

3RD INDIA-NORDIC SUMMIT 2026 (GREEN TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP)

PRELIMS QUICK BYTES (KEY FACTS)

- **Summit Venue & Date:** 19 May 2026, Oslo (Capital of Norway).
- **Nordic Countries:** Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.
- **Previous Summits:** 1st Summit - 2018 (Stockholm, Sweden); 2nd Summit - 2022 (Copenhagen, Denmark).
- **Key Evolution:** Both sides agreed to elevate and transform their ties into a "**Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership**".
- **Strategic Significance:** Except for the United States, India is the only country with which the Nordic group holds a summit-level partnership.
- **Economic Milestone:** Bilateral trade quadrupled over the last decade, while investment inflows surged by nearly **200%**. The recent India-EFTA **TEPA** (Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement) has further catalyzed this relationship.

CORE CONCEPTS & MAINS ANALYSIS (GS PAPER 2 & 3)

1. INDIA-NORDIC STRATEGIC SYNERGY

- **Nordic Strengths:** Advanced green technology, clean energy, cutting-edge innovation, and massive Sovereign Wealth Funds (e.g., Norway's Government Pension Fund Global has invested nearly USD 28 billion in the Indian capital market).
- **India's Strengths:** Vast market size (Scale), robust digital infrastructure, a massive talent pool, and rapidly expanding manufacturing capabilities.
- **The Convergence:** This partnership is crucial for India's green transition, decarbonization goals, and achieving its Net-Zero targets through technology transfers.

2. INDIA'S ARCTIC POLICY

- **Policy Title:** "*India and the Arctic: building a partnership for sustainable development*". It is structured around **six core pillars**.
- **Why it matters to India (Monsoon Linkage):** Climate change and the melting of Arctic ice directly disrupt Indian monsoon patterns and rainfall distribution. This poses a severe threat to India's economic, food, and water security.
- **Key Research Outpost:** India has been operating its dedicated permanent Arctic research station, 'Himadri', at Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard (Norway) since 2008. India also holds 'Observer' status in the Arctic Council since 2013.

COUNTRY-WISE FOCUS AREAS & BILATERAL MATRIX

Country	Economic/Trade Highlights	Key Areas of Bilateral Cooperation
Denmark	Bilateral goods trade: USD 2.05 billion (2025).	Green Hydrogen, Cyber Security, Smart Urban Development, and Shipping.
Finland	Bilateral goods trade: USD 1.017 billion (2024-25).	Telecommunications (6G Technology), Digital Governance, and Innovation.
Norway	Bilateral goods trade: USD 1.05 billion (2024-25).	Blue Economy (sustainable ocean resources), Arctic Research, and Maritime Security.
Sweden	Highest bilateral trade in the group: USD 6.96 billion (2024).	Defence Production , Advanced Manufacturing, and Ayurveda.
Iceland	Bilateral trade volume: USD 77.06 million (2024-25).	Geothermal Energy (harnessing underground heat) and Sustainable Deep-Sea Fisheries.

🔗 8 KEY OUTCOMES OF THE SUMMIT

- Green Technology Strategic Partnership:** Focusing on climate change mitigation, resource optimization, energy security, and the creation of green jobs.
- India-EFTA TEPA Implementation:** Enhancing market access, reducing tariff/non-tariff barriers, and integrating resilient global value chains.
- Climate Action Initiatives:** Accelerating joint efforts toward carbon emission reductions to build a sustainable, long-term economic model.
- Arctic and Polar Research:** Undertaking joint climate research to safeguard Indian agricultural productivity from erratic weather patterns caused by Arctic changes.
- STEM Research & 6G Deployment:** Expanding R&D collaboration and boosting the digital economy by focusing on next-generation communication networks (6G).
- Cooperation in Blue Economy:** Ensuring sustainable use of marine resources and promoting a stable, secure, and well-connected **Indo-Pacific region**.
- Mobility of Talent:** Providing global exposure to Indian students and researchers (e.g., through initiatives like Finland's 'Terve-Namaste' series).
- Defence Industrial Collaboration:** Capitalizing on **100% FDI** in India's defense sector to foster technology transfers and joint defense production with nations like Sweden.

🌐 SOFT POWER & DIASPORA CONNECT

- **The Diaspora:** A thriving Indian diaspora of over 1.7 lakh people lives in the Nordic region (Sweden: ~88,000, Finland: ~33,000, Norway: ~30,000, Denmark: ~21,000). They serve as a vital bridge in IT, engineering, and academia.
- **Cultural Diplomacy:** The widespread celebration of the International Day of Yoga, and annual flagship festivals like *Namaste Stockholm* and the *Oslo Colour Festival*, highlight India's growing soft power.
- **Symbolic Ties:** Public spaces in Denmark such as *Gandhi Plaene* (Gandhi Park) and *Indiakaj* (India Quay) represent deep-rooted historical and people-to-people connections.

Syllabus Mapping for Civil Services:

- **UPSC GS Paper 2:** International Relations (Bilateral, regional, and global groupings involving India and affecting India's interests).
- **UPSC GS Paper 3:** Environment & Science and Technology (Inventions, climate change, and conservation).

LAUNCH OF PM-AJAY PORTAL AND MOBILE APP (2026)

📌 PRELIMS QUICK BYTES (KEY FACTS FOR PRELIMS)

- **Launched By:** Dr. Virendra Kumar, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment.
- **Launch Date:** 26 May 2026.
- **Primary Objective:** Transitioning the implementation of the 'Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojna' (PM-AJAY) scheme from a paper-based workflow to an end-to-end real-time digital workflow.
- **Target Group:** Socio-economic development and welfare of Scheduled Caste (SC) communities.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

📖 CORE CONCEPTS & MAINS ANALYSIS (GS PAPER 2 & 3)

1. UNDERSTANDING THE PM-AJAY SCHEME

- **Full Form:** Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojna.
- **Nature of Scheme:** It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** framed by merging three erstwhile welfare schemes:
 1. Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)
 2. Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCA to SCSP)
 3. Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY - for hostel construction)
- **Core Aim:** To reduce poverty among SC communities by enhancing employment opportunities through skill development (Skilling), and to improve infrastructure in villages with a high concentration of SC population.

2. STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEW DIGITAL PLATFORMS

- **Real-Time Monitoring:** The portal enables milestone-linked fund flows, meaning financial allocations are tracked and released systematically based on verified project progress.
- **Transparency and Digital Governance:** Digitizing grassroot-level operations, such as field surveys and the preparation of Village Development Plans (VDPs), eliminates manual red-taped delays and minimizes leaks.

📱 KEY COMPONENTS OF THE PM-AJAY MOBILE APP

The unified application integrates three distinct programmatic arms under a single digital window:

1. **Adarsh Gram Component:** Offers comprehensive national, state, and district-level dashboards to monitor the conversion of targeted locations into model villages.
2. **Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Component:** Acts as a centralized Management Information System (MIS) to aggregate state-wide funding allocations aimed at livelihood generation and skill development.
3. **Hostel Component:** Digitizes the administration, ground inspections, and management of educational hostels built for beneficiary students.

CORE TECHNICAL FEATURES OF THE APP:

- **Geo-Tagging & Photo Uploads:** Requires mandatorily uploading live, location-stamped photographs of physical works to verify assets and prevent fraudulent reporting.
- **Role-Based Access Control:** Deploys a unified secure login architecture tailored with distinct privileges for grassroots field functionaries up to Union Ministry administrators.
- **Mobile Inspections:** Empowers inspection officers to file structural compliance reviews directly from mobile devices, eliminating desktop dependency.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS & ALLIED PLEDGES

- **50 Monitorable Indicators:** The transformation under the Adarsh Gram component is measured against **50 socio-economic indicators** distributed across **10 developmental domains** (e.g., sanitation, education, drinking water).
- **Additional Pledges Administered:** Aligning with the Ministry's broader mandates, the Union Minister also administered official pledges toward **Senior Citizen Welfare** and the **Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan** (Substance-Free India Campaign) during the event.

Syllabus Mapping for Civil Services:

- **UPSC GS Paper 2:** Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; Mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- **UPSC GS Paper 2:** E-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential.
- **Banking/SSC:** Central Government schemes, newly launched portals/apps, and social sector indices.

CLEAR TECHNOLOGY: A REVOLUTION IN PROTEIN IMAGING (2026)

PRELIMS QUICK BYTES (KEY FACTS FOR PRELIMS)

- **Technology Name:** CLEAR – Cleavable Light-Erased Antibody Reporter.
- **Developed By:** Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru (An autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India).
- **Collaborating Institution:** Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.
- **Published Journal:** 'Chemical Science' (Royal Society of Chemistry).
- **Primary Application:** Precision disease diagnosis in areas such as cancer biology, neurobiological disorders, and immunology.

📖 CORE CONCEPTS & MAINS ANALYSIS (GS PAPER 3 - SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY)

1. THE CRITICAL ROLE OF PROTEOMIC MAPPING

- Proteins are the primary structural and functional orchestrators within biological systems. They serve as primary targets for drug therapies and act as definitive markers for disease diagnosis.
- Creating a comprehensive proteomic map – which detects the precise identity and spatial organization of every protein within its native tissue layout – enables pathologists to identify early-stage cancers and understand complex neurological degeneration.

2. THE OPERATIONAL MECHANISM OF CLEAR

- **Single Fluorophore Milestone:** Traditional multiplexed imaging requires using multiple separate colors or markers (fluorophores) to distinguish different proteins. CLEAR breaks this barrier by visualizing an unprecedented number of proteins within the same sample using just a **single fluorescent marker**.
- **The Chalkboard Principle:** The technology mimics a classic chalkboard interface. Proteins of interest are bound with cleavable fluorescent tags and imaged under a microscope.
- Then, a gentle pulse of **365 nm LED light** is applied to cleanly erase the fluorescent signal. This clears the optical window, allowing scientists to label and image a completely new set of proteins within the exact same cell. Repeating this cycle yields an iterative, multi-layered structural protein map.

🔗 STRATEGIC ADVANTAGES & CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE

- **Live Cell Compatibility:** Unlike heavy chemical multiplexing alternatives that damage organic tissues, CLEAR combines speed and high spatial resolution while remaining non-destructive to delicate biological samples, including live cells.
- **Advancing Spatial Proteomics:** It maps not just the presence of proteins, but their exact physical positioning relative to each other within cells, which is a major global focus area in modern biotechnology.
- **Catalyzing Precision Medicine:** By providing high-resolution, patient-specific molecular insights, the platform can guide clinicians toward highly targeted therapies, accelerating the transition from generalized treatments to individualized precision healthcare.

Syllabus Mapping for Civil Services:

- **UPSC GS Paper 3:** Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life; Achievements of Indians in science & technology.
- **UPSC GS Paper 3:** Biotechnology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.
- **Banking/SSC:** New scientific discoveries, disease diagnostics, and prominent autonomous scientific bodies.

INDIA-JAPAN SEMINAR: NEW MOMENTUM IN WORKFORCE COOPERATION (2026)

🔗 PRELIMS QUICK BYTES (KEY FACTS FOR PRELIMS)

- **Event Name:** Joint Seminar on India-Japan Workforce Mobility Co-operation.
- **Venue & Date:** Tokyo (Japan), 25 May 2026.
- **Organizers:** Jointly by the Embassy of India in Japan and ASEAN ONE Co. Ltd., Japan.

- **Indian Representative:** Ms. Vandana Gurnani, Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India.
- **Key Vision Milestone:** Realizing a targeted Japan-India personnel exchange program involving 50,000 skilled individuals over the next 10 years.

📖 CORE CONCEPTS & MAINS ANALYSIS (GS PAPER 2 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

1. HARNESSING DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDENDS THROUGH MOBILITY

- **Complementary Demographics:** India's vast, young skilled workforce stands as a perfect structural solution to meet the critical labor deficits of Japan's rapidly aging society.
- **Global Positioning:** The partnership highlights India's evolution as a trusted, resilient global workforce hub that builds transparent and scalable international labor pathways.

2. INDIA'S INSTITUTIONAL SUBSTRUCTURE FOR LABOR MOBILITY

To prepare workers seamlessly for global markets, India leverages a multi-layered skilling and digital ecosystem:

- **eMigrate Platform:** A flagship digital initiative managed by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to ensure transparent, safe, and regulated overseas recruitment.
- **National Career Service (NCS) & Model Career Centres:** Centralized networks used to streamline demand aggregation and employment facilitation.
- **The FLIGHT Initiative:** Highlighted as a standout state-led model, the government of Assam's 'Foreign Language Initiative for Global Talent' (FLIGHT) explicitly trains regional candidates in overseas languages to fit foreign corridors like Japan.

🔗 KEY STRUCTURAL SECTORS & THE WAY FORWARD

The seminar identified primary industrial sectors hungry for structured Indian talent:

- Manufacturing, Caregiving (Elderly Care), Construction, Automobile Maintenance, Hospitality, Agriculture, IT/Digital Services, and emerging Green Economy segments.

🔗 STRATEGIC ROADMAP (WAY FORWARD):

- **Language Infrastructure:** Scaling up Japanese language testing centers and specialized linguistic training academies directly inside India.
- **Occupational Alignment:** Synchronizing India's educational training (such as ITIs and apprenticeship systems) with Japan's technical assessment matrices (Skill Mapping).
- **Ethical Recruitment:** Eliminating predatory intermediary costs by formalizing closer, direct institutional cooperation between Japanese employers and Indian government portals.

Syllabus Mapping for Civil Services:

- **UPSC GS Paper 2:** Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests; Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.
- **UPSC GS Paper 3:** Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.
- **Banking/SSC:** International bilateral summits, labor welfare policies, and global HR exchange milestones.

ISM LAUNCHES "INVESTORS SUPPORT" PORTAL (2026)

📌 PRELIMS QUICK BYTES (KEY FACTS FOR PRELIMS)

- **Portal Name:** Investors Support - ism.gov.in/investment
- **Launched By:** India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India.
- **Launch Date:** 26 May 2026.
- **Current CEO of ISM:** Shri Amitesh Kumar Sinha.
- **Semicon India Programme Status Update:** As of May 2026, **12 Fab/Packaging projects** and **24 semiconductor design projects** have been formally approved under the programme.

📖 CORE CONCEPTS & MAINS ANALYSIS (GS PAPER 3 - SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY / ECONOMY)

1. MANDATE OF THE INDIA SEMICONDUCTOR MISSION (ISM)

- ISM acts as a specialized, dedicated nodal agency built to drive India's long-term strategies for developing a sustainable semiconductor manufacturing, packaging, and design ecosystem.
- It serves as the primary implementation arm of the Semicon India Programme to reduce import dependencies on critical silicon components.

2. FUNCTIONAL OBJECTIVES OF THE "INVESTORS SUPPORT" PORTAL

- **Single-Window Digital Interface:** The portal streamlines the *Ease of Doing Business* index by consolidating government policies, regulatory requirements, financial schemes, and details of existing approved projects onto a centralized platform for foreign and domestic investors.
- **Inter-Departmental Grievance Redressal:** It introduces a structured system where investors can log operational bottlenecks or concerns.
- **Time-Bound Resolution Framework:** These registered grievances are assigned to designated Nodal Officers across participating Central Ministries, State Governments, project companies, and international trade bodies to ensure accountable, fast-track resolutions.

🔗 STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE & STRUCTURAL IMPACT

- **Boosting Investor Confidence:** By formalizing a proactive "handholding" and investor facilitation model, India improves its transparency rating, which is critical for attracting high-capital Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
- **Secure Role-Based Architecture:** The backend utilizes secure, role-based workflows enabling seamless coordination between distinct public and private entities without compromising data integrity.

- **Global Supply Chain Resilience:** At a macro level, providing an efficient investor lifecycle platform helps establish India as a trusted, alternative semiconductor supply chain partner amid global geopolitical realignments in tech manufacturing.

Syllabus Mapping for Civil Services:

- **UPSC GS Paper 3:** Science and Technology- developments and their applications in everyday life; Indigenization of technology and developing new technology (Semiconductor Ecosystem).
- **UPSC GS Paper 3:** Changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth; Growth, development, and employment.
- **Banking/SSC:** New digital initiatives by MeitY, core regulatory portals, and high-tech industrial manufacturing updates.

INDIA-CANADA HIGH-LEVEL TALKS & CEPA ROADMAP (2026)

🌟 PRELIMS QUICK BYTES (KEY FACTS FOR PRELIMS)

- **Core Focus of Talks:** India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- **Indian Delegation Leadership:** Shri Piyush Goyal (Union Minister of Commerce and Industry). This marks the largest-ever Indian business delegation to visit Canada (comprising over 100 companies).
- **Key Canadian Dignitaries:**
 - Prime Minister of Canada: **Mr. Mark Carney**
 - Minister of International Trade: Mr. Maninder Sidhu
 - Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food: Mr. Heath MacDonald
 - Foreign Minister: Ms. Anita Anand
- **Target Timelines & Milestones:**
 - **CEPA Conclusion Deadline:** Reaffirmed commitment to conclude a balanced and mutually beneficial CEPA by the **end of 2026**.
 - **Bilateral Trade Target:** To expand the current bilateral trade from approximately USD 8.5 billion to **USD 50 billion by 2030**.

📄 CORE CONCEPTS & MAINS ANALYSIS (GS PAPER 2 & 3 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS / ECONOMY)

1. CEPA (COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT) AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

- **The "Game Changer":** Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney characterized the proposed free trade agreement with India as a "game changer" that will unlock massive new market access for businesses in both nations.
- **Timeline and Progress:** Momentum has accelerated swiftly since the signing of the Terms of Reference in March 2025. Following two rounds of formal talks completed by May 8, 2026, a concurrent round of technical negotiations is actively underway in Ottawa to fast-track the legal text.

2. SECTOR-WISE COOPERATION & STRATEGIC LINKAGES

- **Agriculture & Agri-Tech:** Collaborative focus on food security, sustainability, and agri-technology. Enhanced synergy in food processing is earmarked to boost the incomes of Indian farmers and producers while driving cross-border agricultural integration.
- **Infrastructure & Long-Term Investments:** Discussions highlighted long-term institutional Canadian investment opportunities within India's rapidly expanding renewable energy, logistics, digital infrastructure, and consumer markets.
- **Diversified Industry Participation:** The 100-plus business delegation spans high-value priority sectors including energy, mining, automotive goods, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, Artificial Intelligence (AI), leather, and textiles.

🔗 STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE & STRUCTURAL IMPACT

- **Revival of Economic Ties:** This visit builds heavily on sustained, high-level engagements since mid-2025, effectively translating ministerial commitments into concrete commercial partnerships.
- **The Diaspora Factor:** India underscored the critical role of the vibrant Indian diaspora in Canada as an organic bridge in deepening cultural, economic, and people-to-people ties.

Syllabus Mapping for Civil Services:

- **UPSC GS Paper 2:** Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests (India-Canada Bilateral Relations, Free Trade Agreements).
- **UPSC GS Paper 3:** Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth; International trade and export-led growth dynamics.
- **Banking/SSC:** Key international economic pacts, institutional targets (USD 50B trade target by 2030), and updates on global heads of state (Canada PM Mark Carney).

INDIA-JAPAN DIPLOMATIC TALKS (MAY 2026)

🔗 PRELIMS QUICK BYTES (KEY FACTS FOR PRELIMS)

- **Core Focus of Talks:** Strengthening bilateral and strategic relations between India and Japan.
- **Key Japanese Dignitary:** Mr. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.
- **Key Indian Dignitary:** Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India.
- **Venue of Meeting:** New Delhi.
- **Core Institutional Framework:** India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

📖 CORE CONCEPTS & MAINS ANALYSIS (GS PAPER 2 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

1. SIGNIFICANCE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION

- **Peace and Stability:** The leaders reaffirmed the vital role played by the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership in advancing peace, stability, and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.
- **Shared Interests:** Discussions centered on the imperative of deepening bilateral cooperation to secure shared regional and global interests amidst shifting geopolitical dynamics.

🔗 STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE & STRUCTURAL IMPACT

- **Strategic Continuity:** This high-level interaction reflects the sustained diplomatic momentum and mutual strategic trust between India and Japan, who are also key pillars of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) framework.

Syllabus Mapping for Civil Services:

- **UPSC GS Paper 2:** Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests (India-Japan Bilateral Relations, Indo-Pacific Strategy).
- **Banking/SSC:** International visits, bilateral summits, and institutional designations (Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi).

