



The Hindu Analysis

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS · UPSC · HPAS / HAS

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"A borrowed identity cannot create an original future."

उधार की पहचान मौलिक भविष्य का निर्माण नहीं कर सकती।

Compiled by **Sapna Chauhan**

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Trains Cut, Internet Down: Delhi Turns a Fortress Ahead of Protest

WHY IN NEWS Authorities sealed parts of the capital ahead of the CJP protest at Jantar Mantar, while the Supreme Court called the blanket transit ban “over-reaching”.

Trains cut, Internet down: Delhi turns a fortress ahead of protest

Police deny permission for the CJP protest at Jantar Mantar; Home Ministry directs States, Union Territories to prevent protesters from entering capital; around 13,000 additional Central security personnel deployed amid heightened security

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Friday denied permission to the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) to hold its proposed protest at Jantar Mantar on Saturday, citing alleged violations of conditions agreed upon for an earlier demonstration, even as authorities rolled out an extensive security plan across the national capital.

Despite the denial of permission, the CJP released a poster that says “Final Call To Save Democracy”, asking its supporters to reach Jantar Mantar at 10 a.m. on October 10 as they look to go ahead with the protest demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the rollback of the special intensive revision of electoral rolls.

Authorities have taken several measures ahead of the protest, including internet curbs in parts of Delhi, the shutting down of markets and Metro stations, and the cancelling of dozens of trains bound for the capital.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) directed all States and Union Territories (UTs) to coordinate with the Delhi Police and take preventive measures to stop the movement of protesters towards Delhi. In a communication sent to Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police (DGP), Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan drew attention to the “grave law-and-order and public-order implications” arising from the proposed protest.

The letter noted that the Delhi Police had categorically rejected the CJP’s request to hold the gathering. The communication further said the CJP and supporting organisations



Under wraps: Glass panels at a Metro station are covered ahead of Saturday’s Cockroach Janta Party protest near Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Repeal all State polls: INDIA bloc

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The INDIA bloc on Friday urged President Droupadi Murmu to “repeal” all Assembly elections held over the last two years, saying they have “incontrovertible proof”

had a “documented history of non-compliance with lawful directions” during previous mobilisations, adding that earlier protests involving participants travelling from different States had resulted in significant disruption to public order and damage to public property, the letter, seen by *The Hindu*, said.

The letter cited intelligence inputs as indicating that the CJP and its supporters intended to defy statutory restrictions and attempt entry into Delhi from various States and U.T.s.

“To pre-empt any breach of public tranquillity

of “vote chori” (theft).

Before their meeting with the President, the Opposition leaders gathered at the central hall of Samvidhan Sadan, where, according to sources, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi

claimed that the government is “rattled” and that if the Opposition continues its campaign, the government could fall without completing its full term.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 13

and to safeguard critical infrastructure,” the Home Ministry directed States to “immediately operationalise preventive measures in coordination with the Delhi Police and within the framework of law”.

The Ministry emphasised continuous, real-time intelligence-sharing among State intelligence agencies, transit authorities and the Delhi Police to ensure coordinated action. The Ministry called for the strict implementation of the directions to uphold the rule of law.

Around 6,000 additional security personnel – 40 companies of the Indo-Ti-

betan Border Police (ITBP) and 20 companies of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), the primary border-guarding forces along the border with China and Nepal, respectively – were deployed in Delhi for “law-and-order duty” on the instructions of the Union Home Ministry. This deployment is in addition to the 7,000 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel pulled from Chhattisgarh and West Bengal, as well as personnel of the Delhi Police.

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Blanket transit ban in capital ‘over-reaching’, says top court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday found the Delhi Police’s move to shut down free movement to and within the national capital ahead of the protests on Saturday “over-reaching”. The court told the Union government and the Delhi Police that a “distinction exists between total ‘prohibition’ and the ‘regulation’ of Metro and other train movements”.

A three-judge Bench drew an assurance from Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta that he would “impress upon the authorities to reassess the travel prohibitions”.

Choosing gentle persuasion over a legal showdown in the courtroom, the court pressed for the operation of Metro and other rail services in the national capital in a “suitable and regulated manner”. “We clarify that although there shall be no outright prohibition on the movement of Metro trains, a prudent decision may be made to permit the operation of Metro trains and other rail services in a suitable and regulated manner. Such a decision should be widely publicised to prevent further inconvenience,” the court directed in a four-page order.

The Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, did not expand on what it exactly meant by a “suitable and regulated manner”, but indicated the restrictions must be proportionate.

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SECURITY ARITHMETIC

~13,000

additional Central personnel deployed in Delhi

40 coys

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) – China border force

20 coys

Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) – Nepal & Bhutan border force

~6,000

ITBP + SSB together, for “law-and-order duty”

7,000

CRPF pulled from Chhattisgarh & West Bengal

INSIDE THE CLIPPING

Supreme Court: a three-judge Bench headed by **CJI Surya Kant** called the blanket transit shutdown “over-reaching” – a “distinction exists between total *prohibition* and the *regulation* of Metro and other train movements”.

INDIA bloc: urged President Droupadi Murmu to “repeal” all Assembly elections of the last two years, alleging “vote chori”.

- ◆ The **Delhi Police denied permission** to the **Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)** for its protest at **Jantar Mantar** on Saturday (October 10), citing alleged violation of conditions agreed upon for an earlier demonstration.
- ◆ Despite the refusal, the CJP issued a poster – “*Final Call To Save Democracy*” – asking supporters to assemble at 10 a.m. The demands: **resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar** and **rollback of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls.
- ◆ Preventive measures: **internet curbs** in parts of Delhi, **closure of markets and Metro stations**, and **cancellation of dozens of trains** bound for the capital.

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Centre's Directions & the Court's Response

- ◆ **MHA communication** (Union Home Secretary **Govind Mohan**) to Chief Secretaries and DGPs of all States/UTs: coordinate with Delhi Police and take preventive measures to stop movement of protesters, citing “grave law-and-order and public-order implications” and a “documented history of non-compliance with lawful directions”.
- ◆ States asked to “immediately operationalise preventive measures” “**within the framework of law**”, backed by continuous, real-time intelligence-sharing among State intelligence agencies, transit authorities and Delhi Police.
- ◆ The **Supreme Court** recorded an assurance from **Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta** to reassess the travel prohibitions; Metro and rail services were to run “in a suitable and regulated manner” that is widely publicised. The Bench indicated that **restrictions must be proportionate**.

Critical Analysis — Balancing Liberty and Order

- ◆ **Proportionality**: transit and internet shutdowns burden lakhs of commuters, workers, patients and students who are not protesters; collective restrictions are harder to justify than targeted, intelligence-led policing.
- ◆ **Digital rights**: under *Anuradha Bhasin* (2020), internet suspension must be necessary, temporary, the least restrictive option and backed by published, reviewable orders.
- ◆ **Federal dimension**: “Police” and “Public order” are State subjects, so Union directions to stop inter-State movement rely on cooperation from States (Arts. 256–257 & 355 frame the Union’s role).
- ◆ **CAPF overstretch**: pulling border-guarding forces (ITBP, SSB) and CRPF from Left Wing Extremism theatres for city duty dilutes their core mandate.
- ◆ **Way forward**: designated protest spaces with time-bound permissions (MKSS, 2018), negotiated crowd management, graded rather than blanket restrictions, and prompt judicial review — so that dissent and public order can coexist.

VALUE ADDITION

Constitutional Framework

Art. 19(1)(a) speech & expression · **19(1)(b)** assemble peaceably and without arms · **19(1)(d)** move freely throughout India. Reasonable restrictions under **19(2), 19(3), 19(5)** — incl. **public order** and **sovereignty & integrity of India**.

Art. 239AA(3)(a): public order, police and land are outside the Delhi Legislative Assembly’s domain — Delhi Police reports to the **Union Home Ministry**.

Landmark Judgments

Ramlila Maidan Incident (2012)	Midnight crackdown on a sleeping crowd violated Art. 19 & 21; restrictions must be reasonable, not arbitrary.
Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan v. UoI (2018)	No absolute ban on protests at Jantar Mantar / Boat Club; police to frame regulating guidelines.
Amit Sahni (Shaheen Bagh, 2020)	Public ways cannot be occupied indefinitely; protest must be at designated places.
Anuradha Bhasin v. UoI (2020)	Speech & trade over the internet protected under 19(1)(a) & (g); shutdowns must pass proportionality.

Statutory Tools

Sec. 163, BNSS 2023 (old Sec. 144 CrPC) — prohibitory orders. **Sec. 20(2), Telecommunications Act 2023 + Suspension Rules 2024** — telecom/internet suspension on public emergency or public safety; order by Union/State Home Secretary, reviewed by a committee, valid for **max. 15 days**.

PRELIMS POINTERS **ITBP** (1962) guards the India–China LAC; **SSB** (1963) — Nepal & Bhutan; **BSF** (1965) — Pakistan & Bangladesh; **Assam Rifles** (1835) — Myanmar; **CRPF** (1939, as Crown Representative's Police) — internal security. **ECI**: Art. 324; CEC removable only like a Supreme Court judge (Art. 324(5)). Assembly election disputes go by **election petition to the High Court** (Art. 329(b), RPA 1951) — the President has no power to “repeal” elections. **Jantar Mantar** (Delhi) was built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II in 1724.

SYLLABUS LINK **GS 2** — Fundamental Rights; Union–State relations; ECI; Judiciary. **GS 3** — Internal security; security forces & their mandate.

**02****GS 2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS****THE HINDU · PAGE 1**

International Jurist Navi Pillay Wins Nobel Peace Prize 2026

WHY IN NEWS The Norwegian Nobel Committee honoured former UN rights chief Navi Pillay for defending international law, on the prize's 125th anniversary.

- ◆ **Navi Pillay**, South African-born jurist and former **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**, won the **Nobel Peace Prize 2026** for her efforts to promote international law “as it comes under attack”.
- ◆ On the **125th anniversary** of the prize, the **Norwegian Nobel Committee** (Chair: **Jørgen Watne Frydnes**) sought to remind the world that “the rule of law, national and international, underpins the system we have set up to ensure peace” — **“Peace requires justice.”**
- ◆ Judges “guard the thin red line between order and chaos”; the world needs jurists “of courage, vision and determination”.

Key Points

- ◆ Pillay, **85**, received the news at a forum in **Nuremberg**, Germany — where the trials of Nazi war criminals laid the foundations of international criminal law. Weakening international criminal justice, she said, risks “a world in which **power, rather than law, determines whose suffering matters**”.
- ◆ She chaired the **UN Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel**, created by the **UN Human Rights Council**. A year ago it concluded Israel was responsible for genocide in Gaza; Israel strenuously denies this, and the U.S. and Israeli leaderships rejected the findings.
- ◆ The commission also issued reports accusing **Hamas of war crimes** during its October 7, 2023 attack; Pillay has rebuffed critics who accused her of bias.
- ◆ Among her first comments after the award, Pillay said of Gaza: “What’s happening there is genocide.” The commission had also found that Israel’s President, Prime Minister and former

Defence Minister “have incited the commission of genocide” — findings Israel rejects.

International jurist Navi Pillay wins Nobel Peace Prize

Associated Press
OSLO

Navi Pillay, a South African-born jurist and former UN human rights chief, won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for her efforts to promote international law as it comes under attack.

Her win is sure to be seen as a high-profile rebuke to U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who have both rejected the findings of the UN commission she led on Gaza.

On the 125th anniversary of the prize's inception, the Norwegian Nobel Committee sought “to remind the world that the rule of law, national and international, underpins the system we have set up to



A voice for human rights

Born to parents of Tamil descent under apartheid in South Africa, Navi Pillay rose to become a prominent jurist and advocate of international law and human rights

- Challenged discrimination, segregation, and exclusion in apartheid-era South Africa

- Held judicial posts in South Africa's High Court, the Rwanda

tribunal, and the International Criminal Court

- Led the UN's human rights office as High Commissioner and chaired its inquiry into the Occupied Palestinian Territory

- Currently serves as a judge at the International Court of Justice in the genocide case against Myanmar

ensure peace and resolve conflicts nonviolently. Peace requires justice,” committee Chairman Jørgen Watne Frydnes said.

Judges “guard the thin red line between order and chaos,” and the world needs jurists “of courage, vision and determination,

qualities that Navi Pillay demonstrates in her work on the bench”.

In places such as Israel and in apartheid-era South Africa, she and peers took on some of the world's most painful and sensitive legal issues and most vulnerable populations.

Ms. Pillay, 85, received the news while attending a forum in Nuremberg, Germany, where the trials of Nazi war criminals helped lay the foundations of international law.

She said efforts to weaken international criminal justice “endanger the progress painstakingly made since Nuremberg, and they risk returning us to a world in which power, rather than law, determines whose suffering matters.”

Ms. Pillay chaired the Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel, which was created by the UN-backed Human Rights Council. The commission a year ago concluded Israel was responsible for genocide in Gaza with a specific intent to destroy Palesti-

nians in Gaza.

Gaza was among Ms. Pillay's first comments on Friday after hearing she had won. “What's happening there is genocide,” she said.

The commission last year also found that the Israeli President, Prime Minister and former Defence Minister “have incited the commission of genocide.” Israel has strenuously denied the accusations.

Ms. Pillay has repeatedly rebuffed critics who accused her of antisemitism or turning a blind eye to the Hamas attacks in Israel. Under her leadership, the commission also issued reports accusing Hamas of war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law during its October 7, 2023, attack.

The Hindu, Page 1 — 10 October 2026

Significance

- ◆ **Defence of the rules-based order** at a time when international courts face sanctions, non-cooperation and selective compliance by major powers.
- ◆ Recognises the **judicial route to peace** — accountability for atrocity crimes as a precondition for durable peace, not an obstacle to it.
- ◆ A **Global South voice**: a woman of Tamil descent who rose under apartheid to the highest international benches.

VALUE ADDITION

Navi Pillay — Career Snapshot

1941	Born in Durban to parents of Tamil descent; later first non-white woman to open a law practice in Natal (1967).
1995	First non-white woman judge of the High Court of South Africa.
1995–2003	Judge (later President) of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda ; its <i>Akayesu</i> verdict (1998) recognised rape as an act of genocide.
2003–08	Judge, International Criminal Court .
2008–14	UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR, Geneva).
Now	Judge (ad hoc) at the ICJ in <i>The Gambia v. Myanmar</i> genocide case.

ICJ vs ICC — The Classic Prelims Pair

	ICJ	ICC
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Basis	UN Charter, 1945 (principal UN organ)	Rome Statute 1998; in force 2002 (not a UN organ)
Parties	Disputes between States	Prosecutes individuals — genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, aggression
Seat / Bench	The Hague; 15 judges, 9-year terms	The Hague; 18 judges
India	Accepts (with reservations)	Not a party to the Rome Statute

PRELIMS POINTERS Nobel Peace Prize — set up under **Alfred Nobel's will (1895)**, first awarded **1901**; decided by a 5-member committee appointed by Norway's **Storting** and presented in **Oslo** on **10 December** (all other Nobels: Stockholm). Indian/India-linked laureates: **Mother Teresa (1979)**, **Dalai Lama (1989)**, **Kailash Satyarthi (2014)**, with Malala Yousafzai). **UNHRC**: 2006, Geneva, 47 members. **Genocide Convention**: 1948; India ratified in 1959.

SYLLABUS LINK **GS 2** — Important international institutions; effect of policies of developed countries on India's interests. **GS 4** — Contributions of global leaders & jurists; justice and rule of law.



03 GS 3 · SCIENCE & TECH / ECONOMY WORLD BANK · INDIAAI MISSION

World Development Report 2026: The Promise of Artificial Intelligence

WHY IN NEWS The World Bank's flagship report on AI was launched in New Delhi with MeitY's IndiaAI Mission as the India partner.



Launch of WDR 2026 in New Delhi

REPORT CARD

~4%

Indian jobs at immediate automation risk (vs over one-third in advanced economies)

~20%

fall in entry-level BPO job postings in South Asia

2nd

India's rank in AI talent pool — ~50,460 professionals (2025)

-200

net loss of elite AI researchers & inventors, 2011-2024

20 yrs

tax holiday for foreign data centres — flagged as a fiscal risk

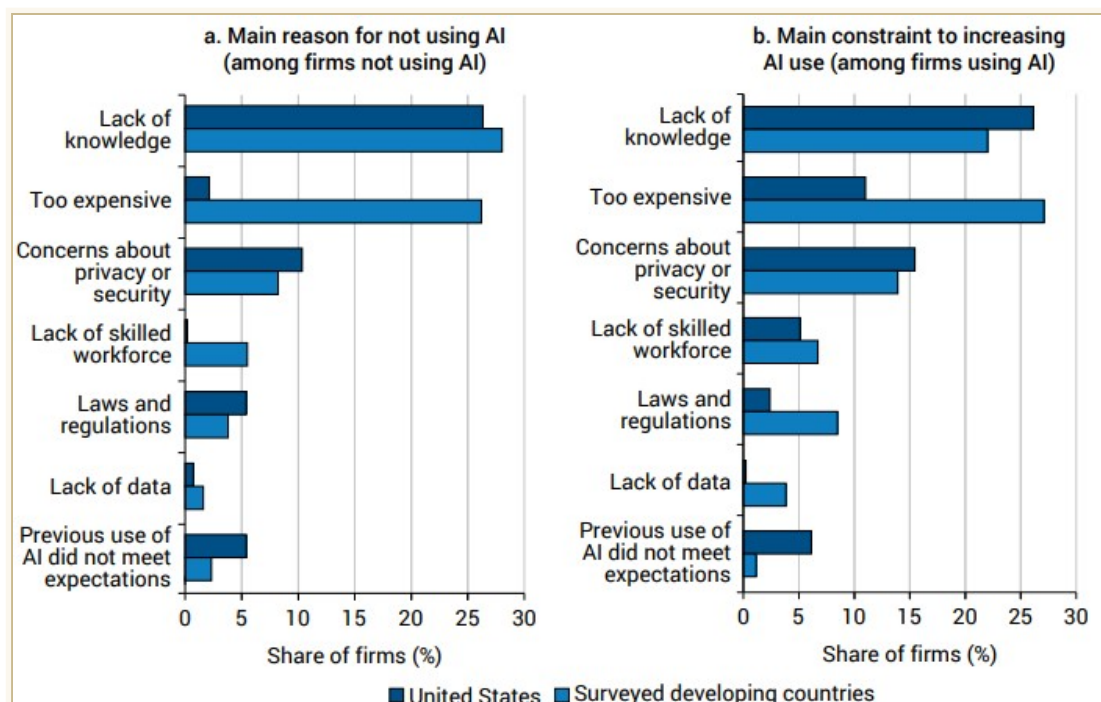
◆ The Union Minister for Electronics & IT launched the **World Bank Group's World Development**

Report (WDR) 2026: *The Promise of Artificial Intelligence* in New Delhi, jointly hosted by MeitY's IndiaAI Mission.

- ◆ WDR is the World Bank's **annual flagship research publication**. The 2026 edition analyses the development opportunities, labour disruptions and structural prerequisites of AI for **low- and middle-income countries**.

Key Findings

- ◆ **Adopt and Adapt:** developing countries should adopt existing open-access AI models and customise them for local languages and development needs, rather than invest heavily in expensive frontier models.
- ◆ **Automation risk is low but real:** just over 4% of Indian jobs face immediate automation risk, yet entry-level BPO postings in South Asia have dropped by about 20% – the impact is concentrated on young, entry-level workers.
- ◆ **Fiscal subsidies:** generous incentives such as India's 20-year tax holiday for foreign data centres could strain public finances, raise electricity costs and disproportionately benefit multinationals.
- ◆ **Limits of AI sovereignty:** domestic data centres alone cannot guarantee independence; countries remain dependent on imported advanced semiconductors, specialised cloud infrastructure and global supply chains.
- ◆ **Brain drain:** India has the world's second-largest AI talent pool but suffered a net loss of 200 elite AI researchers during 2011–2024.



WDR 2026 survey: why firms do not use AI, and what limits wider use – United States vs surveyed developing countries

Reading the Chart

- ◆ **Knowledge gap is universal:** “lack of knowledge” is the leading barrier (~26–28% of non-adopting firms) in both the U.S. and developing countries.
- ◆ **Cost is the developing-world barrier:** ~26% of non-adopting firms in developing countries call AI “too expensive”, against barely 2% in the U.S. – strengthening the case for low-cost, open, adapted models and shared public compute.
- ◆ **Policy lesson for India:** pair compute subsidies with **AI literacy for MSMEs**, Indic-language

datasets (AIKosh) and affordable access — and retain talent through research funding and fellowships.

VALUE ADDITION

World Bank Group — Five Institutions

IBRD (1944) · **IDA** (1960, concessional lending; India graduated in FY2014) · **IFC** (1956, private sector) · **MIGA** (1988, investment guarantees) · **ICSID** (1966, investment disputes — **India is not a member**). IMF + World Bank = “Bretton Woods Twins” (1944 conference).

Who Publishes What

World Bank	World Development Report (since 1978), Global Economic Prospects, B-READY (replaced Doing Business), Logistics Performance Index, Human Capital Index
IMF	World Economic Outlook, Global Financial Stability Report
UNDP	Human Development Report
UNCTAD / ILO	World Investment Report / World Employment and Social Outlook

IndiaAI Mission (MeitY, approved March 2024; outlay ₹10,371.92 crore)

Seven pillars: Compute Capacity · Innovation Centre (indigenous foundation models) · Datasets Platform (**AIKosh**) · Application Development · FutureSkills · Startup Financing · Safe & Trusted AI. Implemented by the **IndiaAI Independent Business Division** under Digital India Corporation.

PRELIMS POINTERS WDR 2026 is published by the **World Bank Group** (not the IMF or UNDP); India launch partner: **IndiaAI Mission, MeitY**. Previous WDRs: 2025 *Standards for Development*, 2024 *The Middle-Income Trap*, 2023 *Migrants, Refugees and Societies*. Frontier model = the most advanced, costliest general-purpose AI; open-weight models can be adapted locally.

SYLLABUS LINK **GS 3** — Science & technology (AI), employment, government budgeting & incentives. **GS 2** — Important international institutions (World Bank).



O4 GS 2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THE HINDU · PAGE 10 (EDITORIAL)

BRICS in a Fragmented World Order: A Test of Relevance

WHY IN NEWS Former NSA M.K. Narayanan argues that despite a unanimous New Delhi Declaration, BRICS faces internal tensions and imbalances.

- ◆ The **18th BRICS Summit** was held in **New Delhi on September 12–13, 2026** under India's chairmanship. Its **New Delhi Declaration** was adopted unanimously, reconciling the divergent views of the **11-member** grouping — a mark of India's standing.
- ◆ The Declaration covered reform of global governance, trade, finance, energy, climate, technology, health and agriculture, built on mutual respect, sovereignty, equality, openness and consensus.
- ◆ Proposals: **local-currency trade** and **inter-operable cross-border payment systems**; support for the **BRICS Economic Partnership Strategy 2030**; a **Global Value Chain Action Plan 2026–2030**; a more representative UN and international financial system; de-escalation in West Asia and humanitarian access in Gaza.

The Author's Sober Assessment (M.K. Narayanan)

- ◆ This is the age of “**variable geometry**”, not deep-seated alliances: ad hoc, interest-based coalitions are the order of the day, and plurilateralism is replacing multilateralism.

BRICS in a fragmented world order, a test of relevance

The 18th BRICS Summit, held in New Delhi on September 12-13, 2026, was an extravaganza of sorts. The summit's New Delhi Declaration has been widely hailed as a major achievement for reconciling the divergent views of the 11-member grouping. Its unanimous adoption is again a major achievement in a world often works at cross purposes.

Achieving this consensus under India's chairmanship, is an excellent example, at one level, of India's standing within BRICS and its importance in the councils of the world.

The Declaration covered matters such as reform of global governance, trade, finance, energy, climate, technology, health and agriculture. The decisions taken were unanimous, involving aspects such as mutual respect, sovereignty, equality, openness and consensus. It proposed that the BRICS group should work towards local currency trade and inter-operable cross-border payment systems, extend support for the BRICS Economic Partnership Strategy 2030; a Global Value Chain Action Plan for 2026-2030; seek a more representative United Nations (UN) and international financial system with greater regard given to developing countries, and supporting de-escalation in West Asia as also humanitarian access in Gaza.

The message, the approach

The political message conveyed was that global institutions no longer adequately reflected contemporary economic and demographic reality. This underlined the need for a stronger voice for emerging markets and developing economies. This in turn called for a broader effort to promote multi-polarity, reform of the Bretton Woods institutions, underline preference for dialogue, diplomacy and political solutions, and on trade, defend the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the rules-based multilateral trading system, including a two-tier WTO disputes settlement mechanism. It supported the Palestine people's rights to determination as well as a just and lasting settlement based on international law.

The Summit contained a detailed reference to Artificial Intelligence (AI), acknowledging its potential to stimulate economic growth, improve public services and accelerate sustainable development. The Declaration supported international cooperation on AI governance, including wider access to computing resources, research, skill and innovation. Over all, the Declaration appeared to adopt a pragmatic approach to issues concerning energy, health, climate and food security.

In his inaugural address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged BRICS leaders to draw up



M.K. Narayanan
A former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

10 global governance reform proposals, adding that the message from the BRICS Summit should be that 'if our future is shared, then the right to shape the future must also be assured'.

Among the many comments on the New Delhi Declaration, the broad consensus was that it was in keeping with India's policy of strategic autonomy, multi-alignment, and multi-vector engagement. The optics were excellent. The presence of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin lent gravitas to the proceedings, and the fact that the United Arab Emirates and Iran participated without indulging in mutual recriminations was also significant. All this seemed to suggest that BRICS is beginning to make some progress on matters of substance, rather than merely being a diplomatic spectacle. Among other highlights was the atmosphere of bonhomie that seemed to prevail and, at the very least, appeared to reflect an Indian approach to BRICS, viz., cooperation and consensus and for consultation and discussion on dispute settlement.

What a more sober assessment shows

Notwithstanding all this, it is important to acknowledge that this is the age of 'variable geometry' and not of 'deep seated' alliances. Given the state of the world, this is the grim reality of today. While, this BRICS Summit might seem to have 'bucked' this trend, a more sober and realistic assessment would seem to suggest that this is not the case. It may perhaps be too radical or drastic to cast BRICS as outdated; perhaps BRICS could possibly hope to become something in the nature of Europe's 'coalition of the willing' which has been contrived in the wake of the near demise of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Europe.

The fault may not lie entirely with the leaders of BRICS, for evidently no one could have predicted or anticipated the shifts and changes that have taken place in the international order since the first BRICS summit in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009. *Ad hoc* cooperation rather than firm alliances is the order of the day at present, alongside pragmatic coalitions built around shared 'interests', rather than true values and intentions.

This is often justified as pragmatism that is often needed during difficult periods, wherein multilateralism is replaced by plurilateralism in different corners of the globe. To expect that BRICS would remain unaffected given the many iterations taking place across the globe, and amidst the virtual collapse of the international economic and political order, would hence, be too much to hope for.

Each of the demands made by the original BRICS countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – meanwhile remain unfulfilled to

this day, including aspects such as reform of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the UN.

Also unfulfilled is the strengthening of cooperation among developing countries, to reduce dependence on western financial systems so as to create a more multipolar world.

Notwithstanding the creation of better opportunities for trade, BRICS has failed to become a well-integrated economic bloc that could stand up to the tyranny of the Bretton Woods Twins, let alone become a highly integrated economic bloc.

The China factor

Apart from its failure to promote multilateralism, or extend strong support to a more democratic and just multipolar world (combined with other weaknesses such as the failure to strengthen global South-South Cooperation), is another reality that cannot be ignored. In the nearly two decades since Yekaterinburg, China's economic preponderance has far eclipsed that of all other BRICS members, and has, in the process, achieved a political heft that is leading to a serious imbalance within the BRICS community.

The spectacle of United States President Donald Trump's kowtowing to Mr. Xi, during Mr. Xi's visit to Washington DC in September 2026, demonstrates that China can no longer be regarded as a member of the Global South, and hardly (any longer) championing many of the demands espoused by the BRICS nations such as the tyranny of the Big Powers. A fledgling economic power in 2009, China's heft threatens to derail the stance that BRICS has consistently held, viz., that of opposing the hegemony of the West.

Tensions remain between China and India, which are the leading members of BRICS. While no serious conflict has taken place since 2020 (Galwan), thanks to diplomatic efforts at all levels, relations remain uneasy notwithstanding the present diplomatic calm. This in turn does affect the future trajectory of BRICS and how far it can succeed in achieving its objective.

Hence, notwithstanding the surface calm evident at the New Delhi Summit, the reality is that the ability of BRICS to act in unison in a world that is in disarray is strictly limited. As far as India is concerned, while it does not have to fear the so-called Thucydides Trap or be concerned about U.S. economist Charles Kindleberger's theories, it must face the reality that membership of BRICS hardly gives it any additional political or economic strength. The increasing imbalance in BRICS – in terms of political and economic strength and influence – perhaps contains the seeds of its irrelevance in the years ahead, notwithstanding the hopes expressed during the New Delhi Declaration.

BRICS TIMELINE

2001

“BRIC” coined by Jim O'Neill (Goldman Sachs)

2006

First BRIC Foreign Ministers' meet, UNGA sidelines, New York

2009

1st Summit – Yekaterinburg, Russia

2011

South Africa joins; 3rd Summit at Sanya, China

2014

Fortaleza: New Development Bank & Contingent Reserve Arrangement

2024

Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia*, UAE

2025

Indonesia joins

2026

18th Summit – New Delhi

*Listed by the source as a member; Riyadh has not formally confirmed full accession – note this nuance for statement questions.

The Hindu, Page 10 – Op-Ed by M.K. Narayanan

- ◆ The original BRICS demands – reform of the **IMF, World Bank and UN**, and stronger South-South cooperation to reduce dependence on Western financial systems – remain **unfulfilled**.
- ◆ Despite better trade opportunities, BRICS has failed to become an integrated economic bloc able to stand up to the “tyranny of the **Bretton Woods Twins**”.
- ◆ **The China factor**: China's economic preponderance has eclipsed other members; the author argues it can hardly be regarded as part of the Global South any longer, threatening BRICS' stance

against big-power hegemony.

- ◆ **India-China tensions** persist despite calm since Galwan (2020), limiting BRICS' ability to act in unison. The growing imbalance "perhaps contains the seeds of its irrelevance".

India's Stakes — Balanced View

- ◆ **Gains:** a platform for strategic autonomy and multi-alignment; NDB financing; a voice on AI governance, payment systems and Global South priorities; a bridge between the West and the rest.
- ◆ **Concerns:** risk of a China-centric or anti-Western tilt; India has opposed a common BRICS currency; consensus-based decisions dilute ambition.
- ◆ **Way forward:** deliver on concrete deliverables — payment interoperability, NDB scale-up, value chains — while using I2U2, Quad and G20 in parallel.

VALUE ADDITION

Concepts to Quote in Mains

Variable geometry	Flexible, issue-based groupings in which members cooperate selectively.
Thucydides Trap	Graham Allison: a rising power threatening an established one tends towards conflict.
Kindleberger Trap	Joseph Nye, drawing on Charles Kindleberger: danger when a rising power fails to provide global public goods.
Bretton Woods Twins	IMF and IBRD, created at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire (1944).

BRICS Institutions

New Development Bank (NDB) — agreed at Fortaleza (2014), HQ **Shanghai**, first President K.V. Kamath; equal voting among founders. **Contingent Reserve Arrangement** — USD 100 bn liquidity safety net. **Partner country** category created at the **Kazan Summit (2024)**. India has hosted the summit in 2012, 2016, 2021 and 2026.

India's 2026 theme: *Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability* — the initials spell BRICS.

PRELIMS POINTERS BRICS 11: **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Indonesia**. Indonesia — first Southeast Asian member (Jan 2025). Yekaterinburg (2009) hosted the first summit; Sanya (2011) the first with South Africa. 17th Summit: Rio de Janeiro (2025).

More bytes: The **Kazan Declaration (2024)** backed the **BRICS Cross-Border Payments Initiative** and a proposed BRICS Grain Exchange; Kazan also created the **partner country** tier (e.g. Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan; later Nigeria and Vietnam). India **does not support a common BRICS currency** but promotes trade in local currencies — RBI permitted **Special Rupee Vostro Accounts** for rupee trade settlement in 2022. India is among the **largest borrowers of the NDB** (urban transport, water, clean energy). BRICS decisions are taken by **consensus**; the chair rotates in the order B-R-I-C-S, with new members fitting into the cycle. The **BRICS Startup Forum** and **BRICS Youth Summit** are among the people-to-people tracks; India's 2026 chairship also prioritised **AI governance**, digital public infrastructure and Global South voices in global institutions.

SYLLABUS LINK **GS 2** — Bilateral, regional and global groupings involving India; effect of policies of developed and developing countries on India's interests.



India's WorldSkills Medals Reflect Patient Investment

WHY IN NEWS MoS (IC) Skill Development Jayant Chaudhary writes on India's best-ever WorldSkills finish — 10th at Shanghai 2026.

- PM Narendra Modi met India's medal winners at the **48th WorldSkills Competition, Shanghai, China (September 2026)** — bakers, welders, dental technicians, car painters and retail professionals.

India's 'WorldSkills' medals reflect patient investment

The Bhagavad Gita, in verse 18.46, says *sva-karmāṇaṁ tam abhyarchya siddhim vindati manavaḥ* — a person attains perfection by worshipping through their own work. This implies that a workshop, a kitchen or a workshop floor can be a place of devotion, and a craft practised with care is a virtue in itself, not merely a means of livelihood. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently met India's medal winners at the 48th WorldSkills Competition, which was held in Shanghai, China (September 2026). These champions included bakers, welders, dental technicians, car painters and retail professionals. Their achievements placed India among the world's top 10 for the first time. By welcoming them, the Prime Minister has nudged Indian families to look again at skilling, a path that deserves the same honour as any other.

Skilled talent on world stage

Held every two years, WorldSkills is the Olympics of skills. More than 1,400 young people from about 70 countries and regions complete practical tasks, set and judged by international experts, in trades from welding and wiring to robotics and cyber security. Indian families know the podiums of education well — toppers' lists, merit ranks and classroom gold medals. Skilling has had no such place in Indian public life. These winners are changing that. As their numbers grow, more families will recognise that skill-based careers are no less worthy and that a podium earned at the workbench stands as tall as one earned in the examination hall.

India's WorldSkills story began in a humble way and has climbed steadily. India was placed 39th in 2011 and 19th in 2017. It reached the 13th spot in 2019 and held that place in 2024, with the best results being four bronze medals. In Shanghai, India finished 10th, with six silver medals and 20 medals for excellence — 26 medals in all, and its largest haul ever. This came from India's largest team of 70 competitors across 63



Jayant Chaudhary
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for Skill Development
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skills. Not only has the medal tally grown, but India's best medals have also moved from bronze to silver.

India competed in 11 skills for the first time, winning three of its six silver medals in these categories: Mohammed Salam in dental prosthetics, Kovid Gangrade in digital interactive media design and Saniya Joshi in retail sales. Smriti Nambiar bagged silver in bakery, alongside Parth Vohra in industrial design technology and Mehrunissa Begum in logistics and freight forwarding.

Humble beginnings to excellence

Behind these numbers are young people whose journeys began in very ordinary places. Kaif Khan of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, learnt his craft while working in a private car company's workshop after class 10. He won gold in the State, regional and national rounds of IndiaSkills, trained with Maruti Suzuki and Axalta, and gained exposure in Germany and Denmark, before he earned a Medallion for Excellence in Car Painting in Shanghai. From the south, Mohammed Salam of Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, won silver in dental prosthetics, a discipline judged on how precisely a crown or bridge fits, and one in which India had never competed before. All they needed was a fair test, comprehensive training, and an ecosystem that considered their skill seriously.

Kaif Khan, Mohammed Salam, Saniya Joshi, Smriti Nambiar and their teammates did not reach Shanghai by chance. They are the fruits of a patient investment in people. Medallions for Excellence also went to Md. Seraj in automobile technology, Pavan Bhadravati Suresha in additive manufacturing, Mallinath and Suhan Mascarenhas in Industry 4.0, and Abhishek Somanna Shigallali and Vinay Muttayya Hiremath in robot systems integration.

All of them climbed a ladder that begins in the districts and rises through State and regional rounds to the national finals. More than 3.65 lakh

young people registered for IndiaSkills across 63 skills in this cycle. Five regional competitions narrowed the field to about 650 national finalists in Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh), where 70 were chosen to represent India. A team from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the National Skill Development Corporation and the States, working with industry experts, has toiled to find, hone and polish these young people for the international stage. This is the whole-of-government approach at work, and marks a deeper shift.

Nations have long measured progress in Capex, the roads, ports and factories they build, and in Opex, the cost of keeping them running. India has built on both, and now adds a third discipline, Skill-Ex — deliberate investment in the people who make every asset work. The recent Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme is Skill-Ex at scale. This ₹60,000 crore scheme is upgrading 1,000 government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) as 200 hubs and 800 spokes, with industry partners managing the clusters.

There must be a focus on 'Skill-Ex'

Industry must join this effort. A factory is only as good as the people who run it, and employers should spend on Skill-Ex as seriously as they spend on Capex and Opex. Capex gives India its assets, and Opex keeps them running; only Skill-Ex develops the manpower to keep assets productive. A nation is built not only by those who design and govern, but also by those who weld, bake, paint and wire with care. That care is a virtue, and the Gita reminds us that it is also a form of worship. If we value skilling as much as degrees, India's young people will only ask how well they can walk their path, and India's next generation will make India the skilling capital of the world.

INDIA AT WORLDSKILLS

2011

39th rank (London)

2017

19th rank (Abu Dhabi)

2019

13th rank (Kazan)

2024

13th (Lyon) — best: 4 bronze

2026

10th (Shanghai) — 6 silver + 20 MfE

SILVER MEDALLISTS

Mohammed Salam — dental prosthetics* · Kovid Gangrade — digital interactive media design* · Saniya Joshi — retail sales* · Smriti Nambiar — bakery · Parth Vohra — industrial design technology · Mehrunissa Begum — logistics & freight forwarding

*Skills in which India competed for the first time (11 new skills this edition).

The Hindu, Page 10 — Op-Ed by Jayant Chaudhary

- India finished **10th** — its first top-10 finish — with **6 silver medals** and **20 Medallions** for

Excellence (26 in all), its largest haul ever, from its largest team of **70 competitors across 63 skills**. India's best medals moved up from bronze to silver.

From Workbench to World Stage

- ◆ **Gita 18.46** — *sva-karmana tam abhyarchya siddhim vindati manavah*: one attains perfection by worshipping through one's own work — a workshop floor can be a place of devotion; a craft practised with care is a virtue in itself.
- ◆ **Humble beginnings**: Kaif Khan (Lucknow) learnt car painting in a private workshop after Class 10 and won a Medallion for Excellence; Mohammed Salam (Cuddalore) won silver in a skill India had never contested before.
- ◆ **The pipeline**: 3.65 lakh+ registrations for IndiaSkills across 63 skills → five regional competitions → ~650 national finalists at Greater Noida → 70 chosen — a whole-of-government effort by MSDE, NSDC, States and industry experts.
- ◆ **"Skill-Ex"**: beyond Capex (assets) and Opex (running costs), the author proposes Skill-Ex — deliberate investment in the people who make every asset work. **PM-SETU** (₹60,000 crore) is Skill-Ex at scale.

Critical Analysis

- ◆ **Social prestige**: skilled careers still lack the status of degrees; public recognition of WorldSkills medallists helps change family choices.
- ◆ **Structural gaps**: ITIs face outdated trades, faculty shortages and weak industry links; a small share of India's workforce has formal vocational training.
- ◆ **Way forward**: industry to treat Skill-Ex like Capex; align curricula to WorldSkills occupational standards; apprenticeship-linked training; credit transfer between vocational and academic streams (NEP 2020, NCrF).

VALUE ADDITION

WorldSkills — Fact File

"Olympics of skills" — held **every two years**; 1,400+ young people from ~70 countries/regions perform practical tasks set and judged by international experts (welding to robotics and cyber security). Organised by **WorldSkills International** (began 1950, Spain); **India a member since 2007**. Promotes international skill standards, knowledge exchange, technical excellence and skilled careers. India's participation coordinated by **NSDC** under **MSDE**, with Sector Skill Councils and industry.

PM-SETU

Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs — ₹60,000 crore; upgrades **1,000 government ITIs** in a **hub-and-spoke** model (**200 hubs + 800 spokes**) with **industry partners managing the clusters**.

Skilling Ecosystem

NSDC (2008)	PPP company under MSDE; runs IndiaSkills.
MSDE (2014)	Nodal ministry; Skill India Mission (2015), PMKVY.
NCVET (2018)	Regulator for vocational education & training.

PRELIMS POINTERS 48th WorldSkills — **Shanghai, China (2026)**; 47th — **Lyon, France (2024)**. India: **10th rank, 6 silver, 20 Medallions for Excellence**, 70 competitors, 63 skills. Medallions also to Md.

Seraj (automobile technology), Pavan Bhadravati Suresha (additive manufacturing), Mallinath & Suhan Mascarenhas (Industry 4.0), Abhishek Shignalli & Vinay Hiremath (robot systems integration).

SYLLABUS LINK **GS 3** — Inclusive growth, employment & skill development. **GS 2** — Government schemes. **GS 4/Essay** — Dignity of labour.

Practice Zone

MAINS PRACTICE

Q1 · GS 2 · 15 MARKS · 250 WORDS

The right to protest is integral to democracy, yet the State is duty-bound to maintain public order. Examine the constitutional and judicial framework that governs this balance in India, with reference to internet shutdowns and transit restrictions.

विरोध का अधिकार लोकतंत्र का अभिन्न अंग है, फिर भी सार्वजनिक व्यवस्था बनाए रखना राज्य का दायित्व है। इंटरनेट बंदी और आवागमन प्रतिबंधों के संदर्भ में, भारत में इस संतुलन को नियंत्रित करने वाले संवैधानिक एवं न्यायिक ढाँचे का परीक्षण कीजिए।

APPROACH

- ◆ **Intro:** Delhi lockdown ahead of the Jantar Mantar protest and the SC calling a blanket transit ban “over-reaching”.
- ◆ **Body 1 — Framework:** Art. 19(1)(a), (b), (d) and reasonable restrictions (public order); Sec. 163 BNSS; Telecom Act 2023 & Suspension Rules 2024.
- ◆ **Body 2 — Judiciary:** Ramlila Maidan (2012), MKSS (2018), Amit Sahni (2020), Anuradha Bhasin (2020) — proportionality and least-restrictive means.
- ◆ **Body 3 — Concerns:** collective punishment of commuters, economic cost of shutdowns, CAPF overstretch, federal friction.
- ◆ **Conclusion:** designated spaces, graded and published orders, dialogue — “regulate, don’t prohibit”.

Q2 · GS 2 · 15 MARKS · 250 WORDS

BRICS has expanded its membership, yet faces questions over its cohesion. Critically examine the relevance of BRICS for India in an increasingly fragmented world order.

सदस्यता के विस्तार के बावजूद ब्रिक्स अपनी एकजुटता को लेकर प्रश्नों का सामना कर रहा है। एक खंडित होती विश्व व्यवस्था में भारत के लिए ब्रिक्स की प्रासंगिकता का समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

APPROACH

- ◆ **Intro:** 18th Summit, New Delhi (Sept 2026); unanimous New Delhi Declaration of an 11-member grouping.
- ◆ **Body 1 — Relevance:** strategic autonomy and multi-alignment; reform of global governance; NDB; local-currency trade and payment interoperability; AI governance.
- ◆ **Body 2 — Limits:** unfulfilled IMF/UN reform; China’s preponderance; India-China trust deficit; variable geometry; consensus dilutes ambition.
- ◆ **Body 3 — India’s strategy:** issue-based cooperation, oppose common currency, balance with Quad/G20.
- ◆ **Conclusion:** BRICS useful as a platform, not an alliance — value lies in deliverables.

PRELIMS PRACTICE — 10 MCQS

1. Under which law are orders for temporary suspension of internet/telecom services currently issued in India?

- (a) Information Technology Act, 2000
- (b) Indian Telegraph Act, 1885
- (c) Telecommunications Act, 2023
- (d) Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

2. Consider the following: 1. Public order 2. Sovereignty and integrity of India 3. Decency or morality. Which of the above are grounds of reasonable restriction on the right to assemble peaceably under Article 19(3)?

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

3. Which of the following pairs (Force : Border guarded) is/are correctly matched? 1. ITBP : India–China 2. SSB : India–Nepal 3. Assam Rifles : India–Bangladesh

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

4. A dispute regarding the election to a State Legislative Assembly can be raised only through:

- (a) A reference by the President to the Election Commission
- (b) An election petition before the High Court
- (c) A writ petition before the Supreme Court under Article 32
- (d) A resolution of the State Legislature

5. With reference to Navi Pillay, consider: 1. She served as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. 2. She chaired the UN Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel. 3. The Nobel Peace Prize is presented to her in Stockholm. Which are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only

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

6. Consider: 1. The ICJ settles disputes between States. 2. The ICC is a principal organ of the UN. 3. India is a party to the Rome Statute. Which is/are correct? (a) 1 only

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

7. The “World Development Report 2026: The Promise of Artificial Intelligence” is published

- (a) International Monetary Fund
- (b) UNDP
- (c) World Bank Group
- (d) World Economic Forum

8. Which institution of the World Bank Group is India NOT a member of?

- (a) IDA
- (b) MIGA
- (c) IFC
- (d) ICSID

9. Consider: 1. The first BRIC Summit was held at Yekaterinburg in 2009. 2. The New Development Bank is headquartered in Shanghai. 3. Indonesia joined BRICS as a full member in January 2025. Which are correct?

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

10. With reference to PM-SETU, which statement is correct?

- (a) It upgrades 1,000 government ITIs in a hub-and-spoke model of 200 hubs and 800 spokes
- (b) It is a ₹6,000 crore scheme for polytechnics
- (c) It is implemented by the Ministry of Education alone
- (d) It covers only private ITIs

ANSWER KEY & RATIONALE

- | 1 (c) | 2 (b) | 3 (b) | 4 (b) | 5 (a) | 6 (a) | 7 (c) | 8 (d) | 9 (d) | 10 (a) |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| 1. Sec. 20(2) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 read with the Suspension Rules, 2024 (earlier, 2017 Rules under the Telegraph Act). | 2. Art. 19(3) permits restrictions only for sovereignty & integrity and public order ; decency/morality is a ground under 19(2) for speech. | 3. Assam Rifles guards the India-Myanmar border; BSF guards India-Bangladesh. | 4. Art. 329(b) + RPA 1951 — election petition before the High Court ; the President cannot annul elections. | 5. The Peace Prize is presented in Oslo ; the other Nobel Prizes in Stockholm. | 6. ICC is an independent treaty body (Rome Statute), not a UN organ; India has not joined it. | 7. WDR is the World Bank's annual flagship since 1978. | 8. India is not a member of ICSID (investment-dispute centre). | 9. All three are correct — first BRIC Summit 2009 (Russia), NDB HQ Shanghai, Indonesia in Jan 2025. | 10. ₹60,000 crore; 1,000 ITIs; 200 hubs + 800 spokes ; industry partners manage clusters. |

QUICK REVISION RECAP

Delhi lockdown: CJP denied permission for Jantar Mantar protest; demands — CEC Gyanesh Kumar's resignation & rollback of SIR. Internet curbs, Metro/markets shut, trains cancelled; ~13,000 extra Central personnel (40 coys ITBP + 20 coys SSB ≈ 6,000; 7,000 CRPF). SC (CJI Surya Kant): blanket ban “over-reaching” — regulate, don't prohibit.

Nobel Peace 2026: Navi Pillay, 85 — ex-UNHCHR (2008–14), ex-ICTR & ICC judge, chaired UNHRC Commission of Inquiry on OPT & Israel; ad hoc ICJ judge in *Gambia v. Myanmar*. 125th anniversary; chair Jørgen Watne Frydnes — “Peace requires justice”.

WDR 2026: World Bank, “The Promise of AI”; India partner IndiaAI Mission (MeitY). Adopt & adapt

open models; ~4% Indian jobs at automation risk; BPO entry postings -20%; 20-year data-centre tax holiday a fiscal risk; India 2nd-largest AI talent pool (~50,460) but net loss of 200 elite researchers.

BRICS: 18th Summit, New Delhi, 12–13 Sept 2026; unanimous New Delhi Declaration; local-currency trade, payment interoperability, BRICS Economic Partnership Strategy 2030, GVC Action Plan 2026–30, AI governance. Author: variable geometry, China factor, unfulfilled reform agenda.

WorldSkills: 48th edition, Shanghai 2026 — India 10th (first top-10), 6 silver + 20 Medallions (26), 70 competitors, 63 skills, 11 new skills. Skill-Ex concept; PM-SETU ₹60,000 crore, 1,000 ITIs (200 hubs + 800 spokes).

PRELIMS TRAP-SETTERS

- ✗ “ITBP and SSB are primarily internal-security forces.” — ✓ They are **border-guarding forces** (China; Nepal-Bhutan) deployed here for law-and-order duty.
- ✗ “The President can annul State Assembly elections on the advice of the ECI.” — ✓ Only an **election petition before the High Court** can set aside an election.
- ✗ “All Nobel Prizes are presented in Stockholm.” — ✓ The **Peace Prize is decided and presented in Oslo** by the Norwegian Nobel Committee.
- ✗ “The ICC is a UN organ that hears disputes between States.” — ✓ That is the **ICJ**; the ICC tries individuals and is a treaty-based court.

- ✗ “WDR advises developing countries to build their own frontier AI models.” — ✓ It advises **adopting and adapting open models**.
- ✗ “India won gold at WorldSkills Shanghai.” — ✓ Best medals were **six silvers**; India’s first top-10 rank.

PLACES & PERSONS IN NEWS

Jantar Mantar, New Delhi	18th-century observatory of Sawai Jai Singh II; Delhi’s designated protest site — venue of the proposed CJP protest.
Nuremberg, Germany	Seat of the 1945–46 International Military Tribunal; where Pillay heard of her Nobel.
Oslo, Norway	Home of the Norwegian Nobel Committee; Peace Prize ceremony on 10 December.
Shanghai, China	Host of the 48th WorldSkills Competition (Sept 2026); HQ of the BRICS New Development Bank.
Yekaterinburg, Russia	Venue of the first BRIC Summit (2009).
Navi Pillay	Nobel Peace laureate 2026; former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
Jørgen Watne Frydnes	Chairman, Norwegian Nobel Committee.
Gyanesh Kumar	Chief Election Commissioner of India.
Surya Kant / Tushar Mehta	Chief Justice of India / Solicitor-General of India.
Govind Mohan	Union Home Secretary.
M.K. Narayanan	Former IB Director, National Security Adviser and Governor of West Bengal; author of the BRICS op-ed.
Jayant Chaudhary	MoS (Independent Charge), Skill Development & Entrepreneurship; MoS, Education.

CONNECT THE DOTS — MAINS LINKAGES

Delhi lockdown & protest	Right to dissent vs public order · electoral integrity & SIR · ECI independence · Union–State relations in policing · CAPF reforms · digital rights and internet shutdowns.
Navi Pillay’s Nobel	Rule-based international order under strain · credibility of ICJ/ICC · India’s position on West Asia (two-State solution) · women in the judiciary · GS 4: courage, integrity and justice.
WDR 2026 on AI	IndiaAI Mission · Digital Public Infrastructure · future of work & entry-level jobs · data-centre incentives vs fiscal prudence · semiconductor mission · brain drain.
BRICS	Strategic autonomy & multi-alignment · reform of Bretton Woods institutions · local-currency trade · NDB · India–China relations · Global South leadership.
WorldSkills	Demographic dividend · Skill India & PM-SETU · NEP 2020 vocational integration · dignity of labour (Gita 18.46; Gandhi’s “bread labour”) · Essay: “Skill is the new degree”.

STATIC LINKAGE — REVISE ALONGSIDE

Delhi lockdown	Art. 19 & reasonable restrictions; Art. 239AA (Delhi); Seventh Schedule — List II, Entry 1 (Public order) & Entry 2 (Police); Union List Entry 2A (deployment of Union forces in aid of civil power); Art. 324–329 (elections).
Navi Pillay's Nobel	UN system — UNGA, Security Council, Human Rights Council, ICJ; OHCHR; Genocide Convention (1948); Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948).
WDR 2026	Bretton Woods institutions — IMF vs World Bank; IBRD vs IDA lending; India's Semiconductor Mission and Digital India.
BRICS	Groupings with India — BRICS, SCO, G20, Quad, IBSA, I2U2; NDB vs AIIB (HQ Beijing, 2016).
WorldSkills	Art. 41 (DPSP — right to work and education); demographic dividend; Skill India Mission; apprenticeships under the Apprentices Act, 1961.

PRELIMS BYTES

Alfred Nobel — Swedish chemist, inventor of dynamite; prizes first awarded in 1901. **Nobel Peace Prize 2025** — María Corina Machado (Venezuela).

Commission of Inquiry on the OPT was set up by the UNHRC in **May 2021**, the first open-ended COI created by the Council.

Section 163 BNSS orders can be issued by a District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate or Executive Magistrate; ordinarily valid for up to two months.

CRPF is India's largest Central Armed Police Force; the **Rapid Action Force** is its specialised riot-control wing (1992).

QUOTABLE LINES FOR ANSWERS & ESSAYS

"Peace requires justice." — Jørgen Watne Frydnes, Chair, Norwegian Nobel Committee.

Judges **"guard the thin red line between order and chaos."** — Nobel citation for Navi Pillay.

"A world in which power, rather than law, determines whose suffering matters." — Navi Pillay.

"There is a distinction between total prohibition and regulation." — Supreme Court on Delhi's transit ban.

"If our future is shared, then the right to shape the future must also be assured." — PM Narendra Modi at the BRICS Summit.

"A podium earned at the workbench stands as tall as one earned in the examination hall." — Jayant Chaudhary.

◆ THOUGHT FOR THE DAY ◆

"A borrowed identity cannot create an original future."
उधार की पहचान मौलिक भविष्य का निर्माण नहीं कर सकती।

"The ability to forget is as important as the power to remember."
भूलने की क्षमता उतनी ही महत्वपूर्ण है जितनी स्मरण की शक्ति।

"A river loses its name but not its existence in the ocean."
नदी समुद्र में अपना नाम खो देती है, अस्तित्व नहीं।