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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS-

1. **India–Poland Relations: Bilateral Trade Target of $12 Billion by 2030**
2. **Chemical Signatures for Early Disease Detection**
3. **Core Industries Growth: A Warning Signal for India's Economy**
4. **Nepal Becomes First Beneficiary of the Loss and Damage Fund**
5. **Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana**

1.India–Poland Relations: Bilateral Trade Target of $12 Billion by 2030

Source: IE, Page 1

Subject: International Relations | Economy | Multilateral Institutions

Why in News?

- India and Poland have agreed to pursue the goal of doubling bilateral trade to $12 billion by 2030, from the current $6 billion.
- Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk visited India to discuss cooperation in trade, technology, renewable energy, transportation and defence.
- Poland expressed support for India's candidature for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council (UNSC) for 2028–29 and for a permanent seat in a reformed UNSC.

Key Areas of Cooperation

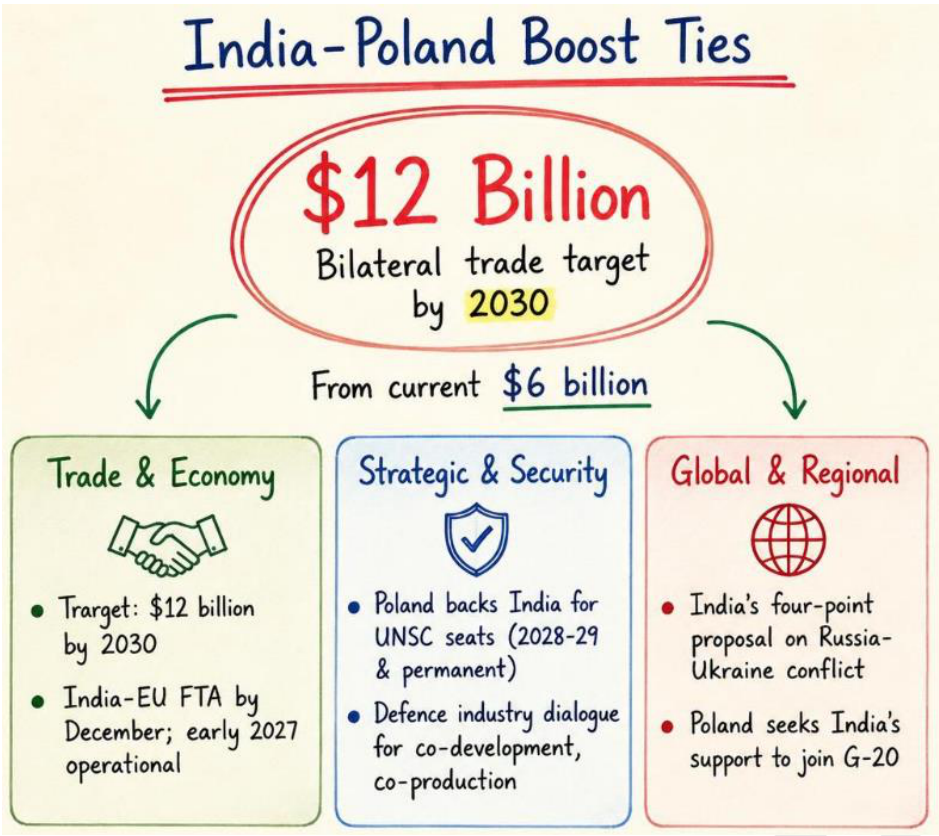
- Trade and investment: The proposed India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is expected to improve market access and investment flows, supporting the bilateral trade target.
- Defence: Both countries have established a defence industry dialogue to explore co-development and co-production opportunities.
- Space and technology: Cooperation includes space applications, innovation and digital transformation.
- Transport and infrastructure: Rail transport and related technological cooperation are important areas.
- Renewable energy and mining: Both sides are exploring clean energy, clean coal and mining technologies.
- Supply chains: Both countries emphasised resilient supply chains and innovation-led economic growth.

India–Poland Trade Relations

- Poland is India's largest trading partner in Central and Eastern Europe, according to the supplied article.
- Bilateral trade is targeted to rise from $6 billion to $12 billion by 2030.
- The target is linked to the conclusion and implementation of the India–EU FTA, which the supplied material expected to become operational in early 2027.
- Poland's economic growth and interest in closer engagement with major economies create opportunities for expanded bilateral cooperation.

Cooperation in Global Affairs

- United Nations Security Council: Poland supports India's candidature for a non-permanent UNSC seat for 2028–29 and its claim to permanent membership in a reformed Council.
- G20: Poland seeks India's support for its ambition to join the G20. The supplied article also refers to Poland's invitation to the G20 summit in Florida.
- Russia–Ukraine conflict: India is engaging with Russia and Ukraine through a reported four-point proposal focused on:
    - Protecting civilians from attacks.
    - Ensuring grain and energy exports through the Black Sea.
    - Preventing attacks on ships and seafarers.
    - Safeguarding maritime transport and trade.



Significance for India

- Economic diversification: Stronger ties with Poland can expand India's access to European markets and investment.
- Technology transfer: Defence, space, railways and clean-energy partnerships can support technological development.
- Strategic engagement: Polish support for UNSC reform strengthens bilateral diplomatic cooperation.
- European outreach: Closer relations with Poland can help India deepen its engagement with Central and Eastern Europe.
- Supply-chain resilience: Diversified partnerships can reduce excessive dependence on individual markets or suppliers.

Challenges and Way Forward

- Conclude and implement the India–EU FTA while addressing differences over market access and regulatory standards.
- Convert bilateral trade targets into concrete investment and export opportunities.
- Strengthen defence-industry collaboration through technology partnerships and co-production.

- Expand cooperation in renewable energy, transport, space and digital technologies.
- Continue diplomatic engagement on global security while respecting differences in national interests.

UPSC Prelims Practice

Q. With reference to India–Poland relations, consider the following statements:

1. India and Poland aim to double bilateral trade to $12 billion by 2030.
2. Poland supports India's candidature for a non-permanent seat on the UNSC for 2028–29.
3. Defence industry cooperation between the two countries includes exploring co-development and co-production opportunities.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation: All three statements are consistent with the supplied article.

UPSC Mains Practice

Q."India's engagement with European countries such as Poland can strengthen economic diversification, technology partnerships and multilateral cooperation." Discuss

2.Chemical Signatures for Early Disease Detection

Source: The Hindu, Page II

Subject: Science & Technology | Biotechnology | Health

Why in News?

- Chemical signatures, also known as biomarkers, are gaining importance in the early detection of neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.
- These measurable molecular patterns can help distinguish diseases with similar symptoms and support timely treatment.
- However, questions about diagnostic accuracy, interpretation, cost and accessibility remain major challenges in India.

Key Biomarkers and Their Applications

- Alzheimer's disease: Amyloid-beta and tau proteins, particularly phosphorylated tau (p-tau217), are studied in blood and cerebrospinal fluid.

- Parkinson's disease: Alpha-synuclein is being investigated as a potential biomarker.
- Autoimmune encephalitis: Detection of specific antibodies can help distinguish the condition from psychiatric illnesses and guide treatment.
- Brain tumours: Molecular analysis supports tumour classification and treatment planning.
- Neurofilament light (NfL): Indicates nerve-cell damage across several neurological conditions.

Biomarker levels can be influenced by age, kidney function and medications. Therefore, results require interpretation alongside symptoms, medical history and other clinical findings.

Classification of Biomarkers

Type	Purpose	Example
Susceptibility/Risk	Estimates the risk of developing a disease	BRCA1/BRCA2 mutations
Diagnostic	Detects or confirms a disease	Troponin for heart muscle injury
Prognostic	Indicates the likely course of a disease	Tumour-related prognostic markers
Predictive	Helps identify likely response to a treatment	HER2 status in breast cancer
Monitoring	Tracks disease status over time	HbA1c for long-term blood glucose control
Pharmacodynamic	Indicates a biological response to a treatment	Treatment-response markers
Safety	Helps identify potential toxicity	Biomarkers of drug-related liver injury

The BEST framework—Biomarkers, EndpointS, and other Tools—developed by the US FDA and NIH provides a standard classification of biomarkers.

Emerging Trends

- Liquid biopsy: Analyses biological material, such as circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA), in blood and other body fluids to support cancer detection and monitoring.
- Blood-based neurological tests: Biomarkers may reduce the need for more invasive procedures in selected diagnostic settings.

- Digital biomarkers: Wearables can collect information on heart rate, sleep and movement to support health monitoring.
- Multi-omics: Combines genomics, proteomics and metabolomics to develop a more comprehensive picture of an individual's health.
- Precision medicine: Biomarkers can help tailor treatment to a patient's biological characteristics and likely treatment response.

Challenges in India

- Accuracy and reliability: Tests must be validated across diverse patient populations.
- Standardisation: Differences in laboratory methods can affect results and their interpretation.
- Affordability: Advanced molecular tests may be expensive for many patients.
- Access: Specialised testing facilities are not widely available, sometimes requiring travel to major medical centres.
- Clinical interpretation: Biomarkers may indicate a biological change without independently establishing a specific disease.

Way Forward

- Strengthen clinical validation and standardisation of biomarker tests.
- Expand diagnostic infrastructure beyond major urban medical centres.
- Reduce testing costs through research, innovation and wider availability.
- Train healthcare professionals to interpret biomarker results alongside clinical evidence.
- Promote responsible use of biomarkers in precision medicine and early diagnosis.

UPSC Prelims Practice

Q. With reference to biomarkers, consider the following statements:

1. Biomarkers can help in disease diagnosis and monitoring.
2. Neurofilament light can indicate nerve-cell damage.
3. A biomarker result always establishes a diagnosis without requiring clinical assessment.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Biomarkers provide useful biological evidence, but their interpretation may require clinical history, symptoms and other investigations.

UPSC Mains Practice

Q."Biomarkers are transforming early diagnosis and precision medicine, but their benefits depend on diagnostic accuracy and equitable access." Discuss with reference to India's healthcare system.

3.Core Industries Growth: A Warning Signal for India's Economy

Source: IE Page 8

Subject: Indian Economy | Industrial Growth | Energy Security

Why in News?

- India's Index of Core Industries (ICI) recorded 7.9% growth in September 2026, its highest under the reported series.
- However, the article argues that strong industrial growth masks underlying concerns, including declining domestic crude oil and natural gas production, expensive oil imports and limited fiscal space.
- Growth was driven by coal, electricity, refinery products and iron ore, while some sectors continued to contract.

Sectoral Performance and Economic Concerns

- Coal: Output grew by 10.7% in September, partly due to a low base and increased electricity demand. However, the sector reportedly contracted by 1.1% during April–September 2026.
- Electricity: Recorded 11.4% growth in September, supported by strong power demand.
- Refinery products: Grew by 10.3%, reflecting increased refining activity despite dependence on imported crude oil.
- Iron ore: Recorded 18.4% growth, supported by stronger steel production.
- Steel and cement: Growth was linked largely to infrastructure and government spending.

- Crude oil and natural gas: Contracted by 1.4% and 4.6%, respectively, highlighting concerns over domestic hydrocarbon production.
- Fertilizers: Output declined by 11.7%, continuing a seven-month contraction.

Rising Oil Import Bill

- India's oil imports reportedly increased by 7% in volume but 47% in value during September, reflecting the impact of higher international oil prices.
- The article attributes the rise in global prices, which exceeded $112 per barrel, partly to attacks on Saudi Arabia's energy infrastructure.
- Higher crude oil prices increase India's import expenditure and put pressure on the trade balance and foreign exchange requirements.
- Greater dependence on imported crude can reduce the benefits of stronger refinery output.

Index of Core Industries (ICI)

- The ICI tracks production in key infrastructure-related industries and is released monthly by the Office of the Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- The supplied article describes a revised series introduced in July 2026, with a base year of 2022–23 and nine industries, including the addition of iron ore.

Industry	Weight under the supplied new series
Electricity	30.93%
Refinery products	22.57%
Steel	17.58%
Crude oil	7.43%
Coal	5.60%
Iron ore	4.91%
Cement	4.41%
Natural gas	3.84%
Fertilizers	2.73%

- According to the supplied material, the nine industries together account for approximately 32.88% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) under the revised series.

Implications for the Indian Economy

- Energy security: Declining domestic oil and gas production increases vulnerability to global price shocks.
- External sector: Expensive oil imports can widen the import bill and increase pressure on the rupee.
- Fiscal space: Higher energy costs and dependence on public infrastructure spending can constrain government spending flexibility.
- Quality of growth: A headline increase in industrial production may conceal weaknesses in particular sectors and dependence on temporary or externally driven factors.

Way Forward

- Increase domestic exploration and production of oil and natural gas where economically and environmentally viable.
- Accelerate renewable energy, energy efficiency and electrification to reduce exposure to imported fossil fuels.
- Diversify crude oil suppliers and strengthen strategic petroleum reserves.
- Encourage private investment and manufacturing growth beyond sectors dependent on public expenditure.
- Improve fertilizer-sector performance and strengthen domestic production and supply chains.

UPSC Prelims Practice

Q. With reference to India's Index of Core Industries, consider the following statements:

1. It tracks production across key infrastructure-related industries.
2. Electricity and refinery products are components of the index.
3. Growth in refinery output necessarily indicates a decline in dependence on imported crude oil.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Refinery output can rise even when domestic crude production declines and reliance on imported crude increases.

UPSC Mains Practice

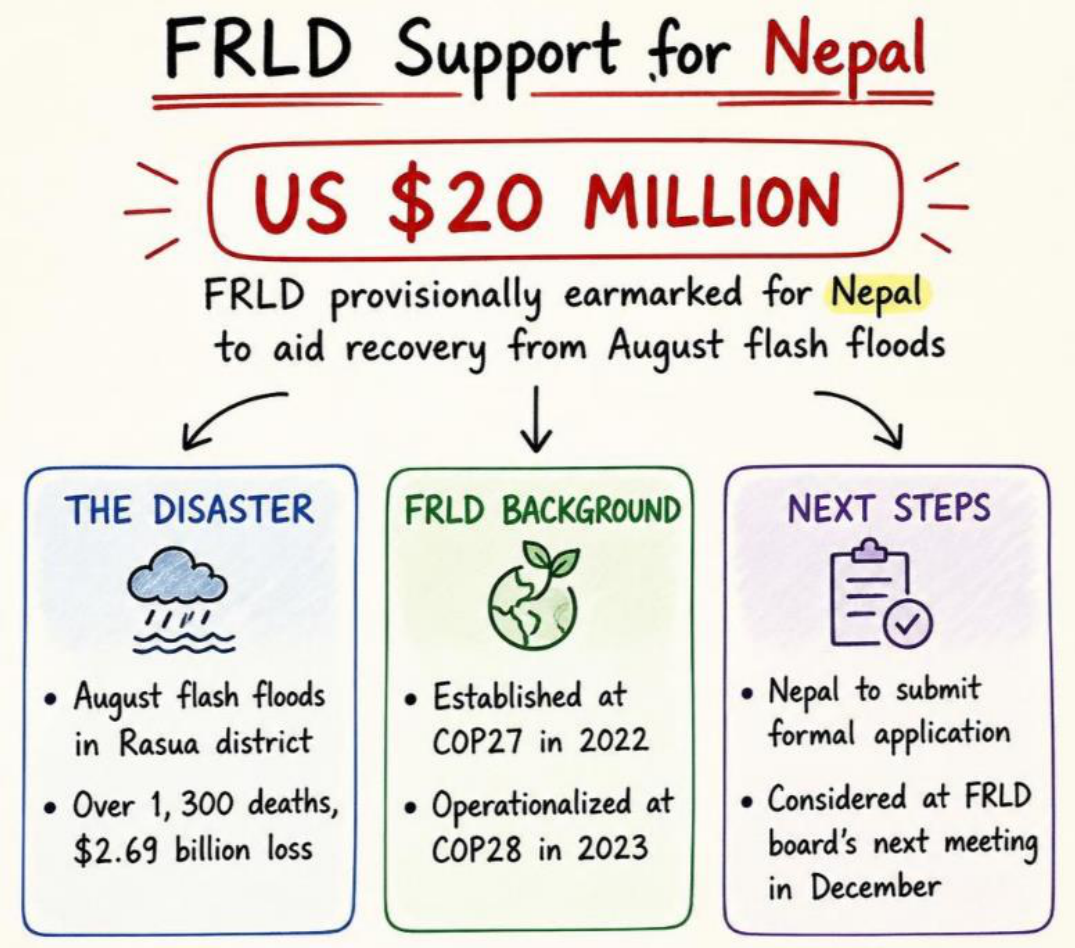
Q."High industrial growth does not necessarily indicate economic resilience when production depends on imported energy and public expenditure." Discuss with reference to India's core industries and energy security.

4.Nepal Becomes First Beneficiary of the Loss and Damage Fund

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

- Nepal became the first beneficiary of the newly operationalised Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD), with a provisional allocation of US$20 million to support recovery from devastating flash floods in August.



Key Highlights

- The floods occurred in Nepal's Rasuwa district and reportedly caused over 1,300 deaths, with estimated economic losses of US$2.69 billion.
- The disaster involved a rock and ice avalanche that triggered massive flooding, characteristic of a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) event.
- The FRLD was established at COP27 in 2022 and operationalised at COP28 in 2023 to support developing countries facing climate-related loss and damage.
- The US$20 million provisional allocation represents the maximum amount the Fund can currently approve for a single event.
- Nepal's estimated recovery and reconstruction needs stand at US$4.71 billion, making the provisional allocation less than 1% of the total requirement.
- Nepal must submit a formal funding application, which will be considered at the FRLD Board's next meeting in December.

Significance

- The Fund responds to long-standing demands from developing countries, particularly least developed countries and small island developing states, for financial support against climate-related losses.
- Nepal's provisional allocation marks an important step towards making international loss-and-damage financing accessible to climate-vulnerable countries.

5.Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana

Source: IE

Why in News?

- The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), renamed Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana, for five years from 2026–27 to 2030–31, with an outlay of ₹53,428 crore.
- The disability pension scheme has been revised to expand eligibility and increase the number of beneficiaries.

Key Highlights

- The disability pension, renamed Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Pension Yojana, now uses a benchmark disability threshold of 40%, in line with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

- The minimum age requirement for disability pension has been removed, extending eligibility to children from birth.
- Central assistance has increased to ₹375 per month for beneficiaries aged 0–79 years and ₹625 per month for those aged 80 years and above.
- The number of disability pension beneficiaries is projected to rise from 8.33 lakh to 27.48 lakh.
- Other components covering old-age pensions, widow pensions and family benefits will continue under revised names.
- The NSAP was launched on 15 August 1995 to give effect to Article 41 of the Constitution, which relates to public assistance in cases such as old age, sickness, disability and unemployment, within the State's economic capacity.
- The programme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme providing social assistance to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households. States and Union Territories may supplement central assistance with additional benefits.

Significance

- The revised eligibility criteria extend pension coverage to persons with benchmark disabilities of 40% or more, including children who were previously excluded by the minimum-age requirement.
- The changes align disability pension eligibility with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and strengthen social security for vulnerable groups.