

## The Hindu Important News Articles For UPSC CSE

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### Edition :International ;Table of Contents

|                                                                                                       |                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Page 01</b><br>Syllabus : GS II :International Relations / Preliminary Examination                 | India, China hold military talks in Arunachal                                                             |
| <b>Page 04</b><br>Syllabus : GS II :Governance / Preliminary Examination                              | No provision in Forest Rights Act to obtain gram sabha consent for projects: Ministry                     |
| <b>Page 06</b><br>Syllabus : GS III :Science and Tech / Preliminary Examination                       | ISRO's role is by no means diminishing: space officials                                                   |
| <b>Page 06</b><br>Syllabus :GS II :Social Justice & International Relations / Preliminary Examination | As yoga and Ayurveda become part of India's global health diplomacy, experts press for credible standards |
| <b>Page 10</b><br>Syllabus : GS III :Indian Economy/ Preliminary Examination                          | Does inflation targeting work in India?                                                                   |
| <b>Page 08: Editorial Analysis</b><br>Syllabus : GS II :Inernational Relations                        | Harnessing BRICS 'POWER' to empower the world                                                             |

The first Corps Commander-level dialogue between India and China held in the Eastern Sector (Arunachal Pradesh) at the Vacha-Damai Border Personnel Meeting (BPM) point represents a operational expansion of military de-escalation channels. Led by Lt. Gen. Girish Kalia (3 Corps/Spear Corps), the talks signify a move to address localized friction in areas like Taksing (Upper Subansiri district) ahead of upcoming diplomatic engagements.

## India, China hold military talks in Arunachal

The meeting comes ahead of the BRICS Summit, which Chinese President Xi is expected to attend

Talks are being held amid alleged incursions by the Chinese and a military build-up at the LAC

Lieutenant-General Kalia, chief of 3 Corps, led 12-member delegation that included the ITBP

**Saurabh Trivedi**  
NEW DELHI

**A**mid concerns over conflicting territorial claims and military build-up along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Indian and Chinese Armies held their first Corps Commander-level meeting in the Eastern Sector on Sunday, marking a significant expansion of the military dialogue mechanism beyond the Ladakh sector.

The meeting was held at the Vacha-Damai Border Personnel Meeting Point in Arunachal Pradesh amid reports of tension in the Taksing area of Upper Subansiri district.

According to Defence Ministry sources, Lieutenant-General Girish Kalia, Commander of the 3 Corps (Spear Corps), led a 12-member delegation that included an Inspector-General of the Indo-Tibetan



**Dialogue route:** The meeting was held at the Vacha-Damai Border Personnel Meeting Point in Arunachal Pradesh. FILE PHOTO

Border Police.

The 3 Corps, headquartered at Rangapahar in Nagaland, is responsible for operational areas along the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh. The Indian Army has two Corps formations responsible for the frontier in the State – the Tezpur-based 4 Corps and the Rangapahar-based 3 Corps.

The talks are significant

as Corps Commander-level meetings between the two Armies have largely been held at the Chushul-Moldo Border Meeting Point in eastern Ladakh, particularly after the June 2020 Galwan Valley clashes.

The meeting comes days before India hosts the BRICS Summit in New Delhi from September 11 to 13, which Chinese President

Xi Jinping is expected to attend.

The latest meeting comes amid reports of continued Chinese activity and alleged incursions in the Taksing area, despite two high-level engagements since July.

Until now, the Corps Commander-level mechanism had primarily been used to address military is-

**'UN map' must reflect Indian position: govt.**

**NEW DELHI**

India on Sunday said a United Nations-initiated proposed world map must depict the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in accordance with the country's official map, and any "inaccurate" or "misleading" representation will be unacceptable. » **PAGE 6**

sues and tensions along the western sector of the India-China border in Ladakh.

The mechanism became particularly important following the Galwan clashes, in which both sides suffered casualties.

Since then, India and China have continued to use military and diplomatic channels to manage dif-

ferences and maintain stability along the LAC.

On August 6, the two countries held the 36th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs. This was followed by the 25th round of talks between the Special Representatives (SR) on the Boundary Question in Beijing on August 26.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval represented India, while the Chinese delegation was led by Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs.

**Eight-point document**

The two sides signed an eight-point outcome document following the SR-level talks. The agreement included a decision to esta-

blish two additional Border Personnel Meeting Points and new hotlines to strengthen communication and confidence-building mechanisms along the frontier.

According to sources, one of the newly proposed meeting points will be in the Eastern Sector under the operational responsibility of the 3 Corps, while another will be in the Central Sector.

The sources clarified that Joshimath is not among the newly identified meeting points.

Meanwhile, the Indian Army has been closely reviewing its operational preparedness along the frontier. Recently, Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth visited the headquarters of the 3 Corps, where formation commanders briefed him about operational readiness and measures being undertaken to strengthen combat capabilities.

### Core Analysis of the Military Talks

#### 1. Expansion of Dialogue Infrastructure

- **Shift from Western Focus:** Previously, high-level Corps Commander talks were restricted to the Chushul-Moldo point in Eastern Ladakh. Extending this mechanism to the Eastern Sector builds institutional mechanisms for boundary management across the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- **Multi-Agency Integration:** Inclusion of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) reflects unified border management protocols between frontline paramilitary forces and the Indian Army.

#### 2. Tactical & Strategic Drivers

- **Local Friction Response:** Recent reports of military build-up and Chinese incursions in Upper Subansiri required immediate commander-level interventions beyond localized flag meetings.

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## Daily News Analysis

- **SR-Level Outcomes:** Operationalizes the eight-point consensus reached during Special Representative (SR) talks, which recommended adding new BPM points and hotlines to de-escalate tensions along the LAC.

### Key Static Dimensions

#### 1. Geographic & Strategic Vulnerability

- **McMahon Line Dispute:** China rejects the McMahon Line established by the 1914 Simla Convention, claiming roughly 90,000 sq km of Arunachal Pradesh (referred to as South Tibet).
- **Taksing & Upper Subansiri Sector:** Proximate to strategic corridors, making unauthorized infrastructure upgrades or troop movement a operational threat.

#### 2. Institutional Mechanisms

- **3 Corps (Spear Corps):** Headquartered at Rangapahar (Nagaland), tasked with guarding the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh alongside 4 Corps (Tezpur).
- **WMCC & SR Frameworks:** The Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) and Special Representative (SR) channels function as the primary diplomatic pillars supporting military-level talks.

### Policy Implications

- **Asymmetric Infrastructure Development:** China's dual-use Xiaokang (border defense) villages along the Eastern LAC necessitate accelerated Indian infrastructure projects (e.g., Vibrant Villages Programme, Trans-Arunachal Highway).
- **Calibrated De-escalation:** Establishing new BPM points minimizes the risk of local operational tactical errors escalating into broader strategic conflict along disputed sectors.

### Conclusion

Shifting Corps Commander-level meetings to Arunachal Pradesh strengthens operational stability across the Eastern LAC. Long-term conflict prevention requires translating these tactical dialogues into verifiable disengagement, alongside accelerated border infrastructure development.

**UPSC Prelims Practice Questions**

**Question: The McMahon Line is associated with:**

- A. India-Pakistan boundary in Jammu and Kashmir
- B. India-China boundary in the eastern sector
- C. India-Nepal boundary
- D. India-Bhutan boundary

**Ans: B)**

**UPSC Mains Practice Questions**

**Question:** "Institutionalised military dialogue is essential for preventing tactical incidents from escalating into strategic crises along the India-China border." Discuss. **(10 Marks, 150 Words)**



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The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) clarified to the Union Ministry of Power that the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA) contains no explicit provision mandating Gram Sabha consent for Stage-II forest clearances. The statement emerged following a Parliamentary Standing Committee report highlighting an average delay of 106 months for forest clearances in hydroelectric projects due to consent bottlenecks.

## No provision in Forest Rights Act to obtain gram sabha consent for projects: Ministry

The law explicitly states that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is responsible for its implementation; Centre's rules and regulations require that all processes under the forest Act be completed before the concerned government authority can issue a certificate diverting the forests formally

**Abhinav Lakshman**  
NEW DELHI

In deliberations with the Union Ministry of Power over government projects delayed due to the "critical bottleneck" of "100% gram sabha consent under the Forest Rights Act (FRA)" for forest clearance, the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs has said that the 2006 law has "no provision for obtaining consent of the gram sabha for forest clearance", adding that "such matters" related to gram sabha consent "do not fall under the purview of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs".

In an official communication to the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Desk of the Power Ministry on August 31, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs said, "There is no provision for obtaining consent of the Gram Sabha for forest clearance for Stage-II forest clearance in the Scheduled Tribes and

Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and Rules made thereunder. Therefore, such matters do not fall under the purview of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs."

While the FRA itself does not have the language of gram sabha consent specifically with respect to diverting forest land for non-forestry purposes, the Union government's rules and regulations governing the diversion of forests specifically require that all processes under the FRA be completed before the concerned government authority can issue a certificate diverting the forests formally.

These guidelines, under the Forest Conservation Act of 1980, require the identification of potential FRA claimants, the recognition of their rights where applicable, the vesting of these rights, and then obtaining a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the



Parliamentary panel report on NHPC Limited said the average time for forest clearance of projects is 106 months.

gram sabhas concerned regarding the proposal to divert the said forest land for the stated purpose – all of it as mandated under the FRA. This procedure of obtaining a NOC from gram sabhas is what has commonly come to be known as the procedure for gram sabha consent for forest clearance.

The FRA explicitly states that the Ministry of Tribal

Affairs is the nodal ministry responsible for the law's implementation. Supreme Court advocate Shomona Khanna, a former legal adviser to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs under both the United Progressive Alliance and National Democratic Alliance governments, reacted to the Ministry's position on the FRA in its latest communication to the Power

### House panel report

The deliberations between the Union Power Ministry and the Tribal Affairs Ministry were initiated after an August 3 report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Undertakings on NHPC Limited. In this report, the committee, based on discussions with NHPC officials, observed that the average time for forest clearance of under-construction projects was 106 months, and that the requirement that all concerned gram sabhas consent to the diversion of forest land required for the projects had become the "single most critical bottleneck, with projects like the Teesta-IV HEP being indefinitely stalled because communication to the Power

Ministry remains pending". In its report, the committee, headed by BJP MP Bajajayanta Panda, took to the NHPC's recommendation that a "qualified super-majority consent" – consent of 70-75% of the affected gram sabhas – should be sufficient for "large hydropower infrastructure projects of national importance".

The House panel had thus recommended that the Power Ministry discuss the "feasibility" of such a proposal with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Previously, in cases such as the Nicobar mega-infrastructure project or other independent cases related to the implementation of the FRA in States like Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and many others, the Tribal Affairs Ministry has claimed that it has no role to play and argued that this was because the FRA mandates implementation of the law to the State or Union Territory governments.

### Key Takeaways from the News

- **MoTA's Position:** The Ministry stated that Gram Sabha consent for forest diversion does not fall under its statutory purview under the FRA.
- **Regulatory Discrepancy:** While the primary FRA text does not explicitly phrase "Gram Sabha consent" for forest diversion, guidelines issued under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FCA) require a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) and full completion of FRA processes before issuing forest clearance.
- **Parliamentary Panel Recommendation:** The Standing Committee on Public Undertakings suggested exploring a "qualified super-majority consent" (70–75% approval) instead of unanimous (100%) Gram Sabha consent to avoid stalling strategic infrastructure projects.

### Core Analytical Dimensions (UPSC Relevance)

#### 1. Constitutional & Legal Conflict

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## Daily News Analysis

- **Institutional Overlap:** MoTA is the nodal ministry for implementing the FRA, while the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) administers the FCA. Divergence between FRA mandates and FCA clearance guidelines creates regulatory ambiguity for developmental infrastructure.
- **Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996:** PESA empowers Gram Sabhas with mandatory consultation rights for land acquisition in Fifth Schedule areas, reinforcing local self-governance alongside FRA rights.

### 2. Environmental vs. Developmental Rights

- **Infrastructure Bottlenecks:** Delays in projects like the Teesta-IV Hydroelectric Project underline the conflict between infrastructure development and democratic consent mechanisms.
- **Tribal Rights & Democratic Decentralization:** Gram Sabha consent acts as a constitutional safeguard against the unmitigated diversion of forest lands, protecting traditional livelihoods and forest ecosystems.

### Key Static Frameworks

- **Niyamgiri Landmark Judgment (2013):** The Supreme Court held that Gram Sabhas have the legal authority to determine whether industrial projects encroach upon religious, cultural, or traditional rights under the FRA.
- **Forest Conservation Rules, 2022:** Revised rules allowed forest clearance processes to proceed before settling FRA rights, shifting the responsibility of ensuring Gram Sabha consent onto state governments.

### Conclusion

The debate highlights the imperative to reconcile ecological governance with infrastructure timelines. Resolving institutional overlaps between MoTA and MoEFCC—while preserving democratic decentralization established under the FRA and PESA—is critical for transparent and time-bound project approvals.

### UPSC Prelims Exam Study Questions

**Question:** With reference to the Forest Rights Act, 2006, consider the following statements:

1. It recognises the rights of forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.
2. The Gram Sabha has an important role in initiating the process of determining forest rights.
3. The Act explicitly prescribes a 100% unanimous consent of the Gram Sabha for every forest diversion proposal.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: A)**

### UPSC Mains Exam Study Questions

**Question:** "The controversy over Gram Sabha consent for forest diversion reflects an institutional overlap between tribal rights legislation and environmental clearance mechanisms." Discuss. **(10 Marks, 150 Words)**

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Top space establishment officials—including IN-SPaCe Chairman Pawan Goenka and ISRO leadership—have addressed concerns raised by ISRO employee associations regarding the agency's potential "privatisation" and the transfer of launch vehicle manufacturing to non-government entities (NGEs). Clarifying that ISRO will not be privatised, officials emphasized that transitioning mature manufacturing to the private sector aims to scale up India's space economy while freeing ISRO to lead advanced R&D and strategic missions.

## Core Analysis of Space Sector Reforms

### 1. Re-calibration of Institutional Roles

- **ISRO (Research & Deep Space Focus):** Shifts away from routine commercial manufacturing to prioritize complex, next-generation R&D, human spaceflight (Gaganyaan), inter-planetary exploration, and long-term national projects such as the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (by 2035) and a crewed lunar landing (by 2040).
- **IN-SPaCe (Single-Window Regulator):** Acts as an autonomous interface to permit, authorize, and handhold non-government entities (NGEs) using space assets and facilities.
- **NSIL (Commercial Arm):** Focuses on commercializing mature space capabilities developed via public funds, including leasing launch services and procuring production assets.

### 2. Economic Drivers & Workforce Concerns

- **Scaling Up Market Share:** The reforms aim to expand India's presence from under \$9 billion (~2% of global market) to \$44 billion by 2033.
- **Employee Association Apprehensions:** Staff associations voiced concern over long-term cadre strength, recruitment pipelines, and institutional autonomy as production responsibilities shift toward private consortiums.

## Static Dimensions

### 1. Indian Space Policy 2023 Architecture

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## ISRO's role is by no means diminishing: space officials

Agency will remain the bedrock of the Indian space sector, says IN-SPaCe chief Pawan Goenka amid concerns raised by ISRO staff associations over 'privatisation'; agency calls concerns 'baseless'

Jacob Koshy  
NEW DELHI

The top brass of India's space establishment refuted suggestions that privatisation in the space sector threatened the workforce of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

The role of the ISRO was "by no means diminishing", said IN-SPaCe chairman Pawan Kumar Goenka on Sunday, responding to a joint letter from nine ISRO employee associations seeking written clarification on whether the government intends to transfer the agency's launch-vehicle and satellite manufacturing to private firms. "There has been some misleading narrative in the media around the future role of ISRO. Let me say it unequivocally: ISRO's role is by no means diminishing. It will remain the bedrock of Indian space sector," Dr. Goenka said in a post on X.

The reforms that began in 2020, he said, were aimed at expanding India's overall space ecosystem,



There has been misleading narrative... the direction is not a smaller ISRO. It is a larger Indian space ecosystem, with ISRO pushing the technological frontier.

**PAWAN KUMAR GOENKA**  
IN-SPaCe chairman

with IN-SPaCe authorising non-government participation and NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) commercialising mature capabilities.

Industry would increasingly manufacture and scale mature launch vehicles and satellites, he added, while ISRO would concentrate on advanced R&D, scientific and strategic missions, and infrastructure too complex for private developers – including the Bharatiya Antariksh Station by 2035 and an Indian crewed lunar mission by 2040. "The direction is not a smaller ISRO," he wrote.

#### Longer clarification

His post was followed by a longer clarification from ISRO, calling suggestions of

privatisation "completely baseless and incorrect" and stating that the agency would neither be privatised nor have its importance reduced. Transferring a mature technology, it said, did not amount to withdrawal from that domain; the shift was towards an "ISRO-led national space ecosystem", institutionalised through the Indian Space Policy 2023.

The agency said India now has over 450 space start-ups against a handful in 2020, and aims to grow its roughly \$8.4-billion space economy to \$44 billion by 2033. Ownership of critical national space infrastructure, it said, would remain with the government. The letter that prompted the responses

was dated September 4 and addressed to Dr. V. Narayanan, Secretary, Department of Space and Chairman, ISRO. Its signatories cited Dr. Goenka's public remarks on August 21 that ISRO would eventually not make or manufacture any launch vehicles.

#### Questions raised

They asked whether that position represented an approved Space Commission decision. They further asked what would happen to sanctioned strength and recruitment over the next five to 10 years, and whether the associations would be consulted before irreversible decisions.

Employees of the Department of Space are exempted from the statutory definition of "industry" and cannot form trade unions. They instead organise as service associations recognised under the Central Civil Services (Recognition of Service Associations) Rules, 1993. The letter was copied to the Confederation of Central Government Employees and Workers.

## Daily News Analysis

- **Decoupling Roles:** Formally separated the regulator (IN-SPACe), commercial arm (NSIL), and core R&D body (ISRO) to establish clear mandates and prevent conflicts of interest.
- **FDI & Private Participation:** Eased Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) guidelines in space sub-sectors (satellites, launch vehicles, and component manufacturing) to lower capital barriers.

### 2. Legal & Regulatory Gaps

- **Absence of Comprehensive Space Legislation:** India currently lacks an overarching statutory Space Activities Act to address liability, insurance frameworks, orbital debris mitigation, and dispute resolution as private launches scale up.
- **Public Asset Protection:** Ensuring critical national space infrastructure remains state-owned while granting fair, non-discriminatory access to private enterprises.

### Policy Implications

- **Vendor-to-Partner Transition:** Transforms private enterprises from passive sub-contractors into independent end-to-end system integrators.
- **Sustaining Domestic R&D:** Mitigates brain drain by expanding private aerospace opportunities and enabling ISRO scientists to concentrate on frontier technology development.

### Conclusion

Transitioning mature space platforms to private industry represents an expansion of India's space ecosystem rather than a retrenchment of ISRO. Addressing workforce integration through clear cadre policy alongside enacting a comprehensive Space Activities Act will be essential to balancing public sector R&D leadership with commercial growth.

### UPSC Prelims Practice Questions

**Question:** Which one of the following best describes the rationale behind transferring mature launch-vehicle manufacturing to private entities?

- A. Complete withdrawal of the government from the space sector
- B. Privatisation of ISRO's strategic functions
- C. Scaling up production while allowing ISRO to focus on advanced R&D and strategic missions
- D. Replacement of domestic space technology with foreign technology

**Ans: C)**

### UPSC Mains Practice Questions

**Question:** "India's space-sector reforms represent a recalibration of the role of the State rather than its withdrawal from the space sector." Discuss. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

**Page 06:GS II : Social Justice & International Relations / Preliminary Examination**

The integration of Yoga and Ayurveda into India's trade agreements (e.g., India-Oman CEPA, India-EU FTA, and India-New Zealand FTA) marks a strategic shift from treating traditional medicine as a cultural artifact to positioning it as a formal services export. While mechanisms like the dedicated **AYUSH Visa** and trade annexes ease mobility and licensing, experts highlight that sustainable global adoption hinges on rigorous evidence-based clinical trials, standardized quality control, and data transparency.

## As yoga and Ayurveda become part of India's global health diplomacy, experts press for credible standards

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**  
**T.G.A. Sharad Raghavan**  
NEW DELHI

Yoga and Ayurveda have moved beyond their traditional wellness identity and are increasingly becoming part of India's global health and diplomatic strategy, with the Centre seeking to expand their footprint through medical tourism, international education, practitioner mobility and trade agreements.

The shift is particularly evident in India's recent trade diplomacy. The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), operationalised in June 2026, and the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) contain dedicated provisions on health-related services and traditional medicine. These include measures to ease licensing, develop standards and facilitate the mobility of Ay-

urveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, and Homeopathy (AYUSH) practitioners and instructors.

### New opportunity

The India-European Union FTA, signed in January 2026, goes further, allowing AYUSH practitioners to use their Indian qualifications in EU countries where no regulatory framework exists and providing for AYUSH wellness centres and clinics.

The agreements represent an attempt to transform AYUSH from being a cultural export to a formalised health and services opportunity.

The India-Oman CEPA contains what the government describes as its first comprehensive commitment on traditional medicine across all modes of supply, while the India-New Zealand FTA has a dedicated "health and tra-



The Centre issued 1,646 AYUSH visas to nationals from 75 countries between January 2024 and February 2025.

ditional medicine" annex covering AYUSH practices.

The New Zealand agreement also provides structured mobility pathways, including a dedicated visa quota for AYUSH practitioners. The government said the agreement would institutionalise cooperation in education, training, standards development and wellness services.

However, the diplomat-

ic push also raises questions about how far formal recognition and market access will translate into actual international demand. Experts point to the need for credible standards, evidence, regulation, practitioner quality and patient safety if AYUSH is to establish itself in increasingly regulated global healthcare markets.

Senior officials in the Mi-

nistry of AYUSH said the AYUSH visa, overseas training and exchange programmes were also helping expand the sector.

"Foreign medical arrivals rose from 1.83 lakh in 2020 to 6.44 lakh in 2024, as per our data. Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, Germany, Russia, Malaysia, Mauritius and Saudi Arabia are among the important markets for AYUSH and Ayurveda treatment. The government does not publish a current consolidated country-wise ranking of AYUSH patients," he said.

### Absence of data

However, the figure of 6.44 lakh refers to overall foreign medical arrivals and not specifically AYUSH patients. The absence of consolidated data makes it difficult to assess AYUSH's actual share of India's medical-value-travel market.

The AYUSH visa, introduced in 2023, is another component of the strategy. Between January 2023 and December 2025, a total of 3,375 foreign nationals travelled to India on AYUSH visas or e-AYUSH visas, while another 579 travelled on AYUSH attendant visas or e-AYUSH attendant visas.

Earlier, the Ministry had reported that 1,646 AYUSH visas had been issued to nationals of 75 countries between January 2024 and February 2025.

Education is also emerging as another channel of influence. Under the AYUSH Fellowship Scheme, 260 students from 32 countries were studying AYUSH in Indian institutions.

The Ministry's international cooperation programmes also support training, seminars, conferences and knowledge exchange, including yoga and education overseas.

## Core Analysis: Strategic Opportunities & Operational Challenges

### 1. Trade & Diplomatic Integration

- **Service Sector Anchoring:** Institutionalizes Mode 4 (presence of natural persons) and Mode 1 (cross-border supply via tele-medicine) in FTAs, securing mutual recognition of qualifications and dedicated visa quotas for AYUSH practitioners.
- **Medical Value Travel (MVT):** The introduction of the specialized AYUSH Visa directly supports the broader "Heal in India" campaign, expanding foreign patient inflows for holistic therapy.

### 2. Key Bottlenecks & Gaps

- **Lack of Granular Data:** National foreign medical arrival statistics fail to isolate AYUSH-specific arrivals, making it difficult to assess the exact economic yield of traditional medical tourism.
- **Regulatory Rigidity Abroad:** Foreign health regulators require rigorous Phase-III clinical trials and strict standardization, which traditional multi-herb formulations and customized treatments frequently struggle to meet without modern pharmacological validation.

## Static Frameworks

### 1. Institutional & Regulatory Architecture

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## Daily News Analysis

- **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) & NCH:** Statutory bodies established under 2020 legislation to oversee educational standards and practitioner registration, replacing outdated central councils.
- **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940:** Governs the manufacturing, safety, and quality control of AYUSH drugs domestically.

### 2. Global Standards & WHO Synergy

- **WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM):** Located in Jamnagar, Gujarat, it serves as a primary hub for establishing global evidence bases, data analytics, and regulatory benchmarks for traditional health systems.

### Policy Recommendations

- **Standardized Data Disaggregation:** Establish dedicated tracking codes for AYUSH patients at immigration and healthcare facilities to accurately evaluate MVT returns.
- **Phytopharmaceutical Integration:** Accelerate research under scientific protocols to translate classical formulations into internationally accepted phytopharmaceutical standards.

### Conclusion

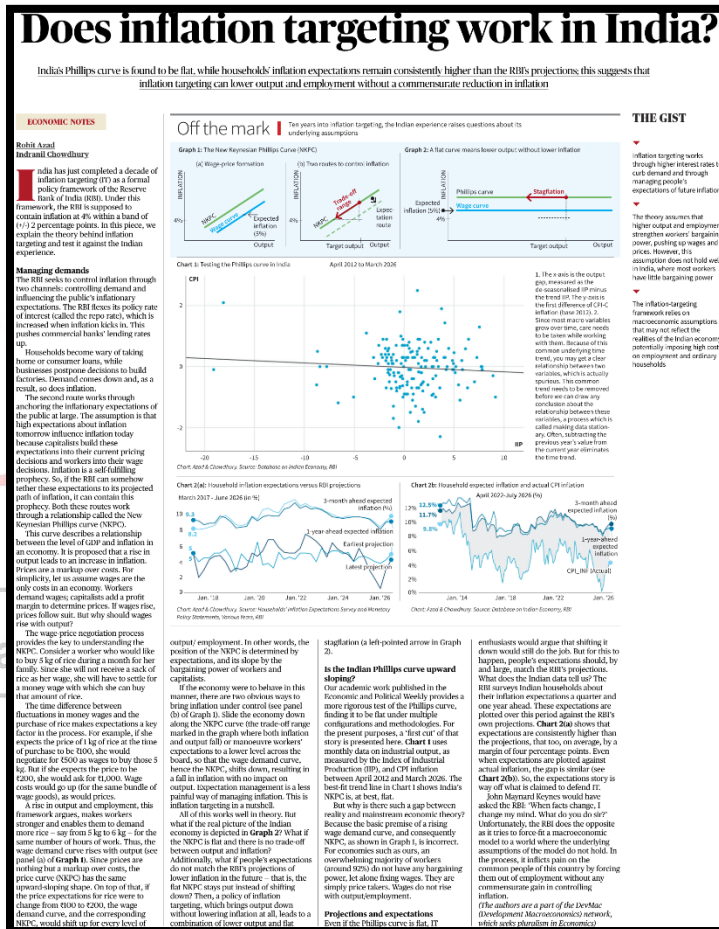
Transitioning AYUSH from cultural soft power to a recognized global health pillar requires bridging the gap between treaty access and host-country regulatory approval. Coupling trade diplomacy with standardized quality frameworks and clinical evidence remains key to realizing the full potential of India's traditional healthcare exports.

### UPSC Mains Exam Study Questions

**Question:** "The globalisation of traditional medicine requires a transition from knowledge preservation to evidence generation." Examine. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

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The article presents a critical heterodox macroeconomic evaluation of India's **Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT)** framework, adopted in 2016 under Section 45-ZA of the RBI Act. The authors (Rohit Azad & Indranil Chowdhury) argue that applying the **New Keynesian Phillips Curve (NKPC)** model to India is theoretically flawed due to structural features of the Indian economy. Consequently, utilizing demand-contractory monetary policy (e.g., hiking repo rates) reduces growth and employment without effectively taming supply-side inflation.



## Key Takeaways from the Article

- Theoretical Mechanism of IT:** Monetary policy operates via demand reduction (hiking repo rates to curb borrowing) and anchoring public expectations.
- Flat Indian Phillips Curve:** Industrial and inflation data (April 2012–March 2026) show a near-flat NKPC, implying output can contract significantly with minimal impact on retail inflation.

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## Daily News Analysis

- **Lack of Bargaining Power:** Over 92% of India's workforce operates in the informal economy without wage-bargaining leverage, making the NKPC's assumption of output-linked wage inflation invalid.
- **Expectation-Projection Disconnect:** RBI household inflation surveys show consumer expectations consistently exceed actual inflation and RBI forecasts by ~4 percentage points, invalidating the expectation-anchoring channel.

### Core Analytical Breakdown

#### 1. Critique of the New Keynesian Framework

- **Informal Sector Realities:** Standard NKPC models assume formal, unionized labor markets where higher output strengthens worker wage negotiations. In India's informal-dominated labor market, workers are price-takers, meaning wages do not rise dynamically with output.
- **Cost-Push vs. Demand-Pull Inflation:** Indian CPI inflation is largely driven by volatile food and fuel supply-side shocks (e.g., monsoon disruptions, global crude oil prices). Monetary tightening depresses demand-side economic activity without fixing structural supply-chain bottlenecks.

#### 2. Defense of Flexible Inflation Targeting

- **Statutory Commitment & Price Stability:** Proponents argue FIT has anchored headline CPI within the statutory 4% ( $\pm 2\%$ ) band for a majority of the past decade, bringing down structural average inflation from ~6.8% (pre-2016) to ~4.9%.
- **Institutional Credibility:** The Government of India retained the 4% target (2–6% band) for the 2026–2031 block, highlighting the framework's success in ensuring monetary transparency and policy predictability.

### Key Static & Policy Frameworks

- **Statutory Basis:** Section 45-ZA of the RBI Act, 1934, amended in 2016, mandates maintaining price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth.
- **Urjit Patel Committee (2014):** Recommended adopting headline Consumer Price Index (CPI-C) over Wholesale Price Index (WPI) as the primary nominal anchor for monetary policy.
- **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):** A 6-member statutory body (3 RBI representatives, 3 external government-appointed members) responsible for setting the repo rate.

### Policy Implications

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- **Fiscal-Monetary Coordination:** Controlling supply-driven food inflation requires aggressive fiscal intervention (e.g., cold chain infrastructure, buffer stocking, export-import duty management) rather than exclusive reliance on repo rate adjustments.
- **Targeting Core vs. Headline Inflation:** Economists continue to debate whether the RBI should target Core CPI (excluding food and fuel) or Headline CPI, given monetary policy's limited transmission over food price shocks.

### Conclusion

While Flexible Inflation Targeting has enhanced the RBI's institutional credibility and kept headline inflation relatively moderate, its structural reliance on demand management remains contested. Balancing price stability with employment generation necessitates combining monetary policy with targeted fiscal measures to address structural supply-side bottlenecks.

### UPSC Mains Exam Study Questions

**Question:** "The effectiveness of inflation targeting depends critically on the structural characteristics of the economy in which it is applied." Examine with reference to India(10 Marks, 150 Words)

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## *Harnessing BRICS 'POWER' to empower the world*

**T**he 18th BRICS Summit is about to be held in New Delhi on September 12-13, 2026. China extends full support to India for its BRICS presidency, stands ready to work with all BRICS members and partners to jointly draw a blueprint for the high-quality development of a greater BRICS, and leverage BRICS POWER to empower the world. I would like to share my personal views on the greater BRICS cooperation, with the help of the five letters of the word Power.

The first is P for Principle. The world is now undergoing accelerated transformation unseen in a century, and witnessing a trend toward deepening multipolarity, economic globalisation, and the collective rise of the Global South. In the meantime, hegemonism and power politics are becoming increasingly rampant. Lingering geopolitical conflicts trigger a succession of crises and challenges.

As an important force for world peace and development, BRICS must resolutely uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, and safeguard the basic norms of international relations, including sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs and peaceful settlement of disputes, and prevent the world from sliding back into the law of the jungle where the strong prey on the weak.

### **Upholding international principles**

Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward the vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity and four global initiatives, including the Global Security Initiative and the Global Governance Initiative, which provided China's solutions on addressing common human challenges and building a better world together.

The second is O for Openness. The world economy is currently facing a sluggish recovery, coupled with the spread of protectionism. Certain countries have undermined the international economic and trade order by erecting tariff barriers, seeking decoupling and disrupting supply chains.

It should be recognised that economic globalisation is an inevitable trend of history. BRICS should uphold the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization (WTO)



**Xu Feihong**

The Chinese  
Ambassador to India

The five commitments for strengthening BRICS cooperation and empowering the Global South to build a more peaceful, open, and prosperous world

at its core, safeguard the basic principles of the WTO such as the most-favoured-nation treatment, and resist all forms of protectionism. We should join hands to deepen cooperation in energy and mineral resources, infrastructure, and industrial and supply chains to maintain an open global economic landscape.

China stays committed to building an open global economy, so as to share opportunities in openness, and achieve common development.

The third is W for Win-Win. BRICS should adhere to the Spirit of Openness, Inclusiveness and Win-Win cooperation. We should continue putting development at the centre of the BRICS agenda, accelerate the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, strengthen dialogue and build consensus on launching the formulation of the post-2030 global development agenda, and ensure that Global South countries participate in international cooperation as equals and share the fruits of development.

### **Economic and financial cooperation**

We should pursue mutual benefit and win-win results to further consolidate economic cooperation. It is necessary to strengthen greater BRICS coordination on macroeconomic policies and adopt more trade and investment facilitation measures. We should push forward local currency and cross-border payment cooperation and improve the financial safety net, so as to enhance the ability to ward off external risks. In the face of global energy and food security challenges, we should build a more resilient and sustainable agriculture and food system.

The fourth is E for Engine. BRICS countries account for nearly half of the world's population, around 30% of global economic output, and one-fifth of global trade. We are also home to major natural resources, key manufacturers and vast markets. According to international agencies such as the International Monetary Fund, greater BRICS growth will be nearly three times faster than the G-7 by 2028, further highlighting its role as an engine of world economic growth.

We should leverage our respective advantages, deepen practical cooperation in fields such as business, finance, science and technology,

forging more cooperation in the digital economy, smart manufacturing, and new industrialisation. We should actively promote the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) with sectors including science and technology, health, agriculture and education, thereby injecting fresh impetus into world economic growth. China has established the China-BRICS AI Development and Cooperation Center and the China-BRICS New Quality Productive Forces Research Center, and welcomes active participation of all parties.

The fifth is R for Responsibility. BRICS countries are the main force in safeguarding fairness and justice and the backbone of promoting unity and cooperation. We must shoulder the responsibility of maintaining world peace and development. Over this year and the next, India and China will take on the BRICS rotating presidency in succession. Maintaining sound coordination between our two countries is conducive to the steady and sustained progress of greater BRICS' cooperation, and will better safeguard the common interests of developing countries.

### **China-India ties**

Since the beginning of this year, under the strategic guidance of the two leaders, President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, China-India relations have maintained a momentum of improvement and development. The two sides strengthened dialogues at all levels and promoted exchanges and cooperation in various fields to achieve positive results. Five direct flight routes between the Chinese mainland and India have been resumed. After a six-year suspension, border trade has been reopened.

China looks forward to working with India to translate the important consensus reached by the two leaders into concrete actions, being good-neighbourly friends and partners that help each other, and pushing China-India relations to move forward in a sustained, healthy, and stable manner. May the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi be a great success. We welcome you all to China next year to continue empowering the world with BRICS POWER.

### **GS Paper II: International Relations**

**UPSC Mains Exam Practice Questions:** "The expansion of BRICS reflects the growing demand of the Global South for a more representative international order." Discuss. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

## Context :

The article by Xu Feihong, Chinese Ambassador to India, outlines China's perspective on the **18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi (September 12–13, 2026)**. Using the acronym **P-O-W-E-R**, the piece highlights China's commitment to supporting India's BRICS Chairship under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability" while emphasizing bilateral ties between India and China.

## Introduction

The commentary titled "Harnessing BRICS 'POWER' to empower the world" establishes China's vision for an expanded **"Greater BRICS"** platform. As India holds the rotating presidency for the 18th BRICS Summit, the diplomatic message aligns the interests of the Global South with democratic multilateralism, economic stability, and technological cooperation.

## Core Pillars: Deconstructing the BRICS 'POWER' Framework

- **P – Principle (Upholding Rule-Based Global Order):**

- **Focus:** Defense of the UN Charter, non-interference, sovereign equality, and peaceful resolution of disputes.®
- **Strategic Intent:** Countering unilateralism, hegemonism, and geopolitical fragmentation to prevent a return to the "law of the jungle."
- **Global Governance:** Links to China's Global Security Initiative (GSI) and Global Governance Initiative.

- **O – Openness (Safeguarding Multilateral Trade):**

- **Focus:** Opposing protectionism, tariff barriers, and supply chain decoupling.
- **Mechanisms:** Reaffirming the centrality of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) principles.
- **Resource Cooperation:** Deepening integration in critical minerals, energy, infrastructure, and resilient supply chains.

- **W – Win-Win (Development-Centric Cooperation):**

- **Focus:** Bridging the development gap in the Global South and accelerating the UN 2030 Agenda.
- **Financial Architecture:** Enhancing local currency settlements, cross-border payment mechanisms, and financial safety nets to hedge against external economic risks.
- **Food & Energy Security:** Building climate-resilient agricultural and food distribution networks.

- **E – Engine (Driving Global Economic Growth):**

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- **Economic Weight:** Greater BRICS accounts for ~30% of global GDP, nearly half of the world's population, and one-fifth of global trade.
- **Growth Projections:** Outpacing G7 growth rates significantly by 2028.
- **Future Drivers:** Leveraging AI, digital economy, smart manufacturing, and "New Quality Productive Forces" (e.g., China-BRICS AI Development and Cooperation Center).
- **R – Responsibility (China-India Strategic Coordination):**
  - **Bilateral Dynamics:** Highlighting recent positive momentum under PM Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping.
  - **Key Milestones:** Resumption of direct mainland flights and reopening of border trade after a 6-year hiatus.
  - **Leadership Continuity:** Coordination between India (2026 Chair) and China (2027 Chair) to ensure steady progress for developing economies.

### Static Dimensions & Syllabus Linkages

- **International Relations**
  - **Multilateral Groupings:** Evolution of BRICS from a 5-member bloc to an expanded 11-member platform (incorporating Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia).
  - **Global South Leadership:** Strategic autonomy, reform of global institutions (UNSC, IMF, WTO), and counterbalancing Western-dominated platforms (G7).
  - **India-China Bilateral Relations:** Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs), border stability, economic interdependence, and regional diplomacy.
- **Economic Development & Security (GS Paper III):**
  - **De-dollarization & Financial Alternatives:** Local currency trade, cross-border payment integration (e.g., UPI, Pix), and Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs).
  - **Supply Chain Resilience:** Mineral security, critical technologies, and new industrial policies.

### Strategic Analysis & Key Challenges

- **Internal Divergences:** Differing geopolitical priorities among BRICS members (e.g., non-alignment stance of India/Brazil vs. anti-Western posture of Russia/Iran).
- **Economic Asymmetry:** Trade imbalance heavily tilted in favor of China within the bloc.

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- **Security Concerns:** Persistent boundary disputes and strategic competition between India and China in the Indo-Pacific.

### Conclusion

The 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi represents a crucial inflection point for institutionalizing Global South solidarity. While the 'POWER' framework offers a vision for economic growth and reformed multilateralism, translating diplomatic discourse into long-term geopolitical stability requires balanced cooperation, operational consensus, and mutual respect between India and China.

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