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THE HINDU

Current Affairs Analysis

Daily Editorial & News Digest for UPSC / State PSC

14 August 2026

Compiled by **Sapna Chauhan**

5 TOPICS · 2 MAINS · 10 PRELIMS MCQS

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Contents

1	Goods Exports Surge 20% as India Diversifies Trade <i>External sector, trade & balance of payments</i>	GS III
2	Sexual History of Survivors in Rape Trials <i>Gender, judiciary & criminal-justice reform</i>	GS II
3	Seven-Judge Bench on Legislative Privileges <i>Legislature vs judiciary; free speech</i>	GS II
4	The Constitutional Limits on Arrest <i>Fundamental Rights (Articles 21 & 22)</i>	GS II
5	Europe's AI Rules May Become India's Opportunity <i>EU AI Act, India–EU FTA & technology</i>	GS II/III

★ HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

- ▶ Each topic opens with a “Why in News” box, the original **Hindu clipping**, crisp **key-highlight notes**, a gold ★ **static / fact box** and a **Syllabus Linkage** strip.
- ▶ Attempt the **2 Mains questions** before revising; then test recall with the **10 Prelims MCQs** and the answer key with rationale.
- ▶ Bold text marks **high-yield facts** — dates, article numbers, case names and figures most likely to be tested.

TODAY'S EDITION AT A GLANCE — QUICK REVISION

- **Trade (July 2026):** exports **\$44.2 bn (+19.6%)**, imports **\$76.2 bn (+17.5%)**, trade deficit widened to **\$15 bn**; exports to China up **65%**, Tanzania up **130%**.
- **Rape trials:** Sec 155(4) IEA repealed **2003**; Criminal Law (Amendment) Act **2013** added proviso to Sec 146 (Sec 149, BSA); *Gurmit Singh (1996)* — sole testimony can convict.
- **Legislative privileges:** Articles **105 / 194** (free speech & immunity), **122 / 212** (no judicial review of procedure); case referred to a **7-judge Bench**, hearing from **Oct 6**.
- **Arrest:** *Vihaan Kumar (2025)* — must inform grounds (Art 22(1)); *Arnesh Kumar (2014)* — arrest an exception below **7 yrs**; Golden Triangle = Arts **14, 19, 21**.
- **EU AI Act:** applicable **Aug 2, 2026**; risk-based; Article **43** conformity assessment; extraterritorial; India could leverage the **India–EU FTA** as a compliance gateway.

01 Goods Exports Surge 20% as India Diversifies Trade

GS PAPER III

Economy

External Sector

Page 1

WHY IN NEWS

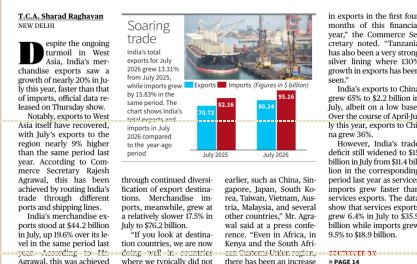
Official data released on August 14 show India's merchandise exports grew nearly 20% in July 2026 — faster than imports — as the country diversified export destinations and re-routed West Asia trade through different ports and shipping lines amid the regional crisis.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- India's **merchandise exports stood at \$44.2 billion** in July 2026, **up 19.6%** over the same month last year; imports grew a slower **17.5% to \$76.2 billion**. Commerce Secretary **Rajesh Agrawal** credited continued **diversification of export destinations**.
- Despite West Asian turmoil, **exports to West Asia recovered** — July's exports to the region were nearly **9% higher** year-on-year, achieved by routing trade through **different ports and shipping lines**.
- India is now doing well in markets where it typically did not before — **China, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, Austria, Malaysia** and others. In Africa, exports to **Kenya and the South African Customs Union** rose; **Tanzania** saw a **130% surge**.
- Exports to China grew 65% to \$2.2 billion** in July (on a low base); over April–July, exports to China grew **36%**.
- However, the **trade deficit widened to \$15 billion** in July (from \$11.4 billion a year ago), as **services imports grew faster than services exports** — services exports rose **6.4% to \$35.9 billion** while imports grew **9.5% to \$18.9 billion**.

Goods exports surge 20% as India diversifies trade

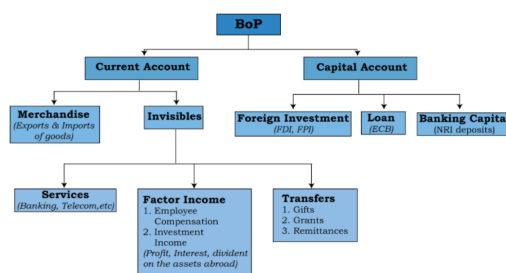
India's exports to West Asia recovered in July amid the crisis after re-routing shipping lines, says Commerce Secretary; trade deficit, however, widens as service exports grow slower than imports



The Hindu, 14 August 2026 — India's total exports for July 2026 grew 13.31% over July 2025; imports grew 15.83%.

★ BALANCE OF PAYMENTS — STATIC LINKAGE

- BoP** records all economic transactions between residents of a country and the rest of the world; it has a **Current Account** and a **Capital Account**.
- Current Account:** merchandise (goods) trade + **invisibles** — services, factor income (compensation, investment income) and transfers (gifts, grants, remittances).
- Capital Account:** foreign investment (**FDI, FPI**), loans (**ECBs**) and banking capital (**NRI deposits**).
- Trade deficit** = imports of goods exceed exports; a persistent widening is financed through the capital account.



Balance of Payments (BoP) — structure of the Current and Capital Accounts.

SYLLABUS LINKAGE

GS-III: Indian economy — issues relating to planning, mobilisation of resources, growth; effects of liberalisation; India's external sector, balance of payments and trade diversification.

02 Sexual History of Survivors Continues to Shadow Rape Trials: Experts

GS PAPER II

Polity

Women & Vulnerable Sections

Page 4

WHY IN NEWS

The Bombay High Court's August 6 ruling — reversing former Tehelka editor Tarun Tejpal's 2013 acquittal — flagged an 'invasive, humiliating cross-examination' about the survivor's sexual history, exposing how such questioning persists in rape trials despite a statutory bar.

Sexual history of survivors continues to shadow rape trials: experts

Varadachari Bhaskar

NEW DELHI

The Bombay High Court's decision that the survivor was subjected to an "invasive, humiliating cross-examination" about her sexual history in its August 6 ruling reversing former Tehelka editor Tarun Tejpal's acquittal in a 2013 rape and sexual assault case points to the prevalence of such questioning in rape trials despite a statutory bar, according to legal experts.

In a landmark judgment, the High Court said the trial court's "use of graphic details of the victim's past sexual history" were used to attack her credibility.

A rape survivor's sexual history was once expressly admissible as evidence under Section 146 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. The provision allowed an accused to show that the survivor was of "generally immoral character" to question her credibility or imply consent.

Although the provision was repealed in 2003 following years of criticism and recommendations for reform by the Law Commission, the practice of invoking a survivor's sexual history continues to cast shadows over rape trials, experts pointed out.

Statutory bar

According to advocate Neeraj Kumar, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 incorporated general statutory recognition to SC principles against stereotyping survivors, and inserted a proviso to Section 146 (Section 149, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam) barring cross-examination on a victim's "previous sexual experience" to prove consent.

The right to a fair trial

under Article 21 of the Constitution mandates that cases should be decided on facts and not stereotypes, acquittals based on such prejudices erode public faith in the justice system," he Kumar said.

Legal scholar Prof

Pratishtha Bhat said in the landmark judgment, the court said that the statutory bar "barring questions that allude to a survivor's character or sexual history



In the Tarun Tejpal conviction case, the trial court's 'silence' striking as details of the victim's past sexual history were used to attack her credibility

disapproval" of trial courts casting a "shadow on the character" of the prosecutrix. Despite this, the said, survivors are often disbelieved or given little weight in their statements, leading to reporting the offence, or their conduct before and after the assault.

Shaping decisions

Such stereotypes can also influence sentencing. In the 2017 empirical study, in Orissa, discrimination and the Rule of Law

Referring Rape Survivors to India, legal scholar

Mrinal Satish found that stereotypes about a survivor's conduct often shaped sentencing decisions.

The study found that judicial discretion allowed

social assumptions about women's behaviour to influence outcomes, including reduced sentences for men convicted of raping women perceived as "loose" or "immoral".

A positive approach to

sexual violence, without accompanying institutional reforms, will allow "rape myths" about a survivor's character to continue to shadow rape trials, advocate Bhaskar said.

"Victims often find the testimony of a survivor believable only when she fits their imagination of a 'good woman' — one who conforms to notions of chastity, has visible physical injuries, and reports the offence immediately. Regular sensitisation and training of stakeholders is essential to address these deeply entrenched prejudices," he said.

Mr. Chugh said the Supreme Court's new handbook on enhancing gender sensitivity in the writing of judgments and conduct of proceedings in sexual offence cases is a step in the right direction. "The handbook will distinctly help ensure that survivors are not victimised by promoting more compassionate courtroom practices."

The Hindu, 14 August 2026 — Bombay HC found the trial court's 'silence' on the use of the victim's past sexual history striking.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Bombay HC found the trial court's **“noticeable silence”** striking as **“graphic details of the victim's past sexual history”** were used to attack her credibility — showing such questioning persists despite a statutory bar.
- A survivor's sexual history was once admissible under **Section 155(4), Indian Evidence Act, 1872**, letting an accused show the prosecutrix was of **“generally immoral character”** to imply consent. It was **repealed in 2003**.
- The **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013** gave statutory recognition to SC principles against stereotyping survivors, and inserted a proviso to **Section 146 (Section 149, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam)** barring cross-examination on a victim's **“previous sexual experience”** to prove consent.
- In **State of Punjab v. Gurmit Singh (1996)**, the SC held a prosecutrix's testimony, if it inspires confidence, can **on its own** sustain a conviction. The **right to a fair trial under Article 21** mandates cases be decided on **facts, not stereotypes**.
- The SC's new **handbook on gender sensitivity** in judgments is seen as a step to prevent re-victimisation and promote compassionate courtroom practices.

★ LEGAL SAFEGUARDS FOR SURVIVORS — KEY POINTS

- Section 53A & proviso to Section 146**, Evidence Act (post-2013): a victim's sexual history / character is **not relevant** to the issue of consent.
- Mrinal Satish (2017)**: judicial discretion allowed sexist assumptions to influence sentencing — lighter sentences where women were perceived as **“loose” or “immoral”**.
- Courts often find a survivor believable only when she fits the **“good woman”** stereotype — chaste, visibly injured, reporting immediately; sensitisation is essential to correct this.

SYLLABUS LINKAGE GS-II: Mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies for protection of vulnerable sections (women); role of the judiciary; issues relating to gender and criminal justice reform.

03 Seven-Judge Bench to Hear Case on Legislative Privileges from October 6

GS PAPER II

Polity

Legislature vs Judiciary

Page 14

WHY IN NEWS

A three-judge Bench headed by CJI Surya Kant has ordered that a seven-judge Constitution Bench will, from October 6, decide whether legislative privileges (Articles 105/194) can override the fundamental right to free speech (Article 19), settling a dispute dating back to a 2003 Hindu editorial.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The case dates to **April 2003**: after **The Hindu** published an editorial criticising then TN CM Jayalalithaa, the **Tamil Nadu Assembly** passed a resolution holding the comments a “**breach of privilege of the entire House**” under **Article 194** and moved to arrest five senior journalists, including then Editor **N. Ravi**.
- The journalists approached the Supreme Court and won a **stay on coercive action**. Senior advocate **Harish Salve** argued against invoking **Article 194(3)** to choke press freedom under **Article 19(1)(a)**.
- The Bench noted “**substantial questions of law**” on the interpretation of **Articles 194(3), 19 and 21** and their interplay; on Dec 8, 2004 a five-judge Bench heard that a 1959 ruling (**Pandit M.S.M. Sharma v. Shri Krishna Sharma**) and a **1964 Presidential Reference** gave contradictory opinions.
- The five-judge Bench **referred the matter to a seven-judge Bench** for an authoritative settlement of the law; it now comes up before CJI Surya Kant's Bench.
- Article 105**: freedom of speech for MPs, immunity from court proceedings for anything said/voted in Parliament, and power to define privileges by law.
- Article 194**: parallel privileges for State legislators. **Articles 122 & 212** bar courts from questioning parliamentary / State-legislature proceedings on grounds of procedural irregularity.

Seven-judge Bench to hear case concerning legislative privileges from October 6

Several petitions in the Supreme Court have raised substantial questions of law as to whether legislative privileges can override the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has said a seven-judge Constitution Bench would commence hearing from October 6 a series of long pending petitions questioning whether legislative privileges can override citizens' fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression.



A five-judge Bench had referred the case to a seven-judge Bench for an authoritative settlement of the law.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant passed the order in a case dating back to April 2003. The *Hindu* had published an editorial criticising then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha. The Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker at the time had passed a resolution in the House accusing the daily of having "distorted the proceedings of the Assembly, committed contempt to the events in the Assembly".

The resolution said the comments made in the editorial "amount to breach of privilege of the entire House" under Article 194 of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech and immunities to

Members of Legislative Assemblies. The Tamil Nadu Assembly had passed a resolution to arrest five senior journalists of the *Hindu*. Shortly after, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha sought to arrest the journalists, including N. Ravi, the then Editor of *The Hindu*, approached the top court and won a stay on any coercive action against them.

When the case came up for hearing, senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the newspaper, argued against the invocation of Article 194(3) to curtail Press freedom enshrined under Article 19(1) of the Constitution. The

larger legal issue was whether a critical speech or publication would constitute a breach of legislative privilege.

top court also examined whether a critical speech or publication would constitute a breach of legislative privilege.

Legal issue: A Division Bench of Justices Y.S. Laxmiah and B.N. Krishna Rao, on December 8, 2003, referred the issue between legislative privilege and free speech to a five-judge Constitution Bench.

The Bench had noted that the petitions and intervening applications, by journalists and the Press Council of India, raised "substantial questions of law as to the interpretation of Articles 19(1), 19 and

the interplay between these two Articles and Article 21 of the Constitution".

On December 8, 2004, the five-judge Bench heard Mr. Salve's submission that the top court had given contradictory opinions in a 1959 judgment in *Pandit M.S.M. Sharma v. Shri Krishna Sharma* and a Presidential Reference of 1964 about the interplay between free speech and the scope of legislative privileges.

The five-judge Bench had further referred the case to a seven-judge Bench for an authoritative settlement of the law.

On October 12, 2023, the Union government was impleaded as a party by a seven-judge Bench, headed by then Chief Justice of India D.V. Chandrachud, in which the current CJI, Justice Kant, was a member. The Attorney General of India was requested to assist the top court in the case.

The petitions came up again on February 2, 2024 to hear a procedural application for change of advocate-on-record. The case then came up before CJI Kant, on August 12, 2024.

The Hindu, 14 August 2026 — A five-judge Bench had referred the case to a seven-judge Bench for authoritative settlement.

★ PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES — STATIC LINKAGE

- Individual privileges**: freedom of speech (Art 105(1)); immunity from legal proceedings (Art 105(2)); freedom from arrest in civil cases during sessions and **40 days before/after** (Sec 135A, CPC).
- Collective privileges**: publication rights, rule-making authority, disciplinary powers (reprimand, suspension, expulsion), and the right to be informed of a member's arrest/release.
- Sources: **British parliamentary conventions (1947)**, statutory laws, Rules of Procedure, and judicial interpretations. A breach is referred to the **Committee of Privileges** (15 in Lok Sabha, 10 in Rajya Sabha).

SYLLABUS LINKAGE

GS-II: Parliament and State legislatures — structure, functioning, powers, privileges; separation of powers; comparison of the fundamental right to free speech with legislative privilege.

04 The Constitutional Limits on Arrest

GS PAPER II

Polity

Fundamental Rights

Editorial

WHY IN NEWS

Writing on Letter & Spirit, C.B.P. Srivastava explains how the Supreme Court has reinforced safeguards against arbitrary arrest — holding that an arrested person must be meaningfully informed of the grounds of arrest, balancing the state's power with personal liberty under Articles 21 and 22.

The constitutional limits on arrest

The Supreme Court has reinforced safeguards against arbitrary arrest, holding that an arrested person must be informed of the grounds of arrest, constitutional protection under Articles 21 & 22, along with judicial guidelines, seek to balance the state's power to arrest with individual rights to personal liberty and dignity.

LETTER & SPIRIT

The constitutionality of arrest is a subject that has been debated for decades. The Supreme Court has, in several judgments, laid down the principles that govern the exercise of this power. The most recent of these is the judgment in *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India* (1978), which established the 'Golden Triangle' of Articles 14, 19 and 21.



THE CASE

Constitutional and legal safeguards against arbitrary arrest are provided under Articles 21 and 22 of the Indian Constitution. The Supreme Court has, in several judgments, laid down the principles that govern the exercise of this power.

Arrest is a power conferred on the State by the Constitution. It is a power that is exercised by the police officers. The exercise of this power is subject to the principles laid down by the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court has, in several judgments, laid down the principles that govern the exercise of this power. The most recent of these is the judgment in *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India* (1978), which established the 'Golden Triangle' of Articles 14, 19 and 21.

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The Hindu, 14 August 2026 — SC guidelines stress that arrest should not be routine and must be justified by the necessity of the case.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- In **Vihaan Kumar v. State of Haryana (2025)**, the SC held every arrested person must be **properly and meaningfully informed** of the grounds of arrest; failure violates **Article 22(1)** and **Section 50 CrPC (Section 47, BNSS 2023)**.
- Merely informing relatives or keeping ambiguous records does **not** satisfy the requirement — the arrested person must be **directly informed** in a manner they can understand.
- If the initial arrest was unconstitutional, **subsequent remand orders are also illegal**. The **arrest memo must record the time of arrest** (Art 22(2), Section 57 CrPC / Section 58 BNSS); the person must be produced before a magistrate **within 24 hours**, excluding travel time.
- In **Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar (2014)**, the SC held arrest should be an **exception** where punishment is **under seven years**; the necessity under **Section 41 CrPC (Section 35 BNSS)** must be justified. It also condemned **degrading custody**, affirming dignity under **Article 21**.

★ THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE — STATIC LINKAGE

- Article 22** safeguards: right to be informed of grounds, right to consult and be defended by a lawyer, and production before the nearest magistrate **within 24 hours**.
- In **cognisable** offences (murder, rape) arrest is without warrant; in **non-cognisable** offences (simple hurt, defamation) a warrant is needed.
- Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)** established the **Golden Triangle** — Articles **14, 19 and 21** read together; any arbitrary arrest/detention violates this triangle.
- Preventive detention (Art 22 exceptions) traces to the British **Regulation 14-B, Defence of the Realm Act, 1914**; detention may continue three months, extendable by an Advisory Board.

SYLLABUS LINKAGE GS-II: Fundamental Rights (Articles 21 & 22); protection against arbitrary arrest and detention; landmark Supreme Court judgments; criminal-justice safeguards under BNSS.

05 Europe's AI Rules May Become India's Opportunity

GS PAPER II & III

IR & Economy

Technology

Page 10

WHY IN NEWS

With the EU's AI Act becoming applicable on August 2, 2026, its risk-based, compliance-heavy regime creates pressure on the global AI supply chain — but authors Mustafa Rajkotwala and Dhruv Jadhav argue India could build an entire industry around the paperwork, proof and conformity assessment the Act requires.

Europe's AI rules may become India's opportunity

3

The Government of India has recently indicated that it is considering a standalone legislative regime for artificial intelligence (AI). However, the pressure on the AI supply chain coming from the EU's AI Act, which will be implemented on August 2, 2026, has led to a re-evaluation of the AI regulatory landscape in India.



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Dhruv Jadhav

Senior Associate at
Dhruv Jadhav
Law Firm

not contemplated at the time of the original assessment, one that allows for compliance or other to involved parties.

In June 2024, the EU had approved a package of AI regulations, including the AI Act, which will be implemented on August 2, 2026. The AI Act is a landmark piece of legislation that will regulate AI systems across the EU.

The AI Act is a landmark piece of legislation that will regulate AI systems across the EU. It is a risk-based approach that will classify AI systems into different risk categories.

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paperwork and proof. Most providers will be prohibited from using their own data for training purposes, but they will be allowed to use data for testing and validation. The AI Act also requires providers to maintain detailed records of their AI systems and to provide transparency to users.

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The Hindu, 14 August 2026 — India could build an industry around the compliance, testing and conformity assessment the EU AI Act needs.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The **EU AI Act** entered into force in **August 2024** and became **applicable on August 2, 2026**. It takes a **risk-based approach** — prohibiting certain AI systems, regulating high-risk ones, and imposing lighter checks for limited-risk uses.
- Before a **“high-risk”** AI system (used for hiring, education, etc.) can enter the EU market, it must clear a **“conformity assessment”** under **Article 43** — proof it meets standards on testing, documentation and human oversight. Most providers **self-assess**; only a narrow set (mainly biometric tools) need an independent body.
- If a system is **“substantially modified”** the assessment must be repeated — a mismatch with India's IT industry, which continuously **updates AI post-approval**; firms modifying someone else's high-risk system become the **“provider”** and inherit its obligations.
- The opportunity: high-risk compliance runs on **paperwork and proof** — governance, technical documentation, testing regimes — generating demand for **quality legal and technical professionals**, an Indian strength.
- The Act also lets **third-country conformity-assessment bodies** be recognised as notified bodies where the EU has an agreement. The **India–EU FTA** (concluded January) has regulatory-cooperation provisions India could leverage to **perform recognised conformity functions**.

★ EU AI ACT — STATIC LINKAGE

- ▶ **Risk tiers:** unacceptable (banned), **high-risk** (strict conformity), limited-risk (transparency), and minimal-risk.
- ▶ **Extraterritorial reach:** the Act applies whenever an AI system's outputs are used in the EU, regardless of where the provider sits.
- ▶ A **grandfathering clause** exempts systems already on the market before set dates (high-risk embedded products to **Aug 2, 2028**) until substantially modified.
- ▶ India is separately considering a **standalone AI law**; the article argues aligning with EU compliance could turn India into a **global compliance gateway**.

SYLLABUS LINKAGE

GS-II & III: Effect of policies of developed countries on India; bilateral agreements (India–EU FTA); awareness in the field of IT and emerging technology; regulation of Artificial Intelligence.

ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Mains Questions

1

15 Marks · 250 Words

GS Paper II

Despite a statutory bar, a rape survivor's sexual history continues to shadow her trial. Examine the legal safeguards against such questioning and discuss why judicial sensitisation is essential to prevent the re-victimisation of survivors.

2

15 Marks · 250 Words

GS Paper III

“The European Union's AI Act, though a compliance burden, presents India with an economic opportunity.” In light of the Act's risk-based, conformity-assessment framework, analyse how India can position itself as a global AI-compliance hub.

MODEL ANSWER STRUCTURE

★ Q1 — SURVIVOR'S SEXUAL HISTORY

- ▶ **Intro:** Bombay HC's Aug 6 Tejpal ruling — “invasive, humiliating” cross-examination.
- ▶ **Law:** repeal of Sec 155(4) in 2003; 2013 amendment; proviso to Sec 146 / Sec 149 BSA; Article 21 fair trial.
- ▶ **Problem:** “good woman” stereotype; sexist assumptions in sentencing (Mrinal Satish, 2017).
- ▶ **Way ahead:** SC gender-sensitivity handbook, training, institutional reform.

★ Q2 — EU AI ACT & INDIA

- ▶ **Intro:** AI Act applicable Aug 2, 2026; risk-based tiers; Article 43 conformity assessment.
- ▶ **Challenge:** “substantial modification” clash with India's continuous-update IT model.
- ▶ **Opportunity:** paperwork, testing, notified bodies; India–EU FTA regulatory cooperation.
- ▶ **Conclusion:** align a standalone Indian AI law to become a compliance gateway.

VALUE ADDITION — FACTS, DATA & KEYWORDS TO QUOTE

- **Q1 keywords:** “noticeable silence”, re-victimisation, “good woman” stereotype, right to fair trial (Art 21), Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam Sec 149, SC gender-sensitivity handbook; cite *Tarun Tejpal* and *Gurmit Singh (1996)*.
- **Q1 balance:** weigh survivor dignity against the accused's right to a fair defence; note conviction can rest on the sole testimony of a credible prosecutrix.
- **Q2 data:** AI Act in force Aug 2024, applicable Aug 2, 2026; grandfathering for embedded high-risk products to **Aug 2, 2028**; extraterritorial reach; self-assessment vs independent (biometric) checks.
- **Q2 dimensions:** economic (services exports, jobs for legal/technical talent), diplomatic (India–EU FTA, mutual recognition of notified bodies), regulatory (need for a standalone Indian AI law aligned to global standards).
- **Conclusion line:** “There is a version of these rules where the compliance India fears becomes the work it sells.” — frame regulation as opportunity, not merely burden.

TEST YOUR RECALL

Prelims MCQs

Q1. With reference to India's merchandise trade in July 2026, consider the following statements:

1. Merchandise exports grew faster than merchandise imports.
2. The trade deficit narrowed compared with the year-ago period.
3. Exports to West Asia recorded a year-on-year increase.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 and 2 only | (b) 1 and 3 only |
| (c) 2 and 3 only | (d) 1, 2 and 3 |

Q2. In the context of India's Balance of Payments (BoP), which of the following are part of the Current Account?

1. Merchandise trade in goods
2. Remittances from abroad
3. External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)
4. Income from investments abroad

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| (a) 1, 2 and 4 only | (b) 1 and 3 only |
| (c) 2, 3 and 4 only | (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4 |

Q3. The provision that once made a rape survivor's "generally immoral character" admissible to imply consent, later repealed in 2003, was:

- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) Section 53A of the Indian Evidence Act | (b) Section 155(4) of the Indian Evidence Act |
| (c) Section 146 of the Indian Evidence Act | (d) Section 375 of the IPC |

Q4. With reference to parliamentary and legislative privileges, consider the following statements:

1. Article 105 grants MPs freedom of speech and immunity from court proceedings for anything said in Parliament.
2. Article 194 extends similar privileges to members of State legislatures.
3. Articles 122 and 212 bar courts from questioning legislative proceedings on grounds of procedural irregularity.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 and 2 only | (b) 2 and 3 only |
| (c) 1 and 3 only | (d) 1, 2 and 3 |

Q5. The 2003 dispute now referred to a seven-judge Bench on legislative privileges arose from a resolution passed by the:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| (a) Kerala Legislative Assembly | (b) Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly |
| (c) Lok Sabha | (d) Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly |

TEST YOUR RECALL

Prelims MCQs (contd.)

Q6. The Committee of Privileges in Parliament consists of:

1. 15 members in the Lok Sabha
2. 10 members in the Rajya Sabha
3. Members nominated by the President

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 and 2 only | (b) 2 and 3 only |
| (c) 1 and 3 only | (d) 1, 2 and 3 |

Q7. The Supreme Court judgment holding that every arrested person must be meaningfully informed of the grounds of arrest under Article 22(1) is:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (a) Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar (2014) | (b) D.K. Basu v. State of West Bengal (1997) |
| (c) Vihaan Kumar v. State of Haryana (2025) | (d) Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978) |

Q8. The “Golden Triangle” of the Indian Constitution, referenced in arrest jurisprudence, comprises:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) Articles 14, 19 and 21 | (b) Articles 19, 21 and 22 |
| (c) Articles 14, 21 and 32 | (d) Articles 15, 19 and 21 |

Q9. With reference to the Arnesh Kumar (2014) guidelines, consider the following:

1. Arrest should be an exception where the offence is punishable with less than seven years.
2. The necessity of arrest must be justified under Section 41 CrPC (Section 35 BNSS).
3. An arrested person must be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours, excluding travel time.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 and 2 only | (b) 2 and 3 only |
| (c) 1 and 3 only | (d) 1, 2 and 3 |

Q10. With reference to the EU Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act, consider the following statements:

1. It became applicable on August 2, 2026.
2. It adopts a risk-based approach, imposing the strictest requirements on high-risk systems.
3. It applies only to AI providers established within the European Union.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 and 2 only | (b) 2 and 3 only |
| (c) 1 and 3 only | (d) 1, 2 and 3 |

SELF-ASSESSMENT

Answer Key & Rationale

CORRECT OPTIONS

Q1

(b)

Q2

(a)

Q3

(b)

Q4

(d)

Q5

(b)

Q6

(a)

Q7

(c)

Q8

(a)

Q9

(d)

Q10

(a)

EXPLANATIONS

- **Q1 — Option (b).** Exports grew 19.6% vs imports 17.5%, and West Asia exports rose ~9%. The trade deficit widened to \$15 bn, so 2 is incorrect.
- **Q2 — Option (a).** ECBs are loans under the Capital Account. Goods, transfers (remittances) and factor income are Current Account items.
- **Q3 — Option (b).** Section 155(4) of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 was repealed in 2003; the 2013 amendment added the proviso to Section 146.
- **Q4 — Option (d).** All three are correct — Articles 105, 194, and 122/212 respectively.
- **Q5 — Option (b).** The Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a resolution against The Hindu and moved to arrest five of its journalists in 2003.
- **Q6 — Option (a).** The Committee has 15 members (Lok Sabha) and 10 (Rajya Sabha), nominated by the Speaker/Chairman — not the President.
- **Q7 — Option (c).** Vihaan Kumar v. State of Haryana (2025) held that failure to inform violates Article 22(1) and Section 50 CrPC / Section 47 BNSS.
- **Q8 — Option (a).** Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978) established the interrelation of Articles 14, 19 and 21 as the Golden Triangle.
- **Q9 — Option (d).** All three are correct — these follow from Armesh Kumar and the constitutional provisions on arrest.
- **Q10 — Option (a).** The Act is extraterritorial — it applies whenever an AI system's outputs are used in the EU, so 3 is incorrect.