

THE DAILY UPSC BRIEF

HIGH-YIELD DAILY SOURCES & ANALYSIS | 1 NOVEMBER 2026

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PRELIMS POINTERS — TODAY IN ONE LINE EACH

- World Cities Day** — 31 October; UNGA resolution 68/239 (2013), first observed 2014. 2026 theme: Regenerating the City: Adequate Housing for All.
- UN-Habitat** — the UN programme for human settlements and sustainable urbanisation; headquartered in Nairobi; leads World Cities Day.
- G20 2026** — the United States holds the presidency; foreign ministers met in Atlanta on 30 October.
- Next-Generation Corvettes** — eight anti-surface warfare ships (about 3,500 tonnes) for the Navy, built under the IDDM category; GRSE to build five.
- Tamil Nadu Legislative Council** — abolished in 1986; Councils now exist in six States: AP, Telangana, UP, Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka.

HOW TO READ THIS BRIEF

- ☐ Why in News ☐ Target Prelims MCQ ☒ How to Use in UPSC Mains ☐ Mains Practice / Case Study Question

GS PAPER 1: POPULATION & SOCIETY

Census 2027: House-to-House Enumeration Schedule Notified

Why in news: MHA has notified the Census 2027 schedule: house-to-house enumeration from 25 January to 28 February 2027, with reference date 00:00 hrs, 1 March 2027.

Story so far: 17 Oct Brief: enumerator deployment (ref date 1 Mar 2027) and the delimitation freeze; 12 Oct: Mizoram to count refugees separately. New today: the notified schedule, deferred areas and the revisional round.

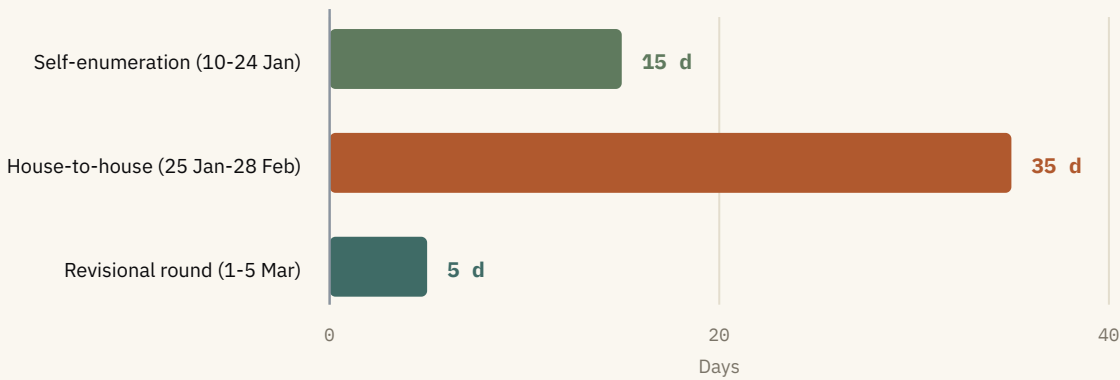
Key Details:

- **Legal basis:** Census Act, 1948, administered by the RGI under MHA; Census is Entry 69 of the Union List.
- **Sequence:** Self-enumeration (10-24 Jan), house-to-house (25 Jan-28 Feb), revisional round (1-5 Mar 2027).
- **Deferred areas:** Poll-bound Goa, UP, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Manipur, plus J&K, Ladakh and snow-bound HP areas; dates to follow.
- **Why it matters:** Caste enumeration returns after 1931; the Census also triggers post-2026 seat readjustment under Arts 82 and 170.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Houselisting phase:** 1 Apr-30 Sep 2026, a 30-day window per State/UT; population enumeration is Phase II.
- **Numbering:** 16th Census overall and 8th since Independence; postponed from 2021 due to COVID-19.
- **Digital first:** First Census with online self-enumeration (portal in 16 languages) and mobile-app collection.
- **Seat freeze:** 84th Amendment (2001) freezes readjustment until the first Census after 2026 is published.

Census 2027: days available in each stage



Census 2027 at a glance

Item	Detail
Reference date	00:00 hrs, 1 March 2027
Conducting authority	Registrar General and Census Commissioner, MHA
Excluded for now	Goa, UP, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Manipur; J&K, Ladakh; snow-bound HP
Caste	Enumerated for the first time since 1931 (CCPA decision, 30 Apr 2025)

Census: Legal Basis and Key Terms

- **Census Act, 1948:** Central Government declares the Census; respondents must answer truthfully; records are confidential.
- **Two phases:** Houselisting (dwellings, amenities, assets) and Population Enumeration (individuals).
- **First counts:** First Census 1872 (non-synchronous); first synchronous 1881; first after Independence 1951.

Prelims angle: The Registrar General of India also heads the Civil Registration System (births and deaths), a common 'who does what' hook.

Use in GS1 (population, Census data, caste) and GS2 (delimitation, federal balance, data privacy). Cite the sequence and the Art 82 freeze to show the Census is a governance event, not only a headcount.

Answer skeleton

INTRO Census 2027 as a digital, caste-inclusive exercise under the Census Act, 1948.
BODY Constitutional (Entry 69, Arts 82/170); governance (data for schemes); social (caste, migration); technology (self-enumeration); concerns (privacy, exclusions).
WAY FORWARD Strong data-protection safeguards, trained enumerators, timely release of tables, dialogue before delimitation.

Mains value-add: Art 82 proviso (84th Amendment, 2001): readjustment of seats and constituencies waits for the first Census after 2026 — cite it to show why Census 2027 is politically consequential.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ MODERATE

Q. With reference to the Census in India, consider the following statements:

1. Census is a subject in the Union List of the Seventh Schedule.
2. Information collected under the Census Act, 1948 is open to public inspection and admissible as evidence in courts.
3. The Constitution defers readjustment of Lok Sabha seats among States until the first Census taken after the year 2026 is published.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: Census is Entry 69, Union List. Statement 2 is incorrect: Census records are not open to inspection and are not admissible in evidence (confidentiality). Statement 3 is correct: the proviso to Art 82 (added by the 84th Amendment) ties readjustment to the first Census after 2026.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** RGI: Registrar General of India | HLO: Houselisting Operations | CCPA: Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs | Reference date: the moment to which all Census counts are tied

GS PAPER 2: GOVERNANCE, POLITY & JUSTICE

PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana: ₹7,395.55 Crore for Panchayat Governance

Why in news: Union Cabinet (28 Oct) approved PM VGSY, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for 2026-27 to 2030-31 with an outlay of ₹7,395.55 crore.

Story so far: 21 Oct Brief: Allahabad HC on overdue Panchayat polls (Art 243E). New today: a funded scheme to build Panchayat planning, audit and capacity.

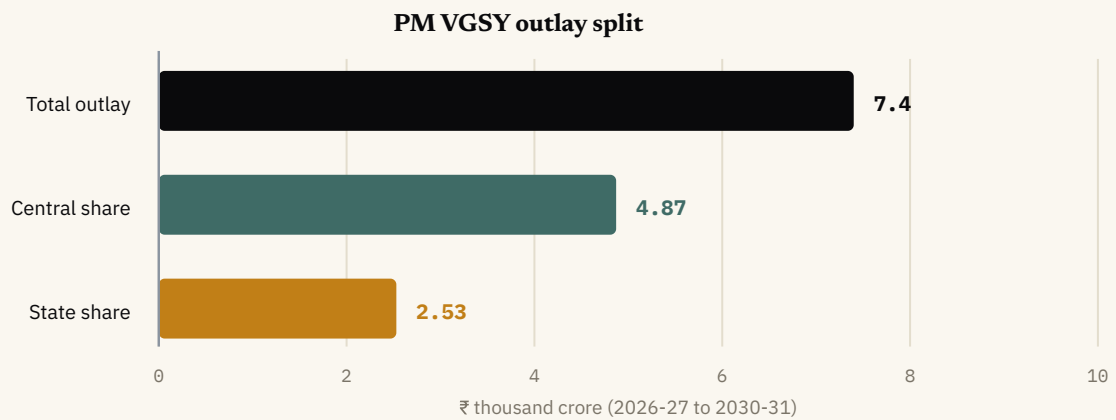
Key Details:

- **Design:** Centre ₹4,869.48 crore, States ₹2,526.07 crore; period coincides with the 16th FC cycle.
- **Reach:** About 32 lakh elected representatives and functionaries across 2.55 lakh Panchayats and Traditional Local Bodies.
- **Five components:** Holistic GPDP planning, digital information view, awareness (PANCHAM), capacity building, financial management.
- **Delivery:** States send Annual Action Plans; a Central Empowered Committee approves; no permanent posts created.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Annual targets:** 2.55 lakh GPDPs on eGramSwaraj, 2.55 lakh online audit plans on AuditOnline, 1 crore+ citizens per campaign.
- **Finance link:** 16th FC recommended about ₹4.35 lakh crore grants for rural local bodies over 2026-31.
- **Coverage:** All States/UTs, including Traditional Local Bodies where Part IX does not apply.

- **Gap addressed:** Own Source Revenue mobilisation, online accounting and public disclosure.



MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Digital planning and online audit are central to the PM VGSY. Examine how they can strengthen accountability in Panchayats, and discuss the capacity and fiscal constraints that remain. (250 words)

Fiscal Devolution to Panchayats

- **Art 243-G:** Powers and responsibilities, including the Eleventh Schedule (29 subjects).
- **Art 243-H:** State law may authorise Panchayats to levy taxes, duties and fees.
- **Art 243-I:** SFC every five years; Art 280(3)(bb): Union FC suggests measures to supplement Panchayat resources.
- **Art 243-J:** State law governs Panchayat accounts and audit.

Prelims angle: Local Government is Entry 5 of the State List, which is why the extent of Panchayat devolution varies from State to State.

Use in GS2 (decentralisation, cooperative federalism, e-governance). Anchor the answer in Part IX, SFC grants and the shift from schemes to institutions.

Answer skeleton

INTRO 73rd Amendment created institutions; PM VGSY aims at capacity and accountability.

BODY Constitutional (Part IX, Art 243G); fiscal (SFC, OSR); institutional (GPDP, audit); technological (eGramSwaraj); gaps (no permanent posts, State capacity).

WAY FORWARD Implement SFC recommendations, strengthen OSR, train representatives, social audit through Gram Sabha.

Mains value-add: Art 243-I read with Art 280(3)(bb): SFC recommendations are the constitutional bridge between State finances and Panchayat grants — cite it to argue that functional devolution needs funds and functionaries.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ MODERATE

Q. With reference to Panchayats in India, consider the following statements:

1. A State Finance Commission is constituted by the Governor every five years to review the financial position of Panchayats.
2. Part IX of the Constitution applies automatically to the Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule.
3. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme is funded entirely by the Union Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c) 1 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct (Art 243-I). Statement 2 is incorrect: Part IX does not apply to Fifth/Sixth Schedule areas unless Parliament extends it with modifications (Art 243-M), as done by PESA, 1996. Statement 3 is incorrect: a CSS is cost-shared, here roughly 66:34 between Centre and States.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** PM VGSY: Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana | CSS: Centrally Sponsored Scheme | GPDP: Gram Panchayat Development Plan | FC: Finance Commission | PANCHAM: AI-enabled communication platform for Panchayats

Social Security Board for Unorganised, Gig and Platform Workers Constituted

Why in news: Labour Ministry (30 Oct) constituted the National Social Security Board under the Code on Social Security, 2020, chaired by the Union Labour Minister.

Story so far: 23 Oct Brief: gig workers' old-age security and aggregator levy (S.114). New today: the Board that will recommend and monitor schemes is now constituted.

Key Details:

- **Legal basis:** Section 6 of the Code on Social Security, 2020; the four Labour Codes took effect on 21 Nov 2025.
- **Members:** Centre, States, aggregators, employers, civil society, unions and gig-worker associations.
- **Functions:** Recommend and monitor schemes for unorganised, gig and platform workers; review State record-keeping; examine fund expenditure.
- **Rhythm:** Must meet at least thrice a year under rules prescribed by the Centre.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Aggregator levy:** Aggregators contribute 1-2% of annual turnover, capped at 5% of amounts paid to workers.
- **Subject:** Social security and social insurance sit in the Concurrent List (Entry 23).
- **Consolidation:** The Code subsumes nine social-security laws, including the EPF Act 1952 and Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act 2008.
- **Challenge:** Informal workers are hard to identify; portability of benefits across States is weak.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. The Code on Social Security, 2020 extends social security to gig and platform workers. Examine the opportunities and challenges in delivering it. (150 words)

Prelims angle: The Code on Social Security replaced nine laws including the Employees' State Insurance Act; ESI covers medical benefits while EPF covers retirement savings.

Use in GS2 (welfare of vulnerable sections) and GS3 (inclusive growth, labour reforms). Pair the aggregator levy with the Board's monitoring role to show a funding plus oversight design.

Answer skeleton

INTRO	Gig and platform work grows outside the employer-employee frame; the Code gives it a legal home.
BODY	Legal (Code, Entry 23); institutional (Board); economic (aggregator levy); social (portability, women); gaps (identification, funding).
WAY FORWARD	Universal worker ID, portable benefits, State-level boards, grievance redress.

Mains value-add: ILO Convention 102 (1952) sets the minimum standards for social security; India has not ratified it — cite it to argue that a statutory floor, not schemes alone, is needed for informal workers.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ EASY-MODERATE

Q. With reference to social security for workers in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Code on Social Security, 2020 provides for a National Social Security Board for unorganised, gig and platform workers, chaired by the Union Labour Minister.
2. The Code fixes the aggregators' contribution at 5 per cent of their annual turnover.
3. Social security and social insurance fall in the Concurrent List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Statement 2 is incorrect: the rate is notified between 1% and 2% of annual turnover, and the contribution is capped at 5% of the amount paid or payable to gig and platform workers. Statement 3 is correct: Entry 23, Concurrent List.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** CoSS: Code on Social Security | SSB: National Social Security Board

Failed Relationship Is Not Rape: SC on Retrospective Consent

Why in news: SC (30 Oct, Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan) discharged a Kerala man of rape and cheating, holding consensual intimacy cannot be branded rape after a breakup.

Key Details:

- **Holding:** Consent in a functioning relationship is not retrospectively vitiated because the relationship later ended.
- **Test:** Consent is void only if obtained by deliberate deception or fraud from the outset; regret afterwards is not fraud.
- **Caution:** Rape law is meant for real sexual violence, coercion or manipulated consent.
- **Facts:** Kerala HC refused discharge; the woman alleged concealment of a subsisting marriage.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Pramod Suryabhan Pawar (2019):** A promise vitiates consent only if false when made and of direct nexus to the decision to have sex.
- **Deepak Gulati (2013):** Breach of a genuine promise is not a false promise; intent at the start is decisive.
- **BNS:** S.69 separately penalises sex by deceitful means, including a false promise to marry (up to 10 years and fine).
- **Balance:** Courts guard against misuse of rape law while protecting genuine victims of deception.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Courts distinguish a false promise to marry from a breach of promise. Examine how this distinction protects both complainants and the accused. (150 words)

Consent, Deception and Rape Law

- **S.63 BNS:** Defines rape; consent must be free and voluntary.
- **S.69 BNS:** Stand-alone offence for sexual intercourse by deceitful means (not rape).
- **Key test:** False promise (bad faith from the start) vs breach of promise (change of mind).

Prelims angle: Article 21 and the right to personal liberty underpin protection against misuse of criminal process, a common Prelims link to bail and discharge.

Use in GS2 (judiciary, gender justice) and GS4 (justice, fairness). Show that criminal law needs intent at inception, not outcome.

Answer skeleton

INTRO SC separates failed relationships from criminal deception.
BODY Legal (S.63, S.69 BNS); judicial precedent; gender justice; misuse concerns; evidentiary burden.
WAY FORWARD Fast, sensitive trials; clear guidelines for police; awareness on consent.

Mains value-add: In re Pramod Suryabhan Pawar (2019): two conditions for a false promise to vitiate consent — cite it to argue that criminal liability turns on intent at inception.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ MODERATE–HARD

Q. With reference to the Supreme Court's approach to sexual consent on a promise of marriage, consider the following statements:

1. Every breach of a promise to marry vitiates consent and amounts to rape.
2. BNS Section 69 separately penalises sexual intercourse obtained by deceitful means, including a false promise to marry.
3. A promise to marry vitiates consent only if it was false when made and bears a direct nexus to the decision to have sex.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 2 and 3 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect: breach of a genuine promise is not a false promise (Deepak Gulati; Pramod Suryabhan Pawar). Statement 2 is correct: S.69 BNS, distinct from rape under S.63. Statement 3 is correct: the two conditions laid down in Pramod Suryabhan Pawar.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** BNS: Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 | SC: Supreme Court | HC: High Court

How Legislative Councils Are Created, Composed and Limited

Why in news: Recent Council elections for 28 seats in UP, Bihar, Maharashtra and Karnataka put Legislative Councils back in focus: how a second chamber is created, composed and kept subordinate to the Assembly.

Story so far: 24 Oct (quick facts): UP's Council graduates' roll under Art 171. New today: the full creation, composition and power framework.

Key Details:

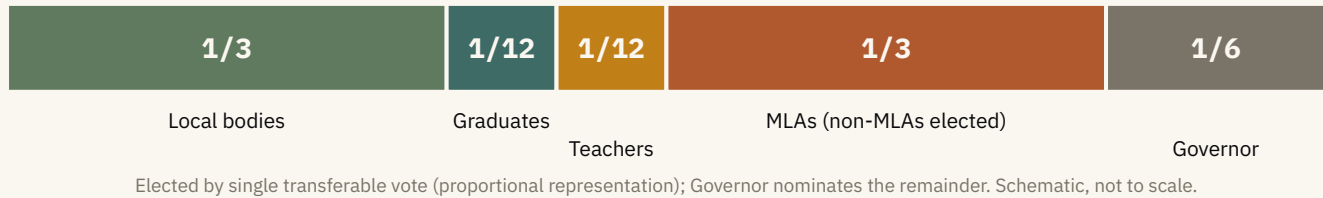
- **Creation:** Art 169: Parliament may create or abolish by simple majority law after an Assembly resolution (majority of total and two-thirds of present and voting).
- **Not an amendment:** Such a law is not an amendment under Art 368, so it needs no State ratification.
- **Strength:** Not more than one-third of the Assembly and not less than 40 (Art 171(1)).
- **Permanence:** A permanent House; one-third of members retire every second year (Art 172(2)).

Data/Facts/Example:

- **States:** Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, UP, Bihar, Maharashtra and Karnataka have Councils.
- **Powers:** Weaker than Rajya Sabha: can delay a Money Bill by 14 days (Art 198) and an ordinary Bill by three months (Art 197).
- **Election:** Council members do not vote in the Presidential election.

- **Concern:** Used as a rehabilitation route for defeated leaders; adds cost.

Who fills a Legislative Council? (Article 171(3))



Prelims angle: Council members are elected by MLAs, local bodies, graduates and teachers; the Chairman is elected by the Council itself, not nominated by the Governor.

Use in GS2 (State legislature, bicameralism). Contrast with Rajya Sabha to show why the Assembly dominates.

Answer skeleton

INTRO Arts 168-171 allow a second chamber as State choice, not a federal requirement.
BODY Constitutional (Arts 169, 171); political (rehabilitation, cost); functional (review role); comparison with Rajya Sabha.
WAY FORWARD Retain only where State consensus exists; improve expert nomination quality.

Mains value-add: Art 169(3): a law creating or abolishing a Council is not an amendment under Art 368 — cite it to show that the Constitution lets a State shape its legislature without a constitutional amendment.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ EASY-MODERATE

Q. With reference to Legislative Councils in India, consider the following statements:

1. A Legislative Council can be created or abolished by Parliament through a law passed by simple majority, after the State Assembly passes a resolution by the prescribed special majority.
2. Such a law is deemed an amendment of the Constitution under Article 368.
3. A Legislative Council can reject a Money Bill sent by the Assembly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c) 1 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct (Art 169(1)). Statement 2 is incorrect: Art 169(3) says no such law is deemed an amendment under Art 368. Statement 3 is incorrect: the Council can only recommend changes or delay a Money Bill by 14 days; the Assembly may accept or ignore them.

Related PYQ: UPSC Prelims 2015: “The Legislative Council of a State in India can be larger than half of the size of the Legislative Assembly; the Governor nominates the Chairman” — both statements incorrect, answer (d). UPSC Mains 2021 (GS2): “Explain the constitutional provisions under which Legislative Councils are established. Review the working and current status of Legislative Councils with suitable illustrations.”

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** MLC: Member of Legislative Council | STV: single transferable vote

GS PAPER 3: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ECONOMY

NVS-03 Reaches Orbit: NavIC's Second Generation Grows

Why in news: ISRO's GSLV-F18 placed NVS-03, the third satellite of the next-generation NavIC series, in geosynchronous transfer orbit from Sriharikota.

Story so far: 22 Oct Brief: foreign-controlled tech and NavIC's limited satellites. New today: NVS-03 added to restore and upgrade the constellation.

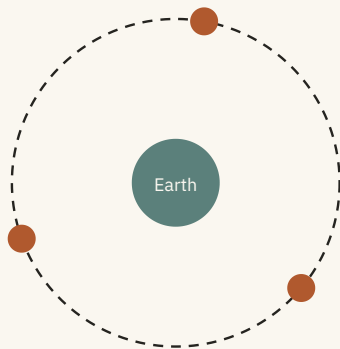
Key Details:

- **Vehicle:** GSLV-F18, the 20th GSLV flight; S139 core, four L40H strap-ons, GL40HT second stage and CUS15 cryogenic third stage.
- **Orbit:** GTO of 170 x 37,023 km at 20.75 degrees inclination; payload mass about 2,250 kg.
- **Upgrade:** Adds an L1 signal to L5 and S-band, for easier use in smartphones and wearables.
- **Atomic clocks:** Carries an indigenous atomic clock alongside procured clocks.

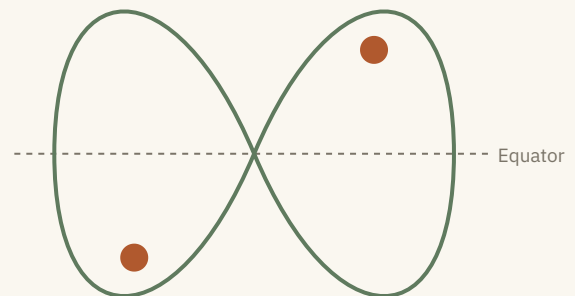
Data/Facts/Example:

- **First generation:** IRNSS had seven satellites, three in GEO and four in IGSO; some imported clocks failed.
- **Coverage:** India plus about 1,500 km around its boundary; a regional, not global, system.
- **Mission life:** NVS targets over 12 years against about 10 years for IRNSS.
- **Setback:** NVS-02 (Jan 2025, GSLV-F15) failed orbit-raising after an oxidiser valve did not open.

NavIC first-generation constellation: 3 GEO + 4 IGSO



GEO: 3 satellites, fixed over one spot on the equator



IGSO: 4 satellites, figure-8 ground track about the equator

Both at about 36,000 km; coverage India + ~1,500 km around. Schematic, not to scale.

Prelims angle: Launch site: Second Launch Pad, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota; the GSLV's lift-off mass here was about 420 tonnes.

Use in GS3 (space technology, strategic autonomy). Contrast regional PNT with global GNSS.

Answer skeleton

INTRO	NavIC offers India an independent PNT service.
BODY	Strategic (military, civil); technological (indigenous clock, L1); economic (applications); gaps (satellite failures, regional limit).
WAY FORWARD	Complete NVS series, device chipset support, civilian adoption.

Mains value-add: Regional systems such as NavIC and Japan's QZSS complement global GNSS (GPS, GLONASS, Galileo, BeiDou) — cite it to argue that India's PNT sovereignty is real but regional.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ MODERATE

Q. With reference to NavIC and the GSLV-F18 mission, consider the following statements:

1. The NVS series adds an L1 signal to the L5 and S-band signals used by the first generation.
2. The third stage of GSLV-F18 is a cryogenic stage using liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen.
3. GSLV-F18 injected NVS-03 directly into its final geostationary slot.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Statement 2 is correct: CUS15 uses LH2 and LOX. Statement 3 is incorrect: the rocket delivers the satellite to GTO; onboard propulsion later raises it to its operational orbit.

Related PYQ: UPSC Prelims 2018: "With reference to the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), consider the following statements:

1. IRNSS has three satellites in geostationary and four satellites in geosynchronous orbits.
2. IRNSS covers entire India and about 5500 sq. km beyond its borders.
3. India will have its own satellite navigation system with full global coverage by the middle of 2019."

Answer: (a) 1 only.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** NavIC: Navigation with Indian Constellation | IRNSS: Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System | GTO: Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit | GEO: Geostationary Orbit | IGSO: Inclined Geosynchronous Orbit | PNT: Positioning, Navigation and Timing

World Bank Poverty Brief: Extreme Poverty at 2.6%, Jobs Without Wage Growth

Why in news: World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief: India's extreme poverty (US\$3/day, 2021 PPP) fell from 27.1% in 2011 to 2.6% in 2023.

Story so far: 17 Oct Brief: women's workforce participation up to 40%; 6 Oct: jobs gap in the demographic dividend. New today: World Bank shows poverty decline alongside flat real wages.

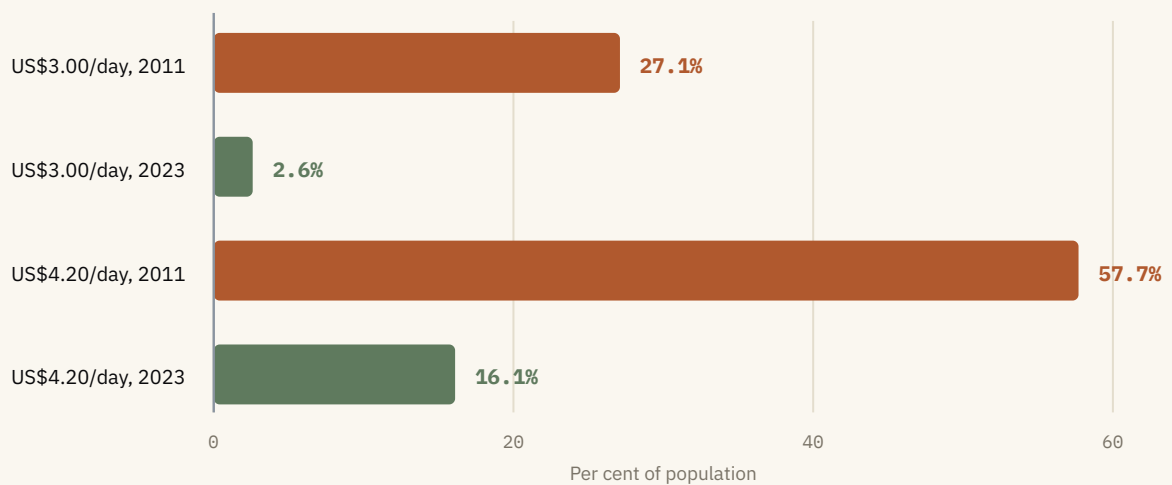
Key Details:

- **Higher line:** At US\$4.20/day (lower-middle-income line), poverty fell from 57.7% to 16.1%; about 496 million moved above it.
- **Drivers:** Consumption growth, more employment (especially women) and expanded transfers including food subsidies.
- **Caution:** Real wages flat; job growth in low-productivity work; youth unemployment 14.6% to 15.9% (Q1 FY26 to Q1 FY27).
- **Geography:** About 57% of India's poor live in a belt from Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Method:** Based on household consumption surveys; some gains may reflect measurement changes.
- **Projection:** At US\$4.20/day: 14.2% in 2026 and 12.1% by 2028 (indicative).
- **Employment:** About 134 million added in 2017-23, nearly twice working-age population growth.
- **Distinct measure:** Monetary headcount differs from the multidimensional index (health, education, living standards).

India's poverty headcount ratio, 2011 vs 2023



MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. India's extreme poverty has fallen sharply, yet job quality remains weak. Critically examine the limits of consumption-based poverty lines. (150 words)

Prelims angle: The World Bank updates international poverty lines when PPP rounds change; the 2021 PPP round replaced the 2017 round.

Use in GS1/GS3 (poverty, inclusive growth, employment). Pair headline decline with the wage and productivity caveats.

Answer skeleton

INTRO Extreme poverty is close to eliminated on the World Bank line.
BODY Economic (consumption, transfers); social (women, region); employment quality; measurement limits (survey data).
WAY FORWARD Productive jobs in poor States, skills, updated surveys.

Mains value-add: The World Bank's move to 2021 PPP raised the extreme-poverty line to US\$3 a day from US\$2.15 (2017 PPP) — cite it to warn against comparing poverty figures across different PPP bases.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ EASY-MODERATE

Q. With reference to poverty measurement, consider the following statements:

1. The World Bank's international extreme-poverty line used in its recent India brief is US\$3 per day at 2021 PPP.
2. The World Bank's headcount ratio is a multidimensional measure combining health, education and living standards.
3. A PPP-based poverty line converts incomes at market exchange rates.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Statement 2 is incorrect: the headcount ratio is monetary; the MPI is the multidimensional measure. Statement 3 is incorrect: PPP conversion uses purchasing-power-adjusted rates that compare price levels, not market exchange rates.

Related PYQ: UPSC Prelims 2012: "The Multi-dimensional Poverty Index developed by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative with UNDP support covers which of the following? 1. Deprivation of education, health, assets and services at the household level 2. Purchasing power parity at the national level 3. Extent of budget deficit and GDP growth rate at the national level." Answer: (a) 1 only.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** PPP: Purchasing Power Parity | MPI: Multidimensional Poverty Index

GS PAPER 4: ETHICS, INTEGRITY & APTITUDE

Sardar Patel and the Civil Service: Neutrality as a Founding Value

Why in news: On Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (Patel's 151st birth anniversary, 31 Oct), his 1947 charge to civil servants remains the benchmark for neutrality and integrity.

Story so far: 24 Oct Brief (GS4): impartiality and non-partisanship box. New today: the founding statement from Patel's 1947 address.

Key Details:

- **Setting:** On 21 April 1947, as Home Minister, Patel addressed probationers at Metcalfe House, Delhi, and called the services the 'steel frame'.
- **Neutrality:** "A civil servant cannot afford to, and must not, take part in politics."
- **Impartiality:** Maintain 'to the utmost the impartiality and incorruptibility of administration'; stay out of communal wrangles.
- **Legacy:** His support secured the All-India Services under Art 312; 21 April is National Civil Services Day (since 2006).

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Ekta Diwas:** Observed on 31 October since 2014 to mark Patel's birth anniversary.
- **Unity:** The Statue of Unity at Kevadia, Gujarat (182 m) honours his role in integrating princely states.
- **GS4 values:** Impartiality, non-partisanship, integrity and dedication to public service.
- **Dilemma:** Neutrality means faithful execution of lawful policy, not silence in the face of illegality.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. "A civil servant cannot afford to, and must not, take part in politics." Examine why neutrality matters in a democracy and how a civil servant should act when a lawful instruction conflicts with conscience. (250 words)

All-India Services and Article 312

- **Art 312:** Rajya Sabha resolution (two-thirds present and voting) allows Parliament to create AIS by law.
- **Existing:** IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service.
- **Control:** Recruited by Centre, serve under States; dual control.

Prelims angle: National Civil Services Day (21 April) is also the day the PM's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration are presented.

Use in GS4 (foundational values, probity). Quote Patel to anchor neutrality, then show how rules and conscience guide hard cases.

Answer skeleton

INTRO	Patel's 'steel frame' vision built on neutrality and integrity.
BODY	Constitutional (Art 312, Part XIV); ethical (impartiality, objectivity); practical (political executive vs civil servant); dilemmas.
CONCLUSION	Neutrality means lawful, fair service, guided by rules and conscience.

Mains value-add: Patel's 1947 address: impartiality, incorruptibility and abstention from politics — cite it to show that neutrality was a founding design principle of the Indian civil service.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

EASY-MODERATE

Q. With reference to the All-India Services in India, consider the following statements:

1. Parliament may create a new All-India Service if the Rajya Sabha passes a resolution supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting.
2. Such a resolution must also be ratified by half of the State legislatures.
3. The Indian Forest Service is an All-India Service.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct (Art 312). Statement 2 is incorrect: no State ratification is needed. Statement 3 is correct: IAS, IPS and IFoS are the three All-India Services.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** AIS: All-India Services | IFoS: Indian Forest Service