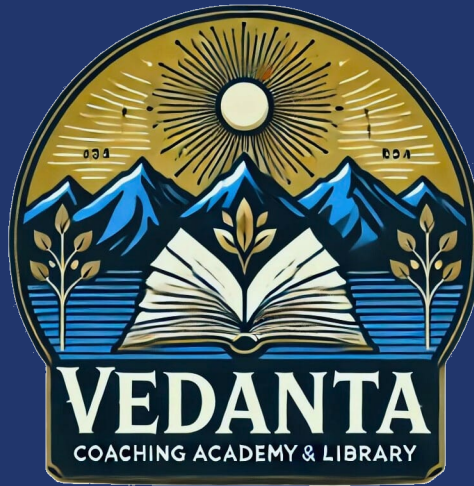




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The Hindu Analysis

UPSC Civil Services · HPAS / HAS · State PSCs

Friday, 9 October 2026

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GS 2 PAGE 8 POLITY · ELECTIONS

Flawed by Design? The SIR of Electoral Rolls

An op-ed argues the Special Intensive Revision has turned an inclusion exercise into a citizenship-style test for voters

WHY IN NEWS

An Opinion piece by Srinivasan Ramani and Pon Vasanth B.A. argues that the ECI's **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls, upheld by the Supreme Court in May 2026, has struck **13.37 crore** names off draft rolls across 30 States/UTs and shifted the burden of proving eligibility on to electors.

Flawed by design, exclusionary in impact

For more than 75 years, the defining preoccupation of the Election Commission of India (ECI) has been “inclusion”. The first general election of 1951-52 had to enrol an electorate of around 17 crore from scratch, many of whom were illiterate. Successive Commissioners treated universal adult franchise as a promise to be fulfilled rather than just a principle to be stated on paper. India could genuinely be proud of being an electoral democracy where voter turnout among the poor is higher than that among the rich, unlike in many western democracies.

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls launched by the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, Gyanesh Kumar, has reversed this progressive direction. It was termed an exercise to “purify” the electoral rolls, but in practice, it is riddled with methodological flaws and *ad hoc* rule changes, resulting in the deletion of a large number of genuine voters.

The names of 13.37 crore people were struck off during the draft stage across 30 States and Union Territories in the three phases of the SIR. The figure includes 65 lakh in Bihar, 6.57 crore in the 12 States and Union Territories covered in Phase 2, and 6.15 crore in Phase 3, whose final rolls are yet to be published. The deletion rate doubled as SIR progressed – from 8.3% in Bihar to 12.9% in Phase 2 and 17% in Phase 3 (it was 32.8% in Delhi and 21.7% in Telangana). In Phases 1 and 2, even after names were added back, net deletions were about 6.2 crore.

In Delhi, the draft roll has only 97.54 lakh electors, barely above the 94.95 lakh who voted in the February 2025 Assembly election. In 24 of Delhi's 70 constituencies, the draft roll now has fewer electors than the number who voted in the election. The ECI has in effect conceded the point about disenfranchisement. It has now directed officials to run a “special drive” to enrol anyone “whose name has got left out” – an implicit admission that its rolls are missing eligible voters.

Flaws by design

First, enumeration. The ECI's Manual on Electoral Rolls (2023) describes an intensive revision as a “denovo process without reference to the earlier existing roll” (paragraph 9.3.1); enumerators visit every house and record the particulars of each eligible resident. If a particular elector's citizenship is in doubt, the Manual requires officials to give “probative value” (paragraph 7.4.2) to their presence on the preceding roll, and places the onus on the objector and not the elector.

The SIR inverts this procedure. It shifts enumeration on to electors and presumes that they are ineligible until they can trace themselves or a parent to the last intensive revision conducted more than two decades ago, or produce documents to establish their eligibility in what resembles a citizenship test.

Electors who could not be found, did not receive or return the form, or were unable to fill it – due to illiteracy, for example – were dropped from the draft roll, even if they had voted in the



Srinivasan Ramani



Pon Vasanth B.A.

The Gyanesh Kumar-led Election Commission of India, emboldened by a deferential Supreme Court judgment, has already disenfranchised lakhs of genuine electors through its Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and risks excluding many more

last election. All this was done at breakneck speed, on the eve of elections in several States.

Second, re-entry. A deleted voter cannot be easily restored, even if he or she has merely shifted address within the constituency. They must apply through Form 6 – the application for new voters – as though they had never been on the rolls. Since newly eligible 18-year-olds also use Form 6, the ECI has made it impossible to distinguish new voters from returning voters in the published figures, preventing a proper audit.

Third, “logical discrepancies”. Software matched electors against two-decade-old rolls and flagged mismatches for scrutiny. These included spelling differences, more than six voters linked to one ancestor, and parent-child age gaps outside 15 to 45 years, among other arbitrary criteria.

This was first fully applied in West Bengal, where 60 lakh names were flagged and judicial officers deployed by the Supreme Court of India struck off 27 lakh names. Appellate tribunals appointed since then have restored electors in 93% of the cases, bringing back about one lakh names onto the rolls. But by early September – months after the Assembly election – they had disposed of only 1.22 lakh of more than 38 lakh appeals, or 3.2%. Moreover, 16.1 lakh appeals were filed to remove electors whom judicial officers had found eligible. Who authorised this on the ECI's behalf remains unanswered. Meanwhile, another 19.33 lakh electors on Delhi's draft rolls have been flagged for “logical discrepancies”.

Fourth, centralisation. Changes to the rolls increasingly flow through the Electoral Roll Officers' Network (ERONet) database, overriding Electoral Registration Officers, who are the statutory authorities on eligibility. State election officials have complained that they cannot see centrally made changes to the rolls in their own constituencies.

Fifth, lack of a baseline. Without the latest Census – which has been delayed by the Centre – there is no firm population baseline to check the rolls. The ECI also dismisses projected population figures as mere estimates. For example, in Tamil Nadu, the final roll of 5.67 crore is about 33 lakh short of the projected 6.02 crore.

The impact of these flaws was drastic but varied across States. In Bihar, where migration for work is overwhelmingly male, more women than men were struck off the rolls, particularly those aged 18-29 years and recorded as “permanently shifted”. The gender ratio in the final SIR rolls fell to 892 from 907 in the 2024 Lok Sabha rolls.

In West Bengal, statistical analyses by the Kolkata-based SABAR Institute, a public policy and research organisation, estimated that 65% of those deleted after adjudication for “logical discrepancies” were Muslims, despite Muslims accounting for roughly 27% of the State's population.

A deferential Court

For months, the Court confined itself to managerial interventions on the SIR. It ruled only

on May 27, after Phase 2 had ended and Phase 3 was notified, upholding the SIR.

Legal scholars have raised three broad substantive objections to the judgment. First, Section 21(3) permits a special revision “for any constituency or part of a constituency” – an exceptional and targeted power. Yet, the Court allowed the ECI to use it for a State-wide exercise, freeing it from the Registration of Electors Rules governing ordinary revisions.

Second, rather than asking whether a less harmful method, such as door-to-door verification and enrolment, could achieve the same objective, the Court asked only whether the SIR was “manifestly excessive”.

Third, the Court sidestepped its own three-judge ruling in *Lal Babu Hussein* (1995), which struck down a “sweeping” revision that demanded citizenship documents from nearly 18,000 residents of Delhi's Matia Mahal. The ruling, also incorporated into the ECI's Manual, held that a name on the electoral roll is presumed valid and can be removed only after notice and a hearing.

Essentially, the Court found that disenfranchisement was not “widespread or systemic” enough to warrant intervention, without specifying what would matter instead. The judgment emboldened the ECI to proceed with the flawed SIR in Phase 3, where deletions have risen sharply.

Dissent from within

Reports revealed that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi recorded at least 14 objections between October 2025 and August 2026. One concerned Form 6 being altered, without amending the rules, requiring applicants to state whether they or their parents or grandparents appeared on the “last SIR” roll. The ECI's response to the revelations was mere window-dressing with some administrative changes. As the two Commissioners constituted a majority, they should have used it to stop these decisions, but did not.

The Court is now hearing petitions concerning West Bengal and Delhi, as well as pleas seeking the CEC's suspension over the ECI's conduct. It should use these proceedings to revisit its judgment on review or before a Constitution Bench. It should halt the SIR and order an audit of rolls finalised so far before any further deletions. Enumeration should return to door-to-door verification by Booth Level Officers, while States going to the polls soon should use their pre-SIR rolls, updated with fresh enrolments.

Anything less would endorse a process that professes time and again that no eligible elector will be left out while patently doing the opposite. It has removed more than a lakh genuine voters for certain, and possibly crores. The ECI, built to widen India's adult franchise, has instead spent more than a year narrowing it.

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Source: The Hindu, Page 8

- ◆ **Legacy of inclusion:** For over 75 years the ECI's defining concern was inclusion. The first general election (1951–52) enrolled about 17 crore voters from scratch, many illiterate, and India became a democracy where turnout among the poor exceeds that among the rich.

- ◆ **Scale of deletions:** The 13.37 crore figure includes 65 lakh in Bihar, 6.57 crore in Phase 2 (12 States/UTs) and 6.15 crore in Phase 3. Deletion rates rose from 8.3% (Bihar) to 12.9% (Phase 2) and 17% (Phase 3), touching 32.8% in Delhi. Net deletions in Phases 1–2 were still about 6.2 crore.
- ◆ **Delhi signal:** Delhi's draft roll has only 97.54 lakh electors, barely above the 94.95 lakh who voted in the February 2025 Assembly election; in 24 of 70 constituencies the roll is smaller than the number who voted.
- ◆ **Flaw 1 – Enumeration inverted:** The ECI's own Manual on Electoral Rolls (2023) calls intensive revision a *de novo* door-to-door process with the onus on the objector. SIR presumes ineligibility until a voter traces self or parent to the last intensive revision (two decades old) or produces documents, resembling a citizenship test.
- ◆ **Flaw 2 – Re-entry:** A deleted voter must reapply through Form 6 (meant for new voters), so returning voters cannot be separated from genuinely new 18-year-olds, preventing an audit.
- ◆ **Flaw 3 – 'Logical discrepancies':** Software matching against two-decade-old rolls flagged spelling variations, six-plus voters linked to one ancestor and parent–child age gaps outside 15–45 years. In West Bengal over 60 lakh names were flagged; 27 lakh were struck off by judicial officers, while appellate tribunals restored 93% of the cases decided so far.
- ◆ **Flaw 4 – Centralisation:** Changes flow through the ERONet database, overriding the statutory **Electoral Registration Officers (EROs)**, who say they cannot correct rolls in their own constituencies.
- ◆ **Flaw 5 – No baseline:** With the Census delayed, there is no firm population baseline; Tamil Nadu's final roll (5.67 crore) is about 33 lakh short of the projected 6.02 crore.
- ◆ **Uneven impact:** More women than men were deleted where migration is male-dominated (Bihar); the gender ratio in final SIR rolls fell to 892 from 907 in the 2024 Lok Sabha rolls. Young voters (18–29) were often marked 'permanently shifted'.
- ◆ **A deferential Court:** The authors argue the May 27 judgment (i) let a targeted power under **Section 21(3)** be used State-wide, (ii) tested only whether SIR was 'manifestly excessive' instead of asking for a less harmful method, and (iii) sidestepped the three-judge ruling in **Lal Babu Hussein (1995)** that a name on the roll is presumed valid.
- ◆ **Dissent within:** Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi reportedly recorded at least 14 objections between October 2025 and August 2026. The authors urge review or a Constitution Bench, a halt and audit, and a return to BLO door-to-door verification.

VALUE ADDITION: ELECTORAL ROLLS – THE LEGAL FRAME

- ◆ **Article 324:** superintendence, direction and control of preparation of electoral rolls vests in the ECI.
- ◆ **Article 325:** one general roll per constituency; no one excluded only on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.
- ◆ **Article 326:** elections on the basis of adult suffrage, every **citizen** aged 18+ not otherwise disqualified. Voting age cut from 21 to 18 by the **61st Amendment Act, 1988**.
- ◆ **RP Act, 1950:** S.13B – ERO prepares rolls; S.16 – disqualifications for registration (incl. non-citizens); S.21(2) – intensive or summary revision; S.21(3) – special revision 'for any constituency or part'.
- ◆ **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960:** Form 6 – inclusion; Form 7 – objection/deletion; Form 8 – correction/shifting.

- ◆ **The other view:** The ECI frames SIR as cleaning rolls of deceased, duplicate, shifted and ineligible entries, and Article 326 itself limits franchise to citizens. The debate is about method and burden of proof, not the goal of accurate rolls.

PRELIMS POINTERS

13.37 crore draft deletions

Gender ratio 907 → 892

S.21(3) RP Act 1950

Lal Babu Hussein (1995)

ERONet

Form 6 / 7 / 8

SYLLABUS LINK · GS 2 – Salient features of the Representation of People's Act; appointment, powers and functions of constitutional bodies (ECI); role of the judiciary.



GS 2, 3 PAGE 8 ECONOMY · INVESTMENT

Calibrating India's Inbound Investment Framework

Record FDI and a new FTA push, but turning commitments into projects needs Centre–State administrative reform

WHY IN NEWS

Writing after the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, Bharat Joshi argues that India's record FDI inflows of **\$94.8 billion (FY26)** and its rise to **11th** among global FDI destinations must now be matched by fixing internal, State-level bottlenecks that delay actual project deployment.

Calibrating India's inbound investment framework

Following the successful 18th BRICS Summit, in New Delhi in September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's planned December visits to Canada and Brussels, where formal free trade agreements (FTAs) are expected to be signed, signal consistency in institutionalising India's global economic footprint. The trade push, alongside domestic structural reforms and a new FTA strategy, has changed India's investment trajectory. Reserve Bank of India data show gross inward foreign direct investment (FDI) reached a record \$94.8 billion in FY26. UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2026 notes India as 11th among the world's top FDI destinations, following a 44% rise in inflows.

India follows global trend

However, the report reveals that globally, international project finance remains roughly a quarter below its 2021 peak, a trend India reflects. In greenfield data centre investments (a focal sector across economic partnerships), India attracted approximately \$7 billion during the first three quarters of 2025. While this placed India within the top 10, it trailed Thailand and Spain, and sat substantially behind South Korea's \$21 billion, the United States's \$29 billion, and France's \$69 billion. What creates this lag between committed investment and its actual deployment in greenfield projects, particularly in India?

Investors believe incremental reform can ease the challenges behind this lag. In some ways, the remaining 'negotiations' will be internal – between the Centre and States, between the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and line Ministries, or between central rules and State notifications needed to enforce policy. Crucially, resolving these operational bottlenecks would benefit domestic enterprises as much as foreign investors. Commercial dispute resolution is faster



Bharat Joshi

Director, ACTL, a logistics company, and the CEO of J Curve Ventures, an advisory firm

Turning investment commitments into projects requires tackling State-level administrative bottlenecks

than before, but India's courts still had nearly 48 million pending cases as of April, including about six million in High Courts. Reforms such as the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 and the Mediation Act, 2023 have helped, with institutional arbitration increasingly becoming the corporate default. Smaller enterprises, however, still rely on courts. Better staffing of commercial benches and mediation centres remains essential to reducing resolution times.

On the labour codes

This fragmentation is also mirrored in the rollout of the landmark labour codes. Parliament's consolidation of 29 central labour laws into four codes was a legislative milestone, with the Central Rules notified in May 2026. But since labour is on the Concurrent List, implementation depends on State notifications. Gujarat moved swiftly to notify rules under all four codes, while other industrial States are finalising theirs. For enterprises designing national human resource frameworks, this necessitates managing a messy transitional phase of varied State timelines.

On tax certainty, the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 effectively ended the ghost of retrospective tax disputes by withdrawing outstanding demands against entities such as Vodafone and Cairn Energy. The relaunch of the Vivad se Vishwas scheme has also helped reduce the broader direct-tax litigation backlog.

Compliance, however, has required recalibration. Mandatory BIS certification under Quality Control Orders (QCOs) was designed to safeguard consumers, but the framework expanded extensively. The Gauba Committee found QCOs had grown from fewer than 70 to nearly 790, covering raw materials and intermediate goods. For imported components, compliance costs rose to ₹20 lakh, with six- to eight-month certification timelines disrupting domestic MSME supply chains. In response, the

government withdrew QCOs on critical intermediate goods, including PVC, aluminium and zinc, providing relief to manufacturers.

India's modern trade pacts now introduce binding investment targets. The EFTA agreement sets a historic \$100-billion target, but investor-protection mechanisms remain a work in progress. As the India-EFTA TEPA lacks an independent bilateral investment dispute mechanism, Switzerland is separately negotiating a bilateral investment treaty. This could inform negotiations with the EU and the U.K.

Further, speeds remain uneven. The DPIIT is the nodal agency but not the decision-maker on approvals. A revised SOP issued in May 2026 sets a 12-week deadline, but compliance remains uneven. However, large-scale projects such as Tata Electronics' semiconductor facility in Dholera, Gujarat, demonstrate how effective administrative coordination can accelerate capital deployment.

Reform lessons from successes

India's reform agenda can draw lessons from past successes. Singapore's CECA has facilitated over \$195 billion in cumulative FDI since 2000, including \$19.8 billion last year. Its non-discrimination and investor-protection frameworks are a useful blueprint for treaty negotiations. Domestically, the mobile-phone industry shows the potential of coordinated policy: production has grown 33-fold since FY15, from ₹180 billion to ₹6.27 trillion, while exports reached ₹2.59 trillion. India is now the world's second-largest mobile-phone manufacturer by volume and meets 99.2% of domestic demand through local production.

India's rise to the 11th-largest FDI destination and the world's second-largest mobile-phone manufacturer reflects its resolve in addressing internal governance bottlenecks. These achievements underscore the long-term benefits of sustained institutional reform and free trade.

Source: The Hindu, Page 8

- ◆ **Trade push:** PM Modi's planned December visits to Canada and Brussels, where formal FTAs are expected to be signed, signal consistency in institutionalising India's global economic footprint.
- ◆ **Record inflows:** RBI data show gross inward FDI of \$94.8 bn in FY26; UNCTAD's **World Investment Report 2026** ranks India 11th after a 44% rise in inflows.
- ◆ **Global trend:** International project finance is still about a quarter below its 2021 peak. In greenfield data-centre investment India drew about \$7 bn in the first three quarters of 2025, within the top 10 but behind Thailand, Spain, South Korea (\$21 bn), the US (\$29 bn) and France (\$69 bn).
- ◆ **Internal 'negotiations':** The lag lies between the Centre and States, between DPIIT and line Ministries, and between central rules and State notifications. Fixing these helps domestic firms as much as foreign investors.
- ◆ **Courts:** About 4.8 crore (48 million) cases were pending in April, about 60 lakh in High Courts. The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 and Mediation Act, 2023 have helped; institutional arbitration is now the corporate default, but smaller firms still depend on courts.
- ◆ **Labour codes:** 29 central laws were consolidated into four codes with Central Rules notified in May 2026, but since labour is on the **Concurrent List**, implementation depends on State notifications. Gujarat moved swiftly; others are still finalising.
- ◆ **Tax certainty:** The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 ended retrospective tax disputes (Vodafone, Cairn); the relaunched Vivad se Vishwas scheme cut direct-tax litigation.
- ◆ **QCO overreach:** BIS Quality Control Orders grew from under 70 to about 790. The **Gauba Committee** found compliance costs up to ₹20 lakh and 6–8 month certification timelines; QCOs on PVC, aluminium and zinc were withdrawn.
- ◆ **Binding investment targets:** The India–EFTA TEPA sets a \$100-bn investment target, but lacks an independent investor–State dispute mechanism, so Switzerland is negotiating a separate bilateral investment treaty.
- ◆ **Uneven speed:** DPIIT is the nodal agency but not the decision-maker on approvals; a May 2026 SOP sets a 12-week deadline, yet compliance is uneven. Tata Electronics' semiconductor fab at Dholera shows what coordination can achieve.
- ◆ **Lessons:** Singapore's CECA has brought over \$195 bn in FDI since 2000 (\$19.8 bn last year). Mobile-phone production grew 33-fold since FY15, from ₹180 bn to ₹6.27 trillion, with exports of ₹2.59 trillion; India meets 99.2% of domestic demand locally.

VALUE ADDITION: FDI ARCHITECTURE

- ◆ **FDI routes:** Automatic route (no prior approval) and Government route (approval by the administrative Ministry; DPIIT runs the Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal).
- ◆ **Press Note 3 (2020):** FDI from countries sharing a land border with India needs Government approval.
- ◆ **Legal base:** FEMA, 1999 and the FEM (Non-Debt Instruments) Rules, 2019; RBI compiles FDI data.
- ◆ **India–EFTA TEPA:** signed March 2024 with Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein; \$100 bn investment and 10 lakh direct jobs targeted over 15 years.
- ◆ **Labour codes:** Code on Wages (2019), Industrial Relations Code, Social Security Code and Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code (2020).
- ◆ **World Investment Report:** published annually by UNCTAD (Geneva).

PRELIMS POINTERS

FDI \$94.8 bn (FY26)

India 11th – WIR 2026

EFTA \$100 bn target

QCOs ~790

Gauba Committee

Dholera fab

SYLLABUS LINK · GS 3 – Indian economy, mobilisation of resources, investment models; effects of liberalisation. GS 2 – Centre–State relations, bilateral agreements.



GS 2 PAGE 14 HEALTH · SOCIAL SECTOR

JOSH Teams to Accelerate TB Elimination

NCC cadets and MY Bharat volunteers join household-level active case finding

WHY IN NEWS

Health Minister J.P. Nadda launched **JOSH (Joint Squad for Health)** teams under the **TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan**, deploying NCC and MY Bharat youth volunteers for door-to-door TB outreach in **55 districts across 11 States/UTs**.

- ◆ **Missing cases:** The Union Health Ministry is using youth volunteers to find people with TB who are missing from the health system.
- ◆ **Who:** JOSH teams of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and MY Bharat volunteers.
- ◆ **Where and how:** At block and ward levels, teams will identify people with symptoms, encourage testing and support them to complete treatment.
- ◆ **Active case finding:** The emphasis is on reaching people who may be living with TB without recognising symptoms and so stay outside the formal healthcare system.
- ◆ **Why it matters:** Undiagnosed patients keep transmitting infection; early detection and treatment adherence are the two levers that break the chain and prevent drug resistance.

Govt. launches JOSH teams to accelerate TB elimination

The Union Health Ministry is engaging with youth volunteers to find people with tuberculosis (TB) who may be missing from the health system. JOSH teams of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and MY Bharat volunteers will be deployed for household-level outreach in 55 districts across 11 States and Union Territories. Health Minister J.P. Nadda launched the JOSH (Joint Squad for Health) teams under the TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan on Thursday. The teams will work at block and ward levels to identify people with symptoms, encourage testing and support so they can complete treatment. The government's emphasis is on active case finding, with the Health Minister stating that people could be living with TB without recognising their symptoms and therefore remain outside the formal healthcare system.

Source: The Hindu, Page 14

VALUE ADDITION: INDIA'S TB PROGRAMME

- ◆ **NTEP:** RNTCP was renamed the National TB Elimination Programme in 2020, aiming to end TB by 2025, five years ahead of the SDG 2030 target.
- ◆ **Targets:** 80% fall in incidence, 90% fall in mortality and zero catastrophic costs for TB-affected families.
- ◆ **National Strategic Plan 2017–25:** pillars of Detect – Treat – Prevent – Build (DTPB).
- ◆ **Notifications:** record 25.5 lakh cases in 2023 and 26.07 lakh in 2024.
- ◆ **Drug-resistant TB:** shorter all-oral Bedaquiline regimen lifted success from 68% (2020) to 75% (2022); the 6-month **BPaLM** regimen (Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, Linezolid ± Moxifloxacin) gives about 80% success for MDR-TB.

- ◆ **PM TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (2022):** world's largest crowd-sourcing initiative for TB patient nutrition. **Ni-kshay Mitra** donors support patients for six months; the **Ni-kshay Portal** tracks cases in real time.
- ◆ **The disease:** caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, airborne; about 25% of the world is infected but only 5–10% develop disease. BCG vaccine is given to infants. MDR-TB resists isoniazid and rifampicin; XDR-TB is more severe.
- ◆ **Partners:** NCC was set up under the NCC Act, 1948 (Ministry of Defence). MY Bharat (Mera Yuva Bharat, launched 2023) is an autonomous body under the Department of Youth Affairs.

PRELIMS POINTERS

JOSH = Joint Squad for Health

55 districts · 11 States/UTs

NTEP (2020)

DTPB pillars

BPALM – 6 months

Ni-kshay Mitra

SYLLABUS LINK · GS 2 – Issues relating to development and management of Health; government schemes for vulnerable sections. GS 3 – Science & Tech in everyday life.



GS 2, 3 PAGE 14 HEALTH · DRUG PRICING

Trade Margins on Cancer Drugs Capped at 30% of MRP

Average mark-ups of about 170%, and up to 700%, prompt a cap on all non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines

WHY IN NEWS

To cut out-of-pocket expenditure on cancer care, the Union government has decided to **cap trade margins at 30% of the MRP** for all **non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs**, after the NPPA found average trade mark-ups of about 170%.

- ◆ **Coverage:** Branded and generic, domestic and imported, patented and non-patented anti-cancer medicines.
- ◆ **List:** An expert committee under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) will finalise the medicines covered.
- ◆ **Evidence:** The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) found average trade mark-ups of about 170%, reaching up to 700% in some cases.
- ◆ **Why trade margins:** Non-scheduled drugs are outside price control, so the gap between the price at which a manufacturer sells to the stockist and the MRP charged to the patient can be very large. Capping that gap lowers MRP without fixing a ceiling price.
- ◆ **Precedent:** In 2019 NPPA used the same Trade Margin Rationalisation approach for 42 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs, cutting MRPs of hundreds of brands.



Govt. to cap trade margins at 30% of MRP for cancer drugs

In a bid to make cancer treatment more affordable and reduce patients' out-of-pocket expenditure, the Union government has decided to cap trade margins at 30% of the maximum retail price (MRP) for all non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs. The measure will cover branded and generic drugs, domestically manufactured and imported medicines, and patented and non-patented products. An expert committee under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) will finalise the list of medicines to be brought under the measure. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), found that the average trade mark-up on non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines was around 170%, with mark-ups reaching up to 700% in some cases.

Source: The Hindu, Page 14

VALUE ADDITION: HOW DRUG PRICES ARE REGULATED

- ◆ **NPPA:** set up in 1997 as the independent drug-price regulator under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
- ◆ **DPCO, 2013:** issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Scheduled formulations (from the National List of Essential Medicines) get ceiling prices; non-scheduled formulations may raise MRP by up to 10% a year. Para 19 allows extraordinary action in public interest.
- ◆ **Outreach:** Price Monitoring & Research Units (PMRUs) in 31 States/UTs; Pharma Sahi Daam app (price information) and Pharma Jan Samadhan (grievances).
- ◆ **IPDMS 2.0:** Integrated Pharmaceutical Database Management System for monitoring and transparency.
- ◆ **Industry:** about USD 50 bn (2023–24), projected to reach USD 130 bn by 2030; India is called the 'Pharmacy of the World'.

PRELIMS POINTERS

30% of MRP cap

Mark-ups ~170% (max 700%)

NPPA – 1997

DPCO 2013

DGHS expert panel

Trade Margin Rationalisation

SYLLABUS LINK · GS 2 – Health, government policies and interventions. GS 3 – Issues of pricing; effects on consumers.



GS 3 PAGE 15 SCIENCE & TECH · SATCOM

DoT Rejects Musk's 'Oligarchs' Charge over Starlink

Telecom department calls the charge of an unfair and discriminatory framework 'baseless and misconceived'

WHY IN NEWS

The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** rejected Elon Musk's allegation that 'certain oligarchs' were blocking SpaceX's **Starlink** launch, saying security assessments for all satellite operators are under way and the framework applies uniformly.

- ◆ **The charge:** Musk alleged on Wednesday that oligarchs were hindering Starlink; in a later post he named Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani, asking if he was 'the real boss of India'.
- ◆ **Other players:** Bharti-backed OneWeb and Reliance's satellite internet arm are the other two firms with DoT satellite internet authorisations.
- ◆ **DoT's reply:** The suggestion that the framework or its application is unfair or discriminatory is 'baseless and misconceived'. Every licensee must demonstrate compliance with security conditions before rollout, to ensure safety of users and their data.
- ◆ **Starlink's position:** SpaceX executive Lauren Dreyer told the India Mobile Congress she hoped for approval within a year, and said Starlink has set up 20 facilities in India to process Indian users' data locally.
- ◆ **Musk's case:** Starlink is licensed in 165+ countries and can fill coverage gaps in areas with bad or no internet or mobile coverage.
- ◆ **Term:** An **oligarch** is a very rich and powerful person who uses wealth to influence government decisions, typically as part of a small ruling group.

Is Ambani the 'boss of India', asks Musk

Telecom department dismisses allegation that India's regulatory framework was unfair and discriminatory as baseless and misconceived; statement came in response to SpaceX founder and CEO Elon Musk's charge that 'certain oligarchs' in India were blocking the satellite internet service

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on Thursday rejected allegations that it was shielding oligarchs from competition by delaying approvals for SpaceX's Starlink satellite internet service in India.

The statement came in response to billionaire Elon Musk's charge on Wednesday that "certain oligarchs" were hindering Starlink's launch in India. Bharti-backed OneWeb and Reliance Industries Ltd's satellite internet arm are the other two compa-

nies that have secured satellite internet authorisations from the DoT.

However, the DoT said security assessments for both operators are "currently under way", stressing that the regulatory framework applies uniformly to all satellite communication providers.

A post is being circulated on social media regarding the fairness of India's regulatory framework for satellite communication services and suggesting that it is being applied in a discriminatory manner," the DoT said. "The suggestion that the framework or its application is unfair or



Starlink has spent five years complying with every single law and requirement of the government of India, so why still no license

ELON MUSK,
SPACEX FOUNDER AND CEO

discriminatory is baseless and misconceived."

At the India Mobile Congress on Wednesday, SpaceX executive Lauren Dreyer said she hoped Starlink would have received approval to begin services in India by this time next year. She also said the company had al-

ready established 20 facilities in India to process Indian users' data locally.

The DoT said all satellite communication licensees are required to demonstrate compliance with specified security conditions before services can be rolled out. "Under the terms and conditions of li-

cence [sic], every such licensee is required to demonstrate compliance with security conditions," the department said. "This is aimed at ensuring that services provided meet various security requirements to ensure safety of all users and their data."

Mr. Musk, however, doubled down on his criticism on Thursday, amplifying several posts supporting Starlink's launch in India. "Starlink will be of great help to areas of India that have bad or no Internet and even no mobile coverage," he said. "No country has perfect coverage, including America,

but Starlink can fill in the coverage gaps for those who most need it."

In a subsequent post, Mr. Musk named Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani, asking whether the latter was "the real boss of India".

"Starlink is licensed in over 165 countries and has spent five years complying with every single law and requirement of the government of India, so why still no license," he asked.

Responding to a query at the India Mobile Congress on Thursday on Mr. Musk's remarks, Reliance Jio chairman Akash Ambani declined to comment.

Source: The Hindu, Page 15

VALUE ADDITION: STARLINK & SATELLITE INTERNET

- ◆ **Starlink:** SpaceX project launched in 2019 to build a low-cost global broadband network using thousands of satellites in Low Earth Orbit (about 350–1,200 km).
- ◆ **Why LEO:** shorter distance means low latency (about 20–40 ms vs about 600 ms for GEO at 35,786 km), but many more satellites are needed for continuous coverage.
- ◆ **Space weather risk:** about 40 Starlink satellites launched in February 2022 were lost after a geomagnetic storm raised atmospheric drag.
- ◆ **Indian framework:** operators need DoT authorisation (GMPCS), authorisation from IN-SPACe, spectrum assignment and security clearance, including lawful interception and local data storage.
- ◆ **Telecommunications Act, 2023:** lists satellite services in its First Schedule for **administrative assignment** of spectrum, not auction.
- ◆ **Concerns:** space debris and collision risk (Kessler syndrome), interference with astronomy, and national-security control over gateways.

PRELIMS POINTERS

Starlink – SpaceX, 2019

LEO 350–1,200 km

GEO 35,786 km

Telecom Act 2023

IN-SPACe

Data localisation

SYLLABUS LINK · GS 3 – Awareness in the fields of space and IT; communication networks and internal-security challenges.



GS 3 PIB SECURITY · DISASTER MANAGEMENT

SAREX-2026: Multinational Search and Rescue Exercise

Indian Coast Guard tests mass-rescue readiness alongside the 24th NMSAR Board meeting

WHY IN NEWS

The **Raksha Rajya Mantri** inaugurated **SAREX-2026**, the biennial multinational maritime search and rescue exercise, off **Paradip, Odisha**, along with the **24th National Maritime Search and Rescue (NMSAR) Board** meeting.



Source: PIB / ICG

- ◆ **What it is:** A premier biennial multinational M-SAR exercise simulating aircraft ditching, sinking commercial vessels and mass-casualty evacuation to validate SOPs for saving lives at sea.
- ◆ **Lead agency:** Indian Coast Guard (ICG), the central coordinating authority for maritime SAR in India.
- ◆ **Aim:** validate operational readiness, build international and inter-agency interoperability, test joint multi-platform response and share best practices under a Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Nation approach.
- ◆ **Next-gen MEOSAR:** integrates ISRO's operational MEO Local User Terminal (MEOLUT), moving India from legacy LEOSAR and GEOSAR to near-instant distress-beacon location on the high seas.
- ◆ **Mass Rescue Operations:** live drills of aircraft passenger evacuation, firefighting on merchant vessels, life-raft air-drops by fixed-wing aircraft and helicopter winching of survivors.
- ◆ **Area:** drills cover the 4.6 million sq km **Indian Search and Rescue Region (ISRR)**, testing command and real-time data relay between Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCCs).
- ◆ **NMSAR Board:** headed by the Director General of the ICG; reviews distress-alert management, Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) and inter-agency data sharing.

VALUE ADDITION: MARITIME SAR FRAMEWORK

- ◆ **Indian Coast Guard:** created by the Coast Guard Act, 1978; under the Ministry of Defence.
- ◆ **International basis:** IMO's International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR Convention), 1979 divides the oceans into search and rescue regions.
- ◆ **COSPAS-SARSAT:** international satellite system that detects distress beacons; LEOSAR uses low-orbit satellites, GEOSAR geostationary ones, and MEOSAR rides on navigation constellations (GPS, Galileo, GLONASS) in Medium Earth Orbit.
- ◆ **MRCCs:** Mumbai, Chennai and Port Blair coordinate SAR in their regions.

PRELIMS POINTERS

Paradip, Odisha Biennial exercise ICG – lead agency ISRR 4.6 mn sq km MEOLUT – ISRO

24th NMSAR Board

SYLLABUS LINK · GS 3 – Security challenges and their management in border (maritime) areas; disaster management. GS 2 – International cooperation.

GS 2 · Prelims PAGE 16 AWARDS · CULTURE

Anne Carson Wins the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature

Canadian poet honoured for playful, genre-blending works that fuse the classical and the modern

WHY IN NEWS

Canadian poet, essayist and translator **Anne Carson** won the **Nobel Prize in Literature** for playful, genre-blending works that fuse the classical and the modern.

- ◆ **Profile:** Toronto-born, aged 76, Carson draws on ancient Greek and Roman literature, blending poetry, essay and fiction.
- ◆ **The call:** Swedish Academy permanent secretary **Ingrid Carlberg** said Carson was in Iceland 'listening to the wind' and 'very taken by surprise'.
- ◆ **On poetry:** Carson said poetry is 'probably more useful than prose right now because it's faster, and everybody is in a hurry... Except Homer. Homer's not brief.'
- ◆ **The debate:** The prize often honours authors little known outside literary circles and is criticised for valuing experimentation over wide readership, but it also introduces readers to writers beyond their own language.
- ◆ **Key works:** *Eros the Bittersweet*, *Autobiography of Red*, *Men in the Off Hours* and *Norma Jeane Baker of Troy*.

Canadian poet Anne Carson wins Nobel Prize in literature

Associated Press
STOCKHOLM

Canadian poet, essayist and translator Anne Carson won the Nobel Prize in literature on Thursday for playful, genre-blending works that fuse the classical and the modern.

The Toronto-born Carson, 76, draws on themes and stories from ancient Greek and Roman literature for writing that often blends elements of poetry, essay and fiction.

The permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy said the author was in Iceland "listening to the wind" when the academy reached her to notify her of the win.

"She was very taken by surprise," Ingrid Carlberg said.

Asked how she felt about the award, Ms. Car-



Anne Carson

son told the Icelandic public broadcaster RUV: "I think they're all crazy." She described the conversation with the academy as "rather halting".

"They have the usual questions, and I have no answers." She said poetry is "probably more useful than prose right now because it's faster, and everybody is in a hurry. So basically I think it's good because it's brief. Except Homer. Homer's not brief."

Ms. Carson is among the more high-profile recent winners of the literature Nobel, which often honours authors little known outside of the literary world and is sometimes criticised for valuing literary experimentation over the ability to connect with a broad readership.

However, the prize can also introduce readers to writers and works beyond their own languages or reading habits.

Asked how the prize would change her sales, she said: "I'll get a sticker on the front of my book. Stickers help."

Ms. Carson's books include *Eros the Bittersweet*, *Autobiography of Red*, as well as *Men in the Off Hours*, and *Norma Jeane Baker of Troy*.

The prize was announced in Stockholm.

Source: The Hindu, Page 16

VALUE ADDITION: NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE

- ◆ **Origin:** instituted by the will of Alfred Nobel (1895); first awarded in 1901. Literature prize is chosen by the **Swedish Academy**, Stockholm.
- ◆ **Ceremony:** prizes presented on 10 December, Nobel's death anniversary.
- ◆ **Recent laureates:** 2024 – Han Kang (South Korea); 2025 – László Krasznahorkai (Hungary).
- ◆ **India link:** Rabindranath Tagore (1913, *Gitanjali*) was the first non-European laureate.
- ◆ **Canada link:** Alice Munro won in 2013.

PRELIMS POINTERS

Anne Carson – Canada

Swedish Academy

Ingrid Carlberg

Autobiography of Red

Tagore 1913

Han Kang 2024

SYLLABUS LINK · Prelims – Awards & persons in news. GS 1 – World literature and culture (static link).

Practice Zone

MAINS · PRELIMS · REVISION

MAINS ANSWER WRITING

Q1 · GS 2 · 15 marks · 250 words

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has reopened the debate between the accuracy and the inclusiveness of voter lists. Critically examine this in the light of constitutional and statutory safeguards.

मतदाता सूचियों के विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) ने मतदाता सूचियों की शुद्धता और समावेशिता के बीच की बहस को फिर से जीवित कर दिया है। संवैधानिक एवं वैधानिक सुरक्षा उपायों के आलोक में इसका आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

APPROACH

- ◆ **Intro:** Articles 324–326 and universal adult franchise; SIR and the scale of draft deletions (13.37 crore).
- ◆ **Case for SIR:** clean rolls of dead, duplicate, shifted and ineligible entries; Article 326 limits franchise to citizens; accurate rolls protect every vote.
- ◆ **Concerns:** onus reversed against the ECI Manual's *de novo* enumeration; Form 6 re-entry blocks audit; software 'logical discrepancies'; ERONet bypassing EROs (S.13B); no Census baseline; gender ratio 907→892; Lal Babu Hussein (1995) presumption of validity.
- ◆ **Way forward:** BLO door-to-door verification; notice and hearing before deletion; public reasons for each deletion; independent audit; flexible documents; time-bound appeals.
- ◆ **Conclusion:** accuracy and inclusion must go together; 'no voter left behind'.

Q2 · GS 3 · 15 marks · 250 words

Despite record FDI inflows, investment commitments in India have not fully translated into projects on the ground. Discuss the internal administrative bottlenecks responsible and suggest measures to bridge this gap.

रिकॉर्ड प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (FDI) प्रवाह के बावजूद भारत में निवेश प्रतिबद्धताएँ पूरी तरह ज़मीनी परियोजनाओं में परिवर्तित नहीं हो पाई हैं। इसके लिए उत्तरदायी आंतरिक प्रशासनिक बाधाओं की विवेचना कीजिए तथा इस अंतर को पाटने के उपाय सुझाइए।

APPROACH

- ◆ **Intro:** FDI \$94.8 bn (FY26), India 11th in WIR 2026; yet project finance is below the 2021 peak and greenfield data-centre investment trails peers.
- ◆ **Bottlenecks:** Centre–State gaps (labour codes on the Concurrent List); DPIIT nodal but not decisive; slow courts (4.8 crore pending cases); QCO overreach (~790 orders, Gauba Committee); weak investor protection in TEPA.
- ◆ **Progress:** Commercial Courts Act 2015, Mediation Act 2023, end of retrospective tax (2021), Vivad se Vishwas, 12-week SOP, QCO rollback.
- ◆ **Measures:** single-window with deemed approvals; State investment rankings; more commercial benches; BITs with modern ISDS; risk-based QCOs; Dholera-style coordination.

- ◆ **Conclusion:** lessons from Singapore CECA and mobile PLI success; cooperative federalism as the multiplier.

PRELIMS MCQs

Q1. With reference to electoral rolls in India, consider the following statements:

1. Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 allows a special revision for any constituency or part of a constituency.
2. Electoral Registration Officers are statutory authorities for preparing the electoral roll.
3. Form 7 is filed by a new elector seeking inclusion in the roll.

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 |

Q2. The voting age in India was reduced from 21 to 18 years by which Constitutional Amendment Act?

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) 42nd Amendment, 1976 | (b) 52nd Amendment, 1985 |
| (c) 61st Amendment, 1988 | (d) 73rd Amendment, 1992 |

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. JOSH teams under the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan involve NCC cadets and MY Bharat volunteers.
2. Multidrug-resistant TB is resistant to at least isoniazid and rifampicin.
3. BCG is a live attenuated vaccine given to infants.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| (a) Only one | (b) Only two |
| (c) All three | (d) None |

Q4. With reference to India's labour codes, consider the following statements:

1. Labour subjects such as trade unions and industrial disputes are in the Concurrent List.
2. The four labour codes consolidate 29 central labour laws.
3. States must notify their own rules for the codes to work in their sphere.

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. Consider the following statements regarding drug price regulation in India:

1. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority functions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. Ceiling prices under DPCO, 2013 are fixed for scheduled formulations drawn from the National List of Essential Medicines.
3. Manufacturers of non-scheduled formulations may raise MRP by up to 10% a year.

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 |

Q6. Consider the following statements about satellite internet:

1. Low Earth Orbit satellites offer lower latency than geostationary satellites.
2. The geostationary orbit lies at about 35,786 km above the equator.
3. A LEO constellation needs fewer satellites than a GEO system for continuous global coverage.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q7. Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, spectrum for satellite-based communication services listed in its First Schedule is assigned primarily through:

- (a) Auction (b) Administrative allocation
(c) Lottery (d) First-come-first-served bidding

Q8. With reference to SAREX-2026, consider the following statements:

1. It is led by the Indian Navy.
 2. The National Maritime Search and Rescue Board is headed by the Director General of the Indian Coast Guard.
 3. The Indian Search and Rescue Region covers about 4.6 million sq km.
- 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

Q9. Which one of the following is NOT a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)?

- (a) Switzerland (b) Norway
(c) Iceland (d) Denmark

Q10. Consider the following pairs (Nobel laureate in Literature : Country):

1. Anne Carson : Canada
2. Han Kang : South Korea
3. Alice Munro : Canada

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) All three (d) None

ANSWER KEY & RATIONALE

Q	Ans	Rationale
1	(a)	Form 6 is for inclusion; Form 7 is for objection or deletion. S.21(3) and S.13B (ERO) are correct.
2	(c)	The 61st Amendment (1988) amended Article 326 to lower the voting age to 18.
3	(c)	All three are correct. JOSH = Joint Squad for Health; BCG is a live attenuated strain of <i>M. bovis</i> .
4	(d)	Labour is a Concurrent List subject, so both Centre and States must frame rules; the codes subsume 29 laws.
5	(b)	NPPA is under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, not the Health Ministry.
6	(b)	LEO satellites cover a small footprint and move fast, so thousands are needed; GEO needs only about three for near-global coverage.
7	(b)	The First Schedule lists services, including satellite services, for administrative assignment of spectrum.
8	(b)	The Indian Coast Guard, not the Navy, is the lead agency for maritime SAR and SAREX.
9	(d)	EFTA = Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Denmark is an EU member.

10

(c)

All are correct: Carson (2026), Han Kang (2024) and Alice Munro (2013).

QUICK REVISION RECAP

- ◆ **SIR:** 13.37 crore names cut from draft rolls; authors fault onus reversal, Form 6 re-entry, software flags, EROnet centralisation and the May 27 SC ruling.
- ◆ **FDI:** Record \$94.8 bn (FY26); India 11th in WIR 2026; bottlenecks are Centre-State, courts, QCOs and approvals.
- ◆ **TB:** JOSH teams (NCC + MY Bharat) for active case finding in 55 districts, 11 States/UTs.
- ◆ **Cancer drugs:** Trade margin capped at 30% of MRP for non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs; NPPA found ~170% mark-ups.
- ◆ **Starlink:** DoT calls Musk's 'oligarchs' charge baseless; security compliance pending for all satcom licensees.
- ◆ **SAREX-2026:** ICG-led biennial multinational SAR drill off Paradip; ISRO's MEOLUT integrated.
- ◆ **Nobel:** Anne Carson (Canada), classicist poet, wins Literature prize.

PRELIMS TRAP-SETTERS

- ◆ NPPA is under the **Department of Pharmaceuticals** (Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers), not the Health Ministry.
- ◆ **Form 6** = inclusion; **Form 7** = deletion/objection; **Form 8** = correction/shifting.
- ◆ SAR at sea is led by the **Coast Guard**, not the Navy; NMSAR Board is chaired by **DG ICG**.
- ◆ Satellite spectrum under the Telecom Act 2023 is **administratively assigned**, not auctioned.
- ◆ EFTA has **four** members: Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein; it is not part of the EU.
- ◆ Ceiling prices apply only to **scheduled** drugs (NLEM); trade-margin caps target **non-scheduled** ones.
- ◆ Literature Nobel is chosen by the **Swedish Academy**; Peace by the Norwegian Nobel Committee in Oslo.

PLACES & PERSONS IN NEWS

- ◆ **Paradip (Odisha)** – Major port on the Mahanadi delta; venue of SAREX-2026.
- ◆ **Dholera (Gujarat)** – Special Investment Region; site of Tata Electronics' semiconductor fab.
- ◆ **Stockholm (Sweden)** – Seat of the Swedish Academy, where the Literature Nobel was announced.
- ◆ **Brussels (Belgium)** – EU headquarters; PM's planned December visit for FTA signing.
- ◆ **Anne Carson** – Canadian poet, classicist; 2026 Nobel laureate in Literature.
- ◆ **Ingrid Carlberg** – Permanent Secretary, Swedish Academy.
- ◆ **J.P. Nadda** – Union Health Minister; launched JOSH teams.
- ◆ **Gyanesh Kumar** – Chief Election Commissioner of India.
- ◆ **Elon Musk** – SpaceX founder; criticised delay in Starlink approval.
- ◆ **Lauren Dreyer** – SpaceX executive at India Mobile Congress.

“Consistency in reading the newspaper is the quiet edge in every exam.”