

MONTHLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

📅 JULY 2026 — FOR UPSC CSE PREPARATION

--- TOPICS COVERED ---

	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	PM Modi's Jakarta Visit, Bintang Adipurna Honour, India–Indonesia CSP
	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	Vikram-1: India's First Private Orbital Launch, NSIL Milestones
	CULTURE & HERITAGE	Sarnath Inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List (45th Site)
	SPORTS	Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026, Road to Ahmedabad 2030
	ENVIRONMENT & GOVERNANCE	Chhattisgarh's DWEPTI Yojana — Women-Led Solar Energy Policy
	ECONOMY & SOCIETY	India's Gen Z Jobs Challenge, E-Commerce Council of India (ECCI)

📖 In-depth Editorial Analysis	📖 Mains & Prelims Focus	📖 Practice MCQs & Case Studies	📖 Data, Charts & Infographics
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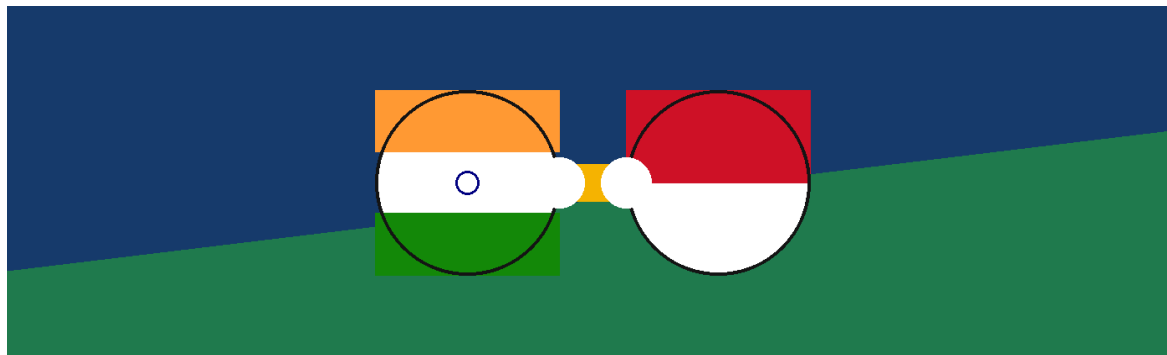
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This magazine is curated exclusively for UPSC CSE aspirants. All articles connect directly to the Prelims and Mains syllabus. MCQs at the end of each section help reinforce understanding for the Preliminary Examination.

◆ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | ARTICLE 01

India–Indonesia Ties: PM Modi Conferred Indonesia's Highest Civilian Honour

■ GS Paper II | International Relations | Bilateral Relations | India's Diaspora & Soft Power



During his state visit to Jakarta (6–8 July 2026), Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the 'Bintang Adipurna' (Star of the Republic of Indonesia — Adipurna), Indonesia's highest civilian honour, by President Prabowo Subianto. The award recognised PM Modi's role in elevating India–Indonesia relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and is only the second time an Indian Prime Minister has received the honour, after Jawaharlal Nehru.

Instituted in 1959, the Bintang Republik Indonesia is periodically bestowed on foreign heads of state who have played a pivotal role in strengthening bilateral ties. PM Modi dedicated the award to the people of India. With this honour, his tally of international awards has risen to 35, joining a list that includes the Order of the Nile (Egypt), the Legion of Merit (USA), and the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle (Russia).

Key Outcomes of the Visit

- PM Modi conferred the 'Bintang Adipurna' by President Prabowo Subianto at Istana Merdeka, Jakarta (7 July 2026)
- Talks covered defence, trade, energy, maritime security, and regional stability
- Reported progress on Indonesia's potential acquisition of India's BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles
- Reaffirmation of the India–Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (established 2018)

Parameter	Details
Honour Conferred	Bintang Adipurna (Star of the Republic of Indonesia — Adipurna)
Instituted	1959, by the Republic of Indonesia
Conferred By	President Prabowo Subianto
Date & Venue	7 July 2026, Istana Merdeka, Jakarta
Significance	2nd Indian PM to receive it, after Jawaharlal Nehru
PM Modi's Honours Tally	35 international awards (as of July 2026)

Why It Matters: India's Act East Policy & Indo-Pacific Outreach

Indonesia is India's key maritime neighbour and a fellow member of ASEAN and the G20. As the world's largest archipelagic state and a major Indo-Pacific power, Indonesia is central to India's SAGAR doctrine and Act East Policy. Deepening ties with Jakarta also strengthens India's position on freedom of navigation and rules-based order in the South China Sea and wider Indo-Pacific.

■ UPSC PRELIMS LINKAGE	■ UPSC MAINS LINKAGE
• GS1/GS2 Prelims: Bilateral awards & honours, India–ASEAN relations • Indo-Pacific frameworks: SAGAR, Act East Policy • India's diaspora and soft power diplomacy	• GS Paper II: India–Indonesia relations, Comprehensive Strategic Partnership • GS Paper II: India's Indo-Pacific strategy and ASEAN centrality • Mains Q: "Discuss the significance of India–Indonesia ties in the context of India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific vision."

MCQ Practice — Article 01

Q1. The 'Bintang Adipurna' honour conferred on PM Modi in July 2026 is the highest civilian honour of which country?

- (A) Malaysia
- (B) Indonesia
- (C) Vietnam
- (D) Philippines

✓Answer: (B) Indonesia

Explanation: Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto conferred the Bintang Adipurna, Indonesia's highest civilian honour, on PM Modi in Jakarta on 7 July 2026.

Q2. PM Modi is only the second Indian Prime Minister to receive Indonesia's highest civilian honour. Who was the first?

- (A) Lal Bahadur Shastri

- (B) Indira Gandhi
- (C) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (D) Atal Bihari Vajpayee

✓Answer: (C) Jawaharlal Nehru

Explanation: Jawaharlal Nehru was the first Indian Prime Minister to be conferred this honour; PM Modi is the second.

Q3. India's Indo-Pacific maritime doctrine, relevant to ties with Indonesia, is known as:

- (A) MAUSAM
- (B) SAGAR
- (C) IPOI
- (D) Cotton Route Initiative

✓Answer: (B) SAGAR

Explanation: SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) is India's doctrine guiding maritime engagement in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific region.

Q4. India–Indonesia relations were elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in which year?

- (A) 2015
- (B) 2016
- (C) 2018
- (D) 2020

✓Answer: (C) 2018

Explanation: India and Indonesia elevated their relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during PM Modi's 2018 visit to Jakarta.

◆SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY | ARTICLE 02

Vikram-1: India's First Private Orbital Rocket Launch

■ GS Paper III | Science & Technology | Space Policy | Atmanirbhar Bharat



On 18 July 2026, Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1 lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, becoming India's first privately built orbital rocket to launch from Indian soil. Lifting off at 12:05:30 PM, the rocket successfully injected its payload into a roughly 450 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO) about 15 minutes after launch, carrying multiple satellites for Indian and international customers.

The mission — called 'Mission Aagaman' — makes India the third country after the United States and China to achieve orbital launch capability through a private enterprise, demonstrating the commercial viability of private launch services under the Indian Space Policy 2023.

Key Mission Facts

- Launch vehicle: Vikram-1, developed by Skyroot Aerospace (Hyderabad-based space start-up)
- Launch site: Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota — the same range used by ISRO
- Orbit achieved: ~450 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO)
- Regulatory enabler: IN-SPACe, under the Indian Space Policy 2023
- Significance: India becomes the 3rd nation (after USA, China) with private orbital launch capability

Parameter	Details
Rocket	Vikram-1 (Skyroot Aerospace)
Mission Name	Mission Aagaman
Launch Date & Time	18 July 2026, 12:05:30 PM IST
Launch Site	Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota
Orbit	~450 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO)
Regulator	IN-SPACe
Policy Framework	Indian Space Policy, 2023
Other Private Players	Agnikul Cosmos, NSIL (ISRO's commercial arm)

Why It Matters: India's NewSpace Ecosystem

The Indian Space Policy 2023 opened the space sector to private participation across the value chain, with IN-SPACe as the single-window regulator. As of July 2026, NSIL, ISRO's commercial arm, had launched 141 satellites, including 138 international/customer satellites. Vikram-1's success signals that India's private space start-ups can now compete in the global small-satellite launch market, complementing ISRO's PSLV and GSLV programmes.

■ UPSC PRELIMS LINKAGE	■ UPSC MAINS LINKAGE
• GS3 Prelims: IN-SPACe, NSIL, ISRO, Indian Space Policy 2023 • Science & Tech: Orbital mechanics, LEO, launch vehicles • Economy: NewSpace economy, start-up ecosystem	• GS Paper III: Space technology — indigenisation, private participation • GS Paper III: Science & Tech — achievements of Indian space programme • Mains Q: "Discuss the significance of private participation in India's space sector following the Indian Space Policy 2023."

MCQ Practice — Article 02

Q5. Vikram-1, India's first private orbital rocket, was launched by which company?

- (A) Agnikul Cosmos

- (B) Skyroot Aerospace
- (C) Bellatrix Aerospace
- (D) Dhruva Space

✓Answer: (B) Skyroot Aerospace

Explanation: Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1 launched from Sriharikota on 18 July 2026, becoming India's first private orbital rocket.

Q6. India became the third country to achieve private orbital launch capability, after:

- (A) Russia and China
- (B) USA and China
- (C) USA and Russia
- (D) China and Japan

✓Answer: (B) USA and China

Explanation: With Vikram-1's successful orbital launch, India became the third country after the United States and China to achieve orbital launch capability through a private enterprise.

Q7. Which body acts as the single-window regulator for private space activities in India under the Indian Space Policy 2023?

- (A) ISRO
- (B) IN-SPACe
- (C) NSIL
- (D) Department of Space

✓Answer: (B) IN-SPACe

Explanation: IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre) authorises and regulates private space sector activities under the Indian Space Policy, 2023.

Q8. NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) functions as:

- (A) India's space insurance regulator
- (B) ISRO's commercial arm
- (C) A private launch vehicle manufacturer
- (D) The satellite tracking agency

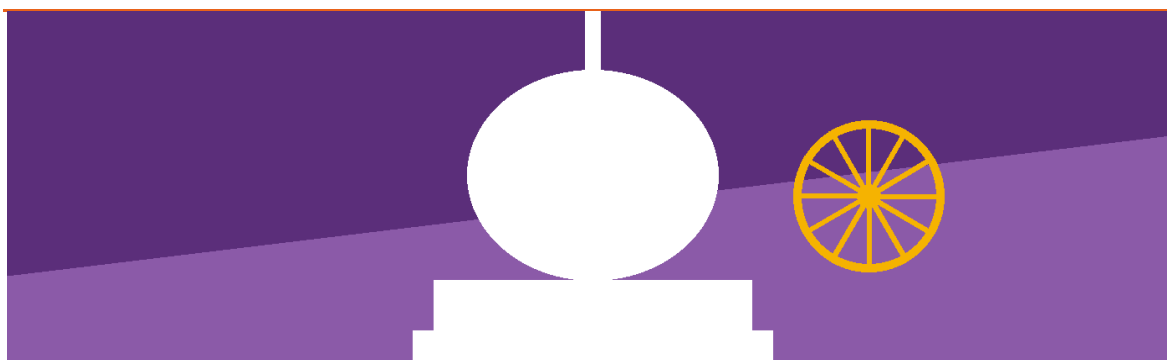
✓Answer: (B) ISRO's commercial arm

Explanation: NSIL is the commercial arm of ISRO, responsible for the commercialisation of space products and services.

◆CULTURE & HERITAGE | ARTICLE 03

Sarnath Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List

■ GS Paper I | Art & Culture | GS Paper II | International Organisations



The Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List on 25 July 2026, during the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee held in Busan, Republic of Korea. The inscription makes Sarnath India's 45th World Heritage Site and Uttar Pradesh's fourth, after the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, and Fatehpur Sikri.

Located about 10 km from Varanasi, Sarnath is where the Buddha delivered his first sermon after enlightenment — Dharmachakra Pravartan — around 528 BCE. The site survives as two protected archaeological components: the Chaukhandi Stupa and the Archaeological Remains of Sarnath (including the Dhamek and Dharmarajika Stupas).

Key Facts

- Nomination process began: Sarnath entered UNESCO's Tentative List on 3 July 1998
- India submitted the formal nomination dossier for the 2025–26 cycle in January 2025
- Nomination reviewed by ICOMOS, UNESCO's advisory body for cultural sites
- With Sarnath, India now has 45 World Heritage Sites — 6th highest in the world

Parameter	Details
Site	Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh
Inscribed On	25 July 2026
Committee Session	48th Session, World Heritage Committee, Busan, South Korea
India's WHS Tally	45 (after Sarnath)
UP's WHS Tally	4 — Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri, Sarnath
Key Monuments	Dhamek Stupa, Dharmarajika Stupa, Chaukhandi Stupa
Historic Association	Buddha's first sermon (Dharmachakra Pravartan), c. 528 BCE

Why It Matters

UNESCO recognition is expected to boost conservation funding, international tourism, and Buddhist-circuit connectivity linking Sarnath with Bodh Gaya, Kushinagar, and Lumbini, strengthening India's cultural diplomacy with Buddhist-majority nations across Asia.

■ UPSC PRELIMS LINKAGE

■ UPSC MAINS LINKAGE

• GS1 Prelims: UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India, World Heritage Convention 1972 • Culture: Buddhist sites, Dhamek Stupa, ICOMOS • Static GK: Complete list & count of India's World Heritage Sites	• GS Paper I: Ancient Indian art, architecture, and Buddhist heritage • GS Paper II: India's soft power via cultural/heritage diplomacy • Mains Q: "Discuss the significance of the Buddhist Circuit for India's cultural diplomacy in Asia."
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MCQ Practice — Article 03

Q9. Sarnath was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at which session of the World Heritage Committee?

- (A) 46th Session
- (B) 47th Session
- (C) 48th Session
- (D) 49th Session

✓Answer: (C) 48th Session

Explanation: Sarnath was inscribed during the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in July 2026.

Q10. With the inscription of Sarnath, how many UNESCO World Heritage Sites does India now have?

- (A) 42
- (B) 43
- (C) 44
- (D) 45

✓Answer: (D) 45

Explanation: Sarnath became India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Q11. Sarnath is significant in Buddhism primarily because it is the site of:

- (A) The Buddha's birth
- (B) The Buddha's enlightenment
- (C) The Buddha's first sermon (Dharmachakra Pravartan)
- (D) The Buddha's Mahaparinirvana

✓Answer: (C) The Buddha's first sermon (Dharmachakra Pravartan)

Explanation: Sarnath is where the Buddha delivered his first sermon after enlightenment, an event known as Dharmachakra Pravartan.

Q12. Which body serves as UNESCO's advisory body for evaluating cultural heritage nominations?

- (A) IUCN
- (B) ICOMOS
- (C) ICCROM
- (D) UNDP

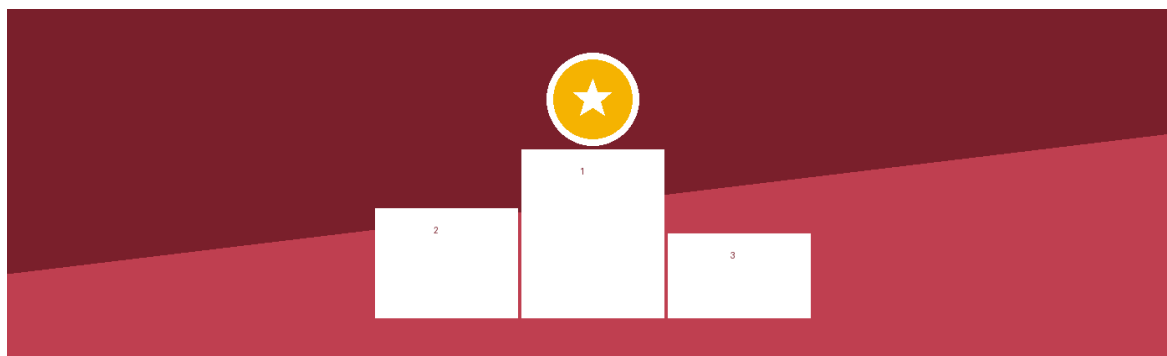
✓Answer: (B) ICOMOS

Explanation: ICOMOS evaluates cultural nominations for the UNESCO World Heritage List; IUCN evaluates natural sites.

◆SPORTS | ARTICLE 04

Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026 & India's Road to Ahmedabad 2030

■ GS Paper II | Sports Governance | Current Events of National & International Importance



The 23rd Commonwealth Games opened in Glasgow, Scotland, on 23 July 2026 and concluded on 2 August, marking the Games' return to the city after 2014. A leaner, sustainability-focused edition, Glasgow 2026 featured 10 sports and welcomed Gabon and Togo as debutant nations, taking the total number of participating nations and territories to 74.

India fielded a contingent of over 120 athletes. Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu and boxer Lovlina Borgohain served as flag-bearer and baton-bearer at the opening ceremony, while Gulveer Singh became the first Indian track-and-field athlete to win two individual medals at a single Commonwealth Games (silver in 10,000m, bronze in 5,000m).

Key Facts

- Host city: Glasgow, Scotland (23 July – 2 August 2026); 3rd time Glasgow has hosted
- Organising body: Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), headquartered in London
- Participating nations: 74 (debut of Gabon and Togo)
- India is the confirmed host of the 2030 Commonwealth Games, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat — the Centenary Games

Parameter	Details
Edition	XXIII (23rd) Commonwealth Games
Host City	Glasgow, Scotland
Dates	23 July – 2 August 2026
Sports Contested	10 (plus para-sport disciplines)
Governing Body	Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF)
India's Debut Year	1934 (this is India's 19th appearance)
2030 Host	Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India — the Centenary Commonwealth Games

Why It Matters: India's 2030 Host Role

Ahmedabad was formally awarded hosting rights for the 2030 Commonwealth Games by the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly (November 2025) — the centenary edition. This will be India's second time hosting after Delhi 2010, and is seen as a stepping stone toward India's ambition to host the 2036 Olympic Games.

■ UPSC PRELIMS LINKAGE	■ UPSC MAINS LINKAGE
• GS1 Prelims: Commonwealth Games Federation, Commonwealth of Nations • Sports events, host cities — factual current affairs • India's bids: 2030 CWG (Ahmedabad), 2036 Olympics	• GS Paper II: Sports governance and India's global sporting ambitions • GS Paper II: Soft power through sports diplomacy and mega-events • Mains Q: "Examine the socio-economic significance of India hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games."

MCQ Practice — Article 04

Q13. The 2026 Commonwealth Games were held in which city?

- (A) Birmingham
- (B) Glasgow
- (C) Melbourne
- (D) Auckland

✓Answer: (B) Glasgow

Explanation: The 2026 Commonwealth Games (XXIII edition) were held in Glasgow, Scotland, from 23 July to 2 August 2026.

Q14. India will host the Commonwealth Games for the second time in 2030, in which city?

- (A) Mumbai
- (B) New Delhi
- (C) Ahmedabad
- (D) Bengaluru

✓Answer: (C) Ahmedabad

Explanation: Ahmedabad, Gujarat, was awarded hosting rights for the 2030 (Centenary) Commonwealth Games; Delhi previously hosted in 2010.

Q15. Which Indian athlete became the first Indian track and field athlete to win two individual medals at a single Commonwealth Games (2026)?

- (A) Neeraj Chopra
- (B) Avinash Sable
- (C) Gulveer Singh
- (D) Tejaswin Shankar

✓Answer: (C) Gulveer Singh

Explanation: Gulveer Singh won silver in the 10,000m and bronze in the 5,000m at Glasgow 2026.

Q16. The Commonwealth Games are organised by:

- (A) International Olympic Committee (IOC)
- (B) Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF)
- (C) Commonwealth Secretariat
- (D) Commonwealth Sports Council

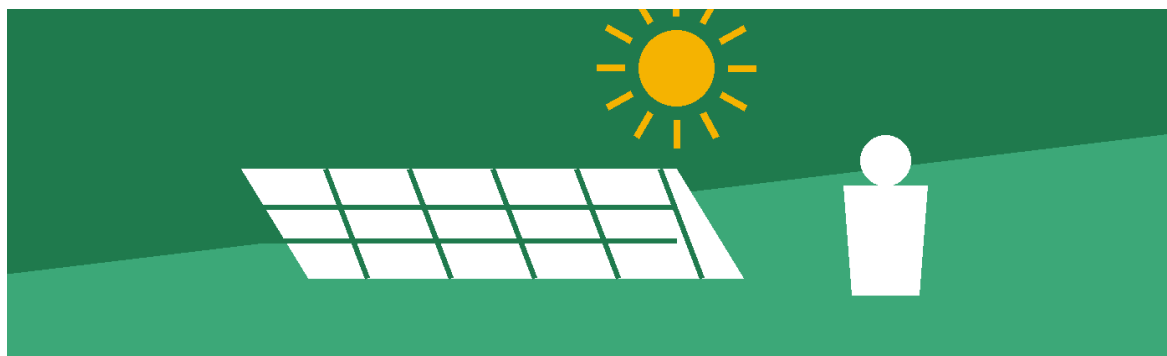
✓Answer: (B) Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF)

Explanation: The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), headquartered in London, organises and governs the Commonwealth Games.

◆ENVIRONMENT & GOVERNANCE | ARTICLE 05

Chhattisgarh's DWEEPTI Yojana: India's First Women-Led Solar Energy Policy

■ GS Paper III | Environment | Renewable Energy | GS Paper II | Women Empowerment, SHGs



In July 2026, Chhattisgarh launched the DWEEPTI Yojana — Decentralised Women Empowerment on Energy and Policy for Transformative Inclusion — India's first women-led distributed renewable energy (RE) policy. Developed by the state's Panchayat and Rural Development Department with Transform Rural India (TRI) under the Green Economy Transition Mission, the scheme places rural Self-Help Groups (SHGs) at the centre of Chhattisgarh's rooftop solar expansion as vendors, technicians, managers, and entrepreneurs.

Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) of women's SHGs are being registered as authorised vendors under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. Piloted in Kabirdham district, nearly 40 rooftop solar installation orders have already been received, with plans for statewide expansion.

Key Targets (Next 5 Years)

- Establish 5,000 women-led solar/energy enterprises across Chhattisgarh
- Generate around 50,000 green jobs for rural women
- Extend clean energy access to 5 lakh families and 10,000 public institutions

Parameter	Details
Scheme	DWEEPTI Yojana
Launched By	Chhattisgarh Government, July 2026
Nodal Department	Panchayat and Rural Development Department, Chhattisgarh
Technical Partner	Transform Rural India (TRI)
Umbrella Mission	Green Economy Transition Mission
Pilot District	Kabirdham
Linked Central Scheme	PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana
Significance	India's first women-led distributed renewable energy (RE) policy

Why It Matters

DWEEPTI Yojana links women's economic empowerment through Self-Help Groups with India's decentralised renewable energy transition, anchored in the National Solar Mission and PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana — advancing the 'Lakhpati Didi' vision while supporting India's 2030 non-fossil electricity targets.

■ UPSC PRELIMS LINKAGE	■ UPSC MAINS LINKAGE
• GS3 Prelims: National Solar Mission, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana • Governance: Self-Help Groups, NRLM, Cluster Level Federations • Schemes: Lakhpati Didi, Green Economy Transition Mission	• GS Paper III: Renewable energy — decentralised/distributed solar models • GS Paper II: Women empowerment through community institutions (SHGs) • Mains Q: "Discuss how decentralised renewable energy models can be leveraged for rural women's economic empowerment."

MCQ Practice — Article 05

Q17. DWEEPTI Yojana, launched in July 2026, is India's first policy of what kind?

- (A) First state minimum-wage-linked solar subsidy
- (B) First women-led distributed renewable energy policy
- (C) First carbon credit trading scheme
- (D) First rural electrification mission

✓Answer: (B) First women-led distributed renewable energy policy

Explanation: DWEEPTI Yojana is India's first women-led distributed renewable energy (RE) policy, launched by Chhattisgarh.

Q18. Under DWEEPTI Yojana, Cluster Level Federations of women's SHGs are registered as authorised vendors under which central scheme?

- (A) PM-KUSUM
- (B) PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana
- (C) Saubhagya Yojana
- (D) PM-JANMAN

✓Answer: (B) PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

Explanation: CLFs under DWEEPTI Yojana are registered as authorised vendors under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

Q19. DWEEPTI Yojana was piloted in which Chhattisgarh district?

- (A) Bastar
- (B) Durg
- (C) Kabirdham
- (D) Raipur

✓Answer: (C) Kabirdham

Explanation: The scheme was first piloted in Kabirdham district.

Q20. DWEEPTI Yojana aims to generate approximately how many green jobs over the next five years?

- (A) 10,000
- (B) 25,000
- (C) 50,000
- (D) 1,00,000

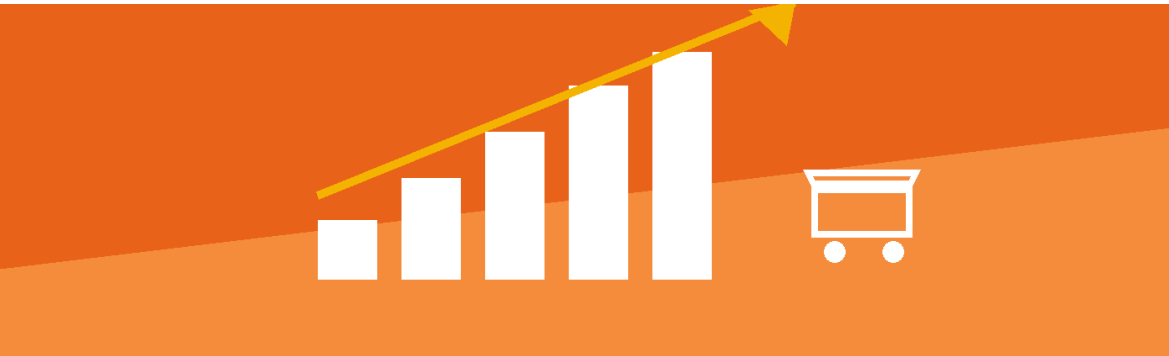
✓Answer: (C) 50,000

Explanation: The scheme targets roughly 50,000 green jobs for rural women over five years.

◆ECONOMY & SOCIETY | ARTICLE 06

India's Gen Z Jobs Challenge & the Launch of the E-Commerce Council of India

■ GS Paper III | Economy | Employment | Growth & Development



July 2026 current affairs highlighted India's growing 'Gen Z unemployment' debate, pointing to skill mismatches, informal/gig employment, and calls for expanding labour-intensive manufacturing and apprenticeships. The discussion drew on the UNFPA's Demographic Futures Survey 2026, a global study finding that economic insecurity and high housing costs are delaying marriage and parenthood worldwide, despite strong underlying family aspirations.

Separately, the E-Commerce Council of India (ECCI) was launched in July 2026 as an industry body representing India's fast-growing e-commerce and digital retail sector, providing a policy-dialogue platform relevant to India's Digital Economy and Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) push.

Key Points

- UNFPA Demographic Futures Survey 2026: economic insecurity & housing costs delaying marriage/parenthood globally
- India's Gen Z jobs challenge: skill mismatch, informal employment, need for apprenticeships
- E-Commerce Council of India (ECCI): new industry body, launched July 2026
- Complements existing digital-economy infrastructure such as ONDC

Parameter	Details
UNFPA Report	Lives, Choices and Futures — Demographic Futures Survey 2026
Key Global Finding	Economic insecurity & housing costs delaying marriage/parenthood
Domestic Issue Highlighted	India's Gen Z unemployment / skill-mismatch challenge
New Body Launched	E-Commerce Council of India (ECCI), July 2026
Related Digital Infrastructure	ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce)

Why It Matters

India's demographic dividend is time-bound. Converting it into productivity gains requires closing skill gaps, formalising employment, and building labour-intensive sectors that can absorb large numbers of first-time workers. Sector bodies like ECCL reflect the growing weight of e-commerce and gig platforms in India's employment landscape.

■ UPSC PRELIMS LINKAGE	■ UPSC MAINS LINKAGE
• GS3 Prelims: Informal sector, gig economy, apprenticeship schemes • Government bodies: ONDC, industry councils • UNFPA and its India-relevant demographic reports	• GS Paper III: Employment, growth and development — jobless growth debate • GS Paper I: Population and associated issues — demographic dividend • Mains Q: "India's demographic dividend risks becoming a demographic burden without urgent skilling reform. Discuss."

MCQ Practice — Article 06

Q21. The UNFPA's 'Demographic Futures Survey 2026' primarily found that marriage and parenthood decisions worldwide are being delayed mainly due to:

- (A) Declining fertility awareness
- (B) Economic insecurity and housing costs
- (C) Rising life expectancy
- (D) Government population control policies

✓Answer: (B) Economic insecurity and housing costs

Explanation: The UNFPA survey found that economic insecurity and housing costs are the main factors delaying marriage and parenthood.

Q22. UNFPA stands for:

- (A) United Nations Food and Population Agency
- (B) United Nations Population Fund
- (C) United Nations Family Planning Authority
- (D) United Nations Fund for Population Assistance

✓Answer: (B) United Nations Population Fund

Explanation: UNFPA is the United Nations Population Fund.

Q23. The E-Commerce Council of India (ECCL), launched in July 2026, is best described as:

- (A) A government regulatory ministry
- (B) An industry body representing India's e-commerce sector
- (C) A judicial tribunal for online disputes
- (D) A taxation authority for digital goods

✓Answer: (B) An industry body representing India's e-commerce sector

Explanation: ECCL was launched as an industry-level body to represent India's e-commerce and digital retail sector.

Q24. ONDC, relevant to India's digital commerce ecosystem, stands for:

- (A) Open Network for Digital Commerce
- (B) Online National Digital Council
- (C) Organisation for National Digital Commerce
- (D) Open National Data Corporation

✓Answer: (A) Open Network for Digital Commerce

Explanation: ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) democratises e-commerce in India through an open, interoperable protocol.

◆ BONUS MCQ SET | MIXED TOPICS — JULY 2026**Additional Practice Questions: Miscellaneous Current Affairs**

Q25. Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1 mission was officially named:

- (A) Mission Udaan
- (B) Mission Aagaman
- (C) Mission Antariksh
- (D) Mission Uday

✓Answer: (B) Mission Aagaman

Explanation: The Vikram-1 orbital launch mission was named 'Mission Aagaman'.

Q26. Which two nations made their Commonwealth Games debut at Glasgow 2026?

- (A) Gabon and Togo
- (B) Chad and Benin
- (C) Rwanda and Burundi
- (D) Comoros and Djibouti

✓Answer: (A) Gabon and Togo

Explanation: Gabon and Togo made their Commonwealth Games debut at Glasgow 2026, taking participating nations/territories to 74.

Q27. Sarnath's inscribed property includes which two principal stupas?

- (A) Sanchi Stupa and Amaravati Stupa
- (B) Dhamek Stupa and Dharmarajika Stupa
- (C) Bharhut Stupa and Piprahwa Stupa
- (D) Nagarjunakonda Stupa and Kesaria Stupa

✓Answer: (B) Dhamek Stupa and Dharmarajika Stupa

Explanation: The inscribed Sarnath property comprises the Chaukhandi Stupa and remains including the Dhamek and Dharmarajika Stupas.

Q28. Ahmedabad's selection to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games was formally approved at the General Assembly held in which city?

- (A) New Delhi
- (B) Glasgow
- (C) London
- (D) Birmingham

✓Answer: (B) Glasgow

Explanation: Delegates approved Ahmedabad's hosting rights for 2030 at the General Assembly in Glasgow, UK (November 2025).

Q29. DWEEPTI Yojana's technical partner, 'Transform Rural India', works under which umbrella mission?

- (A) National Rural Livelihoods Mission
- (B) Green Economy Transition Mission
- (C) National Solar Mission
- (D) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana

✓Answer: (B) Green Economy Transition Mission

Explanation: DWEEPTI Yojana was developed with Transform Rural India (TRI) under Chhattisgarh's Green Economy Transition Mission.

Q30. PM Modi's state visit to Indonesia in July 2026 involved discussions on Indonesia's possible acquisition of which Indian missile system?

- (A) Akash
- (B) Pinaka
- (C) BrahMos
- (D) Agni-V

✓Answer: (C) BrahMos

Explanation: Reports indicated progress on Indonesia's potential acquisition of India's BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles.

◆ QUICK REVISION | KEY TERMS & FACTS

Important Terms, Bodies & Facts — July 2026

Term / Concept	Definition / Context
Bintang Adipurna	Indonesia's highest civilian honour (instituted 1959); conferred on PM Modi, July 2026
Vikram-1	Skyroot Aerospace's rocket; India's first private orbital launch, 18 July 2026
IN-SPACe	Single-window regulator for India's private space sector under Space Policy 2023
NSIL	NewSpace India Limited — ISRO's commercial arm
Sarnath	India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site, inscribed 25 July 2026
ICOMOS	UNESCO's advisory body for cultural heritage nominations
Glasgow 2026	23rd Commonwealth Games; held 23 July – 2 August 2026
Ahmedabad 2030	India's confirmed host city for the Centenary Commonwealth Games
DWEEPTI Yojana	Chhattisgarh's women-led distributed renewable energy policy, July 2026
PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana	Central rooftop solar scheme linked with DWEEPTI's CLF vendors
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund; released Demographic Futures Survey 2026
ECCI	E-Commerce Council of India — new industry body launched July 2026
ONDC	Open Network for Digital Commerce — India's open e-commerce protocol

Important Days — July 2026

Date	Event
July 1	National Doctors' Day (India)
July 7	PM Modi conferred Indonesia's 'Bintang Adipurna' honour, Jakarta
July 11	World Population Day — theme reflecting UNFPA's 2026 demographic findings
July 18	Vikram-1 (Skyroot Aerospace) — India's first private orbital launch
July 23	Commonwealth Games 2026 opens, Glasgow; Lokmanya Tilak Jayanti (170th year)

Date	Event
July 25	Sarnath inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List, Busan session

◆ EDITORIAL NOTE

This edition of the Civil Service India Monthly Current Affairs Magazine (July 2026) has been curated to give UPSC aspirants a comprehensive, exam-ready analysis of the month's most important developments. Every article is mapped to the UPSC Prelims and Mains syllabus, and the MCQ sections are designed to simulate actual Prelims exam conditions.

★Tip: For each article, read the Syllabus Linkage box first — it tells you exactly which GS paper and which questions to expect.

■ STUDY RESOURCES RECOMMENDED

The Hindu / Indian Express — Daily reading • PIB (Press Information Bureau) — Government schemes • Economic Survey & Budget Documents — Economy • NCERT Books (6–12) — Foundation concepts • Yojana & Kurukshetra Magazines — Rural development • Civil Service India Monthly Magazine — Current Affairs!

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