



सत्यमेव जयते

UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE

GS I | GS II | GS III
PRELIMS FACTS
& MAINS ANALYSIS

SOURCES:



PIB
pib.gov.in



Ministry
Press Releases



DPIIT
dpiit.gov.in



MeitY
meity.gov.in



Ministry of
Defence



Ministry of
Earth Sciences

1

31st SOUTHERN ZONAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN MAHABALIPURAM, TAMIL NADU



Why in News?

Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting at Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu on 20 August 2026.

Key Points

- Focuses on Centre-State and inter-State cooperation.
- Important areas include inter-State water issues, infrastructure, regional development, internal security and administrative coordination.
- Promotes cooperative federalism.

Prelims Facts

- Created under: States Reorganisation Act, 1956
- Statutory and advisory body, not constitutional.
- Chairman: Union Home Minister
- Members: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Puducherry, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

GS Mains Link

GS II – Federalism | Centre-State Relations | Cooperative Federalism | Inter-State Relations

2

INDIA-JAPAN DEEPEN DEFENCE COOPERATION



Why in News?

India-Japan Defence Ministers' Meeting was held in New Delhi on 20 August 2026 between Rajnath Singh and Japan's Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi.

Key Points

- Reviewed strengthening of bilateral defence cooperation.
- Under the Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership.
- Reaffirmed commitment to a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.
- Discussions covered defence, maritime security, defence technology and strategic assessments.
- Japanese Minister visited Western Naval Command & INS Chennai.

Prelims Facts

- India-Japan: Special Strategic & Global Partnership.
- Important partners in Indo-Pacific.
- QUAD members: India, Japan, Australia, USA.
- INS Chennai: Indian Navy guided-missile destroyer.

GS Mains Link

GS II – India-Japan Relations | Indo-Pacific | Maritime Security | Strategic Partnerships

3

INDEX OF CORE INDUSTRIES GROWS 5.4% IN JULY 2026



Why in News?

The Index of Core Industries (ICI) grew 5.4% (YoY) in July 2026, according to DPIIT, Office of Economic Adviser.

Key Points

- July 2026 growth: 5.4%
- June 2026 growth (revised): 6.0%
- Major growth drivers:
 - Iron ore (29.5%), Cement (13.1%), Electricity (9.0%), Coal (7.6%)
- Steel: 2.9%, Refinery products: 2.7%
- Natural gas, crude oil & fertilisers recorded contraction.

Prelims Facts

- New base year: 2022-23
- Core industries in revised ICI: 9
- Newly added industry: Iron Ore
- Highest weight: Electricity
- ICI feeds into Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

GS Mains Link

GS III – Indian Economy | Industrial Growth | Infrastructure | IIP | Manufacturing

4

AADHAAR APP CROSSES 5 CRORE DOWNLOADS



Why in News?

Aadhaar App has crossed 5 crore downloads, reflecting growing adoption of digital Aadhaar services.

Key Points

- Strengthens resident-centric digital identity services.
- Enables Aadhaar-related services through smartphones.
- Supports digital identity verification and management.
- Represents expansion of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).

Prelims Facts

- Aadhaar: 12-digit unique identity number.
- Implemented by: UIDAI
- Based on demographic & biometric information.
- Aadhaar Act, 2016 governs it.
- Aadhaar → Digital Identity → DPI → e-Governance

GS Mains Link

GS II – e-Governance | Digital Public Infrastructure | Digital Identity | Privacy & Data Protection

5

NATIONAL REPORT ON DEEP-SEA & DISTANT-WATER FISHERY RESOURCES



Why in News?

CMLRE unveiled a national report on Deep-Sea and Distant-Water Fishery Resources of the Indian EEZ on 20 August 2026.

Key Points

- Focuses on assessment and sustainable utilisation of marine fishery resources.
- Relevant to India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- Supports scientific fisheries management.
- Strengthens India's understanding of deep-sea resources.
- Promotes Blue Economy & sustainable fisheries.

Prelims Facts

- Indian EEZ: Up to 200 nautical miles from baseline.
- CMLRE under Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- Headquarters: Kochi, Kerala
- Deep-sea fisheries important for Blue Economy.
- SDG relevant: SDG 14 – Life Below Water

GS Mains Link

GS III – Blue Economy | Marine Resources | Sustainable Fisheries | Ocean Governance

PRELIMS RAPID REVISION

	Southern Zonal Council	Created under States Reorganisation Act, 1956
	India-Japan	Special Strategic & Global Partnership
	QUAD	India, Japan, Australia, USA
	ICI Base Year	2022-23
	Core Industries in ICI	9
	Newly Added Industry	Iron Ore
	ICI July 2026 Growth	5.4%
	Iron Ore Growth (July 2026)	29.5%
	Aadhaar App	Crossed 5 crore downloads
	CMLRE Headquarters	Kochi, Kerala
	Indian EEZ	200 nautical miles (from baseline)
	Deep Ocean Mission	Deep-sea exploration
	Bhavasagara	Deep-sea fauna repository at CMLRE

IMPORTANT FOR PRELIMS – QUICK FACTS

- ✓ Southern Zonal Council – 31st meeting held at Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Chairperson of Zonal Councils: Union Home Minister.
- ✓ India-Japan Defence Ministers' Meeting held on 20 August 2026.
- ✓ ICI July 2026: 5.4% growth.
- ✓ ICI new base year: 2022-23.
- ✓ Number of core industries in revised ICI: 9.
- ✓ Newly added industry: Iron Ore.
- ✓ Aadhaar App crossed 5 crore downloads.
- ✓ CMLRE is under Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ✓ Indian EEZ extends up to 200 nautical miles.
- ✓ Deep Ocean Mission: Deep-sea exploration & biodiversity.
- ✓ Bhavasagara: National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna at CMLRE.