess creditworthiness.
- The Agriculture Minister said the portal would empower small and marginal farmers by collectivizing their strength and transforming them from price-takers to price-makers, contributing to the goal of doubling farmers' income.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper-III: Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing. e-technology in the aid of farmers.

03 July 2025

7. Bilateral Relations (Neighbourhood): India Extends \$500 Million Credit Line to Maldives for Climate Adaptation Infrastructure, Source: The Hindu

News: Reinforcing its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, India has extended a new Line of Credit (LoC) of \$500 million to the Maldives specifically for climate adaptation and renewable energy projects. The agreement was signed following a high-level meeting between India's External Affairs Minister and the visiting Maldivian Foreign Minister in New Delhi. This move is seen as a significant step in strengthening bilateral ties, which have seen ups and downs in recent years.



Analysis

- The funds will be utilized for critical infrastructure projects identified by the Maldivian government, such as the construction of coastal protection barriers, installation of atoll-based solar power grids, and the establishment of rainwater harvesting and desalination plants to enhance water security.
- This targeted assistance addresses the most pressing existential threat faced by the island nation—rising sea levels.
- An official statement from the Ministry of External Affairs emphasized that India's development partnership is "transparent, demand-driven, and respects the sovereignty of the Maldives."
- Analysts suggest this strategic LoC not only helps the Maldives but also solidifies India's role as a primary development and security partner in the Indian Ocean Region, countering the influence of other global powers.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper-II: India and its neighborhood- relations. Bilateral, regional, and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

03 July 2025

8. Art & Culture: 'Project Mausam' Enters New Phase; Archaeological Survey of India Begins Underwater Exploration off Odisha Coast, Source: Press Information Bureau (Ministry of Culture)

News: The Ministry of Culture announced today that 'Project Mausam', India's flagship cultural initiative focused on reconnecting and re-establishing communications between countries of the Indian Ocean world, has entered a significant new phase. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), in collaboration with the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), has commenced its first major underwater archaeological exploration off the coast of Odisha, near the ancient port site of Palur.



Analysis

- This underwater mission aims to unearth evidence of ancient maritime trade routes, potential shipwrecks, and submerged structures that could provide concrete evidence of India's historic role as a maritime trading hub connecting Southeast Asia with the Roman Empire.
- The project will use state-of-the-art technology, including side-scan sonars, remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), and marine magnetometers.
- This initiative is a critical component of Project Mausam's objective to build a transnational case for nominating the Indian Ocean maritime routes as a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- By scientifically substantiating historical narratives, India aims to leverage its rich maritime past as a powerful instrument of cultural diplomacy and strengthen its strategic and cultural linkages across the Indian Ocean Region.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper-I: Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature, and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

GS Paper-II: India and its neighborhood- relations. (Cultural diplomacy aspect).

ADD.: 1/53 2nd floor, near Gurudwara, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi, 110092

PH. NO.: 7388368910, +91 9717323955

 www.prashikshanas.com

 prashikshanasofficial@gmail.com

03 July 2025

9. Ministry of Defence Approves 'Positive Indigenisation List' for Defence Space Systems, Source: Ministry of Defence (via PIB)

News: In a strategic move to boost self-reliance in military space capabilities, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has approved a "Positive Indigenisation List" specifically for high-tech defence space systems and components. The list, comprising 75 items, includes advanced communication satellites, earth observation satellites for intelligence gathering, satellite control systems, and secure data links. Under this policy, the procurement of these listed items from foreign sources will be banned after a specified timeline, compelling the armed forces and DRDO to source them from the domestic industry.



Analysis

- This is a major push under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' policy, aimed at creating a robust domestic ecosystem for manufacturing cutting-edge space and satellite technology for defence applications.
- Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by the Raksha Mantri, stated that this would encourage private sector participation, including startups, in a domain traditionally dominated by ISRO.
- The policy is expected to spur R&D, create specialised jobs, and significantly reduce India's reliance on foreign partners for critical strategic assets, enhancing its space warfare and surveillance capabilities.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 3: Indigenization of technology and developing new technology. Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate. Awareness in the fields of Space.

ADD.: 1/53 2nd floor, near Gurudwara, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi, 110092

PH. NO.: 7388368910, +91 9717323955

 www.prashikshanas.com

 prashikshanasofficial@gmail.com

03 July 2025

10. Centre Launches 'PM-SWASTHYA CARD' Integrating AB-PMJAY and Digital Health ID, Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (via PIB)

News: In a major move towards universal health coverage, the government today launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Card' (PM-SC). This new initiative integrates the benefits of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission's (ABDM) Health ID. The PM-Swasthya Card will serve as a single, portable, and digitally-enabled identifier for citizens to access healthcare services across the country. The card will not only facilitate cashless treatment up to ₹5 lakh per family per year for eligible beneficiaries under PMJAY but will also act as a repository for their digital health records, such as prescriptions, diagnostic reports, and vaccination history.



Analysis

- Launching the card, the Union Health Minister stated that this will create a "seamless continuum of care" and empower patients by giving them ownership of their health data.
- The card will be interoperable across public and private hospitals that are part of the ABDM network. The integration is expected to drastically reduce paperwork, prevent medical errors, and enable better follow-up care.
- The government aims to issue the new integrated cards to all 55 crore PMJAY beneficiaries within the next 18 months.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 2: Issues relating to the development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources. Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors.

ADD.: 1/53 2nd floor, near Gurudwara, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi, 110092

PH. NO.: 7388368910, +91 9717323955

 www.prashikshanasias.com

 prashikshanasiasofficial@gmail.com