

1. India Stonemart 2026 to be Led by Laghu Udyog Bharati



Sector: Industry & Mining

Subject: International Trade, MSME Promotion, Stone Industry

- Laghu Udyog Bharati will organize the prestigious international exhibition **India Stonemart 2026**.
- Before the event, a **State-Level Seminar** will be held on **9 July 2025** at **Constitution Club, Jaipur**, starting at 10 AM.
- The seminar will focus on key issues related to **mining, industry, and environment**.
- **Senior officials** from the Departments of Mining, Industries, and Environment, along with **representatives from RIICO, stone industry stakeholders, and industrial organizations**, will participate.
- **Naresh Parikh**, National Secretary of Laghu Udyog Bharati, shared this information during a press conference held at **Seva Sadan, Sahkar Marg, Jaipur**.
- To promote India Stonemart globally, delegations have visited countries such as **Italy, Turkey, China, Russia, USA, and the UK**.
- Within India, forums like **Flexible Stone Technology Forum** are actively promoting innovation, design, and technological development in the stone industry.
- The India Stonemart 2026 exhibition will be held from **5 to 8 February 2026**.



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Detailed Explanation for RAS Aspirants :

- **India Stonemart** is one of Asia's largest exhibitions dedicated to the stone industry, showcasing natural stones, stone products, machinery, and technology.
- **Laghu Udyog Bharati**, a national organization working for MSMEs, is spearheading the 2026 edition, promoting indigenous industry.
- The **pre-event State-Level Seminar (9 July 2025)** will focus on policy discussions, sustainability in mining, environmental compliance, and industrial growth.
- **RIICO (Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation)** plays a major role in facilitating infrastructure and investment support in Rajasthan's stone sector.
- Stone industry is vital to Rajasthan's economy, especially in regions like **Makrana, Jodhpur, Udaipur, and Kishangarh**—famous for marble and sandstone.
- The event aligns with the **Make in India** and **Vocal for Local** policies by encouraging **global exposure for Indian manufacturers**.
- International visits and collaborations with countries having advanced stone technology aim to bring **cutting-edge innovation** and **best practices** to India.
- India Stonemart also supports **employment generation, export promotion, and MSME growth**—relevant for both industrial and economic geography topics in RAS mains.

1. Which organization is responsible for organizing India Stonemart 2026?

1. RIICO
2. FICCI
3. Laghu Udyog Bharati
4. Ministry of Mines

Answer: 3

Explanation: Laghu Udyog Bharati is leading the organization of India Stonemart 2026 to promote MSMEs and the stone industry.

2. India Stonemart 2026 will be held between:

1. January 10–14, 2026
2. March 1–5, 2026
3. February 5–8, 2026
4. December 15–18, 2025

Answer: 3

Explanation: The international stone exhibition is scheduled from 5th to 8th February 2026 in Jaipur.



इंडिया स्टोनमार्ट 2026 की अगुवाई करेगा लघु उद्योग भारती

- अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर की प्रदर्शनी इंडिया स्टोनमार्ट 2026 का आयोजन लघु उद्योग भारती द्वारा किया जाएगा।
- इससे पूर्व 9 जुलाई 2025 को जयपुर स्थित कांस्टीट्यूशन क्लब में एक राज्य स्तरीय संगोष्ठी का आयोजन होगा, जो प्रातः 10 बजे से शुरू होगी।
- इस संगोष्ठी में खनन, उद्योग और पर्यावरण विभाग के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी, रीको, स्टोन इंडस्ट्री और औद्योगिक संगठनों के प्रतिनिधि भाग लेंगे।
- यह जानकारी लघु उद्योग भारती के राष्ट्रीय सचिव नरेश पारीक ने जयपुर के सहकार मार्ग स्थित सेवा सदन में हुई प्रेस वार्ता में दी।
- इंडिया स्टोनमार्ट को वैश्विक मंच पर स्थापित करने हेतु संस्था ने इटली, तुर्की, चीन, रूस, अमेरिका और यूके जैसे देशों का दौरा किया है।
- भारत में फ्लैक्सिबल स्टोन टेक्नोलॉजी फोरम जैसे प्लेटफार्मों के माध्यम से तकनीक, डिजाइन और नवाचार को प्रोत्साहित किया जा रहा है।
- संयोजक नटवरलाल अजमेरा के अनुसार प्रदर्शनी का आयोजन 5 से 8 फरवरी 2026 तक किया जाएगा।

RAS मुख्य परीक्षा के लिए संक्षिप्त महत्वपूर्ण बिंदु :

- इंडिया स्टोनमार्ट एशिया की प्रमुख पत्थर उद्योग की प्रदर्शनी है जो प्राकृतिक पत्थरों, उनके उत्पादों, मशीनरी और तकनीकी नवाचारों को दर्शाती है।
- लघु उद्योग भारती देशभर के सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्योगों को प्रोत्साहित करने वाली संस्था है।
- राज्य स्तरीय संगोष्ठी में खनन क्षेत्र में स्थायित्व, पर्यावरणीय अनुपालन और औद्योगिक विस्तार जैसे विषयों पर चर्चा होगी।
- रीको का रोल राजस्थान के औद्योगिक विकास और निवेश संरचना को प्रोत्साहित करना है।
- राजस्थान का पत्थर उद्योग आर्थिक दृष्टि से महत्वपूर्ण है – खासकर मकराना, जोधपुर, किशनगढ़, उदयपुर आदि क्षेत्रों में।
- यह आयोजन मेक इन इंडिया और वोकल फॉर लोकल जैसे अभियानों को गति देगा।
- विदेशी तकनीकी दौरे व सहयोग से भारत के पत्थर उद्योग में नवाचार और वैश्विक तकनीक का समावेश होगा।
- यह आयोजन रोजगार सृजन, निर्यात संवर्धन एवं एमएसएमई विकास के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।

MCQs

1. इंडिया स्टोनमार्ट 2026 के आयोजन की जिम्मेदारी किस संगठन को दी गई है?

1. रीको
2. फिक्की
3. लघु उद्योग भारती



4. खान मंत्रालय

उत्तर: 3

व्याख्या: लघु उद्योग भारती इस अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रदर्शनी का नेतृत्व कर रही है ताकि सूक्ष्म एवं लघु उद्योगों को बढ़ावा मिल सके।

2. इंडिया स्टोनमार्ट 2026 का आयोजन किस अवधि में किया जाएगा?

1. 10-14 जनवरी 2026

2. 1-5 मार्च 2026

3. 5-8 फरवरी 2026

15-18 दिसंबर 2025

उत्तर: 3

व्याख्या: यह अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रदर्शनी जयपुर में 5 से 8 फरवरी 2026 तक आयोजित की जाएगी।

2. 17th BRICS Summit Held in Brazil



Brazil hosted the 17 th BRICS Summit 2025 in Rio de Janeiro and the theme of this meeting was strengthening Global South Cooperation Towards More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance. By adding six members to it, BRICS currently has a total of 11 countries, which is almost half of the world population. Some of the main sectors of conversations were the climate change issues, artificial intelligence, health inequality, reforms of the United Nations, and de-dollarisation. This summit ended up in the Rio de Janeiro Declaration which had a description of a multipolar and equitable world order.

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Context

- BRICS has become a strong alternative to the Western-led bodies such as G7. Originally the bloc comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, it emerged in 2009. The 2024-25 enlargement has included Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, signaling the paradigm-shift into the new global power equations.
- The 17th Summit in July 2025 will be the first big summit following this expansion; it will also be a landmark in South-South cooperation, multipolarity, and institutional reforming.

Key Highlights for RAS Mains

Key Highlights of 17th BRICS Summit

Parameter	Details
Summit Edition	17th BRICS Summit
Year	2025
Host Country	Brazil
Host City	Rio de Janeiro
Theme	Strengthening Global South Cooperation
Dates	6–7 July 2025
Members	11 countries (list below)
Next Host Country (2026)	India (expected)
Outcome Document	Rio de Janeiro Declaration

Major Results of BRICS Meeting 2025

- Declaration Rio de Janeiro**
 - Supported the reformation of world governance (UNSC, IMF, WTO)
 - Demanded the concept of inclusive AI governance and climate justice
 - Emphasized multilateralism, sustainability and equity
- Digital Cooperation-AI**
 - Research on Best Practices Support of the ethical AI frameworks
 - Member-sharing digital infrastructure
 - Advocate data sovereignty and cyber collaboration
- Green finance and Climate Change**
 - BRICS Climate Adopted leadership Agenda
 - Promoted green funding by the New Development Bank
 - Demanded that the global north take responsibility of the emissions
- The Equity of Global Health**
 - Proposed equal access to medicines and vaccines
 - Neglected tropical diseases and health technology Focus
- Trade and Financial Framework**



- Indicative of de-dollarisation, local currency usage as a medium of trade
- Operates in no shared BRICS currency (yet) and focuses on financial sovereignty
- **Institutional Development**
 - Enforcement of New Development Bank (NDB)
 - The Reforms in BRICS Business Council, Women Alliance and youth collaboration

S. No.	Country Name	Year of Joining
1	Brazil	2006
2	Russia	2006
3	India	2006
4	China	2006
5	South Africa	2011
6	Egypt	2024
7	Ethiopia	2024
8	Iran	2024
9	Saudi Arabia	2024
10	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	2024
11	Indonesia	2025

The Role and the Position of India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a stout address stressing:

- Emergency UN Security Council reform
- Constraining international terrorism
- Responsible AI development
- Multilateral institution support of inclusiveness
- India had actually been in line with the Brazil vision of the Global South through proactive diplomacy
- India demanded the restructured economy institutions to meet emerging needs in market

Geopolitical Significance

Dimension	Implication
Global South Rise	BRICS now represents 49.5% of population and 40% of GDP
Multipolar World	Counters G7 & NATO-centric diplomacy
Petro-diplomacy	Saudi & UAE inclusion reshapes energy and trade balances



Asia-Africa Link Egypt-Ethiopia inclusion tightens Afro-Asian strategic ties

Digital Divide BRICS pushing for equitable tech access and governance

Way Forward of BRICS

- Internal contradictions (e.g. India-China)
- Size imbalance in the economy (China dominance)
- Slow implementation (lack of motion on currency, institutional reforms)
- Striking an equilibrium between secular, democratic and authoritarian systems

Conclusion

The Global South leadership has taken a new turn with the 17 th BRICS Summit 2025. The leadership of Brazil contributed to the strengthening of such themes as equity, reform, and digital sovereignty. The call of reconstituted institutions and ethical AI in India had its share in strengthening international governance issues. BRICS is better prepared to hold the 2026 summit in India, a kind of a new global attempt through a multipolar world order and more inclusive than before.

3. India Targets \$300 Billion Bioeconomy by 2030



Dr. Jitendra Singh, the minister of state in the Ministry of Science and Technology in India, has revealed a bold vision that would enable this country to attain a bioeconomy target of US\$300 billion by 2030 by utilizing the BioE3 Policy and ensuring inclusive contributions. Bioeconomy merges biotechnology in areas such as agriculture, health, industry and energy thus aids economic growth, sustainability and innovation. Starting with the climate-resilient crops and even going further to ethanol blending, bio-based solutions have been propelling India towards green and digital transformation. Nevertheless, regulatory gaps, lack of

R&D and bioethical issues are all problems still present. This vision can only be accomplished by reinforcing policy, financing as well as human capital.

Context

- Bioeconomy in India has become one of the sharpest striking pillars of the Indian vision which is environmental, self-reliant, and scientifically innovative growth.
- As the demand in the world market for biotech-driven solutions is increasing, India aims at growing its bioeconomy to the level of 300 billion dollars by 2030, which will be 165.7 billion dollars in 2024 and only 10 billion dollars in 2014.
- This transformation signifies the move of India towards value-based biotechnology ecosystem as compared to volume-based.

Key Highlights for RAS Mains

What is Bioeconomy?

- Bioeconomy can be defined as production, use, and conservation of biological resources, such as knowledge and innovation, in the generation of sustainable goods and services across all sectors of the economy.

Key Sectors in India's Bioeconomy

Sector	Contribution / Potential Use
Biopharma	Vaccines, biosimilars, diagnostics
Bio Agriculture	GM crops, biofertilizers, livestock genomics
Bioindustrial	Bioplastics, enzymes, biofuels
Bioenergy	Ethanol blending, biodiesel
Bioinformatics	Genomics, big data in medicine and agriculture

What is the purpose of India Bioeconomy?

- Economic Growth
 - In 2024, GDP added 4.25 percent in bioeconomy.
 - There are more than 10, 000 of biotech startups in India nowadays
- Employment Generation
 - This 35 million job creation is expected to be a reality by 2030
- Global Pharmacy Hub
 - 3rd largest pharmaceutical manufacturer (in volume)
 - Manufactures 65 percent of the world vaccines
- Energy Security
 - Target discussion (15): Ethanol blend 15 percent in 2024 (15) going to 20 percent by 2025
 - Reduces the importation of oil and minimizes the production of CO 2 emissions.
- Environmental Benefits
 - Biofertilizers, bioplastics are encouragers of circular economy
 - GM crops make agriculture more resistant to the climate



Flagship Policies and Schemes Supporting Bioeconomy

Policy / Scheme	Objective
BioE3 Policy 2024	Focuses on biofoundries, AI-bio hubs, advanced manufacturing
National Biopharma Mission	Develops affordable vaccines, biosimilars
Bio-RIDE Scheme	Boosts entrepreneurship and academia-industry collaboration
Genome India Project	Maps Indian genetic diversity
Biotech-KISAN	Connects scientists with farmers
Biofuel Policy 2018	Promotes use of biofuels in transport and energy

Hurdles to the Development of Bioeconomy

- **Regulatory and Policies Loopholes**
 - Redundancy of regulation and inter-ministerial unclarity
 - IP enforcement and bio-piracy
- **Low R and D Investments**
 - India invests 0.64 percent of GDP in R&D (vs 2 percent in China)
 - Lack of funding to the non pharma biotech industries
- **Infrastructure Deficits**
 - Poor genomics data systems
 - Very few bio technology laboratories and testing centers
- **Bioethical Concerns**
 - The issue concerning GM crops and their safety, the resistance of the population
 - Inadequate frameworks of bioethics
- **Capital and Skilled Manpower Shortage**
 - Shortages of skilled human resource in genomics, bioinformatics, bioengineering

Way Forward

- **Policy Regulatory Framework**
 - Initiate National Bioeconomy Mission on multi-stakeholder inputs
 - Put in place a one-stop regulatory authority on biotechnology
 - Standardise such laws as the Patent Act and PPVFR Act
- **Increase Research and Development and Innovation**
 - Provide tax incentives and funding on research and development and innovation
 - Provide incentives to outcome based funding systems
- **Development of Human Capital**
 - Establish universities Biotech Centres of Excellence
 - Put in place a National Bio-Data Repository
- **Biosafety and Ethics**
 - Bio-tech product mandate impact assessments
 - Establish bioethics councils; create public awareness programs



- **Build Infrastructure**

- Purchase bio foundries, testing labs, and field research areas
- Empower supply chains and self-sustenance of raw materials

Conclusion

A visionary target to develop a bioeconomy worth US \$300 billion by 2030 is set out by India which envisions development of a sustainable and inclusive innovation driven growth system. Biotechnology is the answer to healthcare, food security, energy independence and action on climate. But this path needs a solid footing by policy, participation of the population, and investment in science and infrastructure. With the accurate application of the BioE3 Policy India is rated to be a world leader of the bio-revolution.

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