

**SATYADHEESH**  
सत्याधीश

UPSC DAILY DETAILED NOTES

**Current Affairs • 12 August 2026****53**  
NOTES**7**  
STORIES MERGEDGS1 • 2   GS2 • 23   GS3 • 27   GS4 • 1  
PAPER MIX

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**Every note, grouped by paper**

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## HOW EACH NOTE READS

Why in news → facts to remember → a Mains question with keywords. Duplicate stories are merged.

## SHORT ON TIME?

The 5-page **Brief** has the stories that matter most, plus a quiz. Same day, same notes.

## History & Culture

2

ANCIENT &amp; MEDIEVAL INDIA P

12 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/102424

### ASI Identifies Possible Sangam Age Structures Near Koogur

**WHY IN NEWS** The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) identified brick structures near Koogur, possibly dating back to the Sangam age, suggesting ancient water management systems.

|       |                                                                                                                                          |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PLACE | Koogur is located near the Kollidam river bed in Tamil Nadu.                                                                             |
| S&T   | Sangam Age: A period in ancient Tamil history characterized by the development of Sangam literature and early urban centers.             |
| BODY  | Archaeological Survey of India (ASI): The premier organization for archaeological research and protection of cultural heritage in India. |

**MAINS Q** Discuss the significance of archaeological findings in reconstructing the socio-economic history of the Sangam Age and ancient water management practices in South India.

USE: Sangam Age Archaeological Survey of India Water management Linear masonry Cultural heritage

HERITAGE SITES, UNESCO &amp; GI TAGS P

12 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/101986

### PU's Heritage Chairs Up for Auction in Chicago, HIPC Urges Intervention

**WHY IN NEWS** The Heritage Items Protection Cell (HIPC) sought intervention to stop the auction of Panjab University's heritage furniture in Chicago to prevent the illegal alienation of Indian cultural artifacts.

|      |                                                                                             |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BODY | Heritage Items Protection Cell (HIPC) is a body under the Chandigarh Administration.        |
| FACT | The auction was scheduled for August 13, 2026, in Chicago.                                  |
| FACT | The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) maintains a ban on the export of certain heritage items. |

**MAINS Q** Discuss the challenges in protecting India's cultural heritage from illegal trafficking and suggest measures to strengthen the legal framework for heritage preservation.

USE: cultural heritage illegal trafficking alienation of artifacts preservation regulatory oversight

## Polity &amp; Constitution

7

PARLIAMENT &amp; STATE LEGISLATURES

P

M

2 REPORTS MERGED

12 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/102305

**Lok Sabha passes Mines Bill amid protests, Foreign Contribution Bill sent to Joint Committee**

**WHY IN NEWS** The Lok Sabha passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill 2026 while the Foreign Contribution Bill 2026 was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

|      |                                                                                                                                                  |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BODY | Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC): A committee comprising members from both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to examine specific bills or issues. |
| FACT | The JPC for the Foreign Contribution Bill 2026 consists of 31 members.                                                                           |
| POST | Jagdebika Pal: Serving as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.                                                                                          |

**MAINS Q** Discuss the significance of Parliamentary Committees in ensuring thorough scrutiny of legislation before it is passed in the Indian Parliament.

USE: legislative process parliamentary oversight deliberative democracy scrutiny

JUDICIARY &amp; LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

P

M

12 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/102315

**MPs back impeachment motion as committee finds all charges against Justice Varma proved**

**WHY IN NEWS** The Lok Sabha is considering an impeachment motion against Justice Yashwant Varma after a committee found charges of misconduct proved.

|            |                                                                                                                 |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACT / BILL | Judges Inquiry Act: Provides the legal framework for investigating and removing judges of the higher judiciary. |
| BODY       | Lok Sabha Speaker: The authority to whom the committee report was submitted for consideration.                  |
| FACT       | Over 200 MPs signed the motion to impeach Justice Varma in July 2025.                                           |

**MAINS Q** Discuss the significance of the Judges Inquiry Act in maintaining the independence and integrity of the Indian judiciary.

USE: Judicial Accountability Impeachment Judges Inquiry Act Integrity Rule of Law

CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENTS &amp; BASIC STRUCTURE

P

M

12 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/101838

**President Murmu Signs Bill Criminalizing Disruption of Vande Mataram, Stirring Debate**

**WHY IN NEWS** President Droupadi Murmu gave assent to the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which criminalizes the disruption of singing Vande Mataram.

|            |                                                                                       |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACT / BILL | Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026                       |
| FACT       | Vande Mataram is now legally protected from disruption similar to the National Anthem |
| POST       | President Droupadi Murmu gave the final assent to the bill                            |

**MAINS Q** Discuss the significance of national symbols in fostering collective identity and the legal implications of criminalizing the disruption of national songs.

USE: National Honour Legislative Assent Collective Identity Public Order Symbolism

## Telangana High Court registers contempt case against HYDRAA Commissioner for unauthorized demolition

**WHY IN NEWS** The Telangana High Court initiated a suo moto contempt case against the HYDRAA Commissioner for unauthorized demolition of property in violation of court orders.

|       |                                                                                               |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BODY  | HYDRAA: A state agency in Telangana tasked with large-scale land and building regularisation. |
| PLACE | Medchal Malkajgiri: A district in Telangana where the demolition report was sought.           |
| FACT  | Suo Moto: A case initiated by the court on its own motion without a formal petition.          |

**MAINS Q** Discuss the importance of judicial oversight in ensuring administrative accountability and the rule of law during urban development and land regularisation processes.

USE: judicial oversight contempt of court administrative accountability rule of law suo moto

## Rajya Sabha clears Kerala name change bill to rename state as Keralam

**WHY IN NEWS** The Rajya Sabha cleared the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill 2026 to rename the state as 'Keralam' following a state assembly resolution.

|              |                                                                                                         |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CONSTITUTION | Article 3 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to alter the name, boundaries, or areas of any state. |
| CONSTITUTION | The First Schedule of the Constitution contains the names of the States and Union Territories.          |
| FACT         | The bill was passed by the Lok Sabha and subsequently cleared by the Rajya Sabha via a voice vote.      |

**MAINS Q** Discuss the constitutional provisions and the federal dynamics involved in the renaming of Indian states.

USE: Federalism Constitutional Amendment State Autonomy Legislative Process

## Kerala High Court Quashes Centre's Order on NGO FCRA Certificates

**WHY IN NEWS** The Kerala High Court quashed the Centre's refusal to renew FCRA certificates for two NGOs, emphasizing the necessity of providing specific reasons for such denials.

|       |                                                                                                              |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BODY  | FCRA: Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act governs the receipt and usage of foreign funds by NGOs in India. |
| PLACE | Vizhinjam Seaport: A major port project in Kerala mentioned in the context of the protest.                   |
| FACT  | The court directed authorities to pass fresh orders within a three-month timeframe.                          |

**MAINS Q** Discuss the balance between the state's power to regulate foreign funding for national security and the right of civil society to peaceful protest.

USE: Judicial Review Civil Society National Security Transparency Rule of Law

## Justice Yashwant Varma inquiry report tabled in Parliament today

**WHY IN NEWS** The inquiry report regarding allegations of unaccounted cash against former Delhi High Court Judge Yashwant Varma is being tabled in Parliament following a motion by 146 MPs.

|            |                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACT / BILL | Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968: Provides the legal framework for the investigation of allegations against judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court. |
| BODY       | Lok Sabha Speaker: The authority who constituted the three-member inquiry panel.                                                                       |
| FACT       | 146 MPs sought the removal of the judge, triggering the formal inquiry process.                                                                        |

**MAINS Q** Discuss the significance of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, in maintaining judicial integrity while ensuring the independence of the judiciary.

USE: judicial integrity separation of powers accountability constitutional morality

## Telangana High Court Halts Kalyana Lakshmi and Shadi Mubarak Schemes Until September 9

**WHY IN NEWS** The Telangana High Court stayed the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shadi Mubarak schemes due to a lack of legislative or statutory backing for the government's eligibility criteria.

- BODY** | Telangana High Court: State judicial body overseeing the legality of state government schemes.
- FACT** | The schemes were being operated through eight Government Orders (GOs) issued by the State government.
- FACT** | The court stayed the schemes specifically due to the lack of legislative or statutory backing for eligibility criteria.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the importance of legislative backing for state-run welfare schemes and the role of the judiciary in ensuring administrative accountability.

**USE:** Judicial Review Statutory Backing Administrative Arbitrariness Welfare Schemes Rule of Law

## T.N. govt. allocates ₹828.36 crore for MLACDS

**WHY IN NEWS** Tamil Nadu government allocated ₹828.36 crore for the MLACDS for 2026–27 to facilitate constituency-level development projects.

- SCHEME** | MLACDS: A scheme where funds are allocated to MLAs for development projects within their respective constituencies.
- FACT** | Total allocation for MLACDS in Tamil Nadu for 2026–27 is ₹828.36 crore.
- FACT** | Each of the 234 segments in Tamil Nadu receives ₹3.54 crore.
- POST** | The Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj is responsible for the disbursement of MLACDS funds.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the role of constituency-level development schemes in ensuring grassroots infrastructure growth and the importance of transparent fund management in local governance.

**USE:** grassroots development fiscal decentralization public accountability infrastructure investment

## Social Justice

## Obesity surge: 30.7% of Indian women now overweight or obese

**WHY IN NEWS** NFHS-6 data reveals a significant rise in obesity rates among Indian women, prompting a shift toward pre-conception care and Ayurvedic interventions.

- REPORT** | NFHS-6: National Family Health Survey data released in 2023–24
- FACT** | Obesity rate in Indian women (15–49) rose from 24% to 30.7% in five years
- S&T** | Garbhadana Samskara: An Ayurvedic practice focusing on pre-conception health and lifestyle

**MAINS Q** Discuss the rising trend of obesity in India and evaluate the role of traditional medicine and lifestyle interventions in addressing public health challenges.

**USE:** nutritional transition pre-conception care public health lifestyle intervention AYUSH

## Supreme Court Orders 19 States to Declare Cancer a "Notifiable Disease"

**WHY IN NEWS** The Supreme Court directed 19 States/UTs to declare cancer a 'notifiable disease' to ensure uniform early detection and standardized care across India.

- BODY** | Supreme Court: The highest judicial body in India, headed by the Chief Justice of India.
- FACT** | 19 States and Union Territories were specifically directed by the court to declare cancer a notifiable disease.
- FACT** | Only 17 out of 36 states had previously complied with the parliamentary standing committee's recommendation.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the importance of declaring diseases as 'notifiable' in the context of improving public health infrastructure and early intervention in India.

**USE:** Notifiable disease Public health infrastructure Judicial oversight Early detection Standardized healthcare

## Kerala grants 25% grace marks to students with 40%+ disabilities in tech exams

**WHY IN NEWS** The Kerala government introduced a policy granting 25% grace marks to students with 40% or more permanent disabilities in technical examinations to ensure inclusive education.

- FACT** | Eligibility threshold: Students with a permanent disability of 40% or more.
- FACT** | Benefit: 25% moderation of grace marks per theory paper.
- BODY** | Controller of Technical Examinations: Body responsible for conducting the technical exams in Kerala.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the significance of inclusive education policies in ensuring equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in technical and vocational training.

**USE:** Inclusive Education Equitable Opportunity Disability Rights Policy Intervention

## On August 10, Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi disclosed in the Lok

**WHY IN NEWS** Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi reported a decline in PM POSHAN coverage in Telangana and the approval of KGBVs to improve school nutrition and infrastructure.

- SCHEME** | PM POSHAN: A central government scheme providing fortified meals to children in government and government-aided schools.
- BODY** | KGBV: Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas are residential upper primary schools for girls from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- FACT** | Telangana PM POSHAN coverage: Declined from 17.91 lakh (2021-22) to 14.5 lakh (2025-26).

**MAINS Q** Discuss the role of school meal programs like PM POSHAN in addressing malnutrition and improving school enrollment among marginalized communities in India.

**USE:** nutritional security educational equity social inclusion infrastructure development

## AIIMS New Delhi Has 2,921 Vacancies as Health Ministry Reveals 23,000 Posts Unfilled

**WHY IN NEWS** The Union Health Ministry revealed a significant shortage of manpower with over 23,000 vacant posts across 28 hospitals, including nearly 3,000 vacancies at AIIMS New Delhi.

- FACT** | AIIMS New Delhi has 2,921 total vacancies out of sanctioned posts.
- BODY** | AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- POST** | Anupriya Patel serves as the Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the challenges in human resource management within India's public healthcare infrastructure and suggest measures to bridge the vacancy gap in premier medical institutions.

**USE:** human resource management public health infrastructure manpower shortage healthcare accessibility institutional efficiency

## Kerala launches child rights courses as crimes against children soar

**WHY IN NEWS** Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights signed an MoU with Sreenarayanaguru Open University to launch child rights courses to combat rising crimes against children.

- BODY** | Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights is the nodal body for child welfare in the state.
- FACT** | The certificate course requires SSLC qualification, while the diploma requires Plus Two qualification.
- BODY** | Sreenarayanaguru Open University (SGOU) is a state university in Kerala.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the measures required to strengthen the legal and educational framework to ensure the protection of children's rights in India.

**USE:** Child Rights Legal Literacy Institutional Framework Social Justice Awareness

## International Relations

8

## NASA Invites ISRO to Join Moon Base Program Near Lunar South Pole

**WHY IN NEWS** NASA invited ISRO to join its Moon Base programme near the lunar South Pole during the 9th India-U.S. Civil Space Joint Working Group meeting.

- S&T** | Artemis Accords: A multilateral agreement for cooperation in civil space exploration.
- S&T** | TRUST Initiative: A U.S.-India initiative focused on space cooperation.
- POST** | ISRO Chairman: V. Narayanan (as of the meeting date).
- FACT** | The Moon Base program is specifically targeting the lunar South Pole.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the significance of the Artemis Accords and bilateral space cooperation in establishing India as a leading global space power.

**USE:** Space Diplomacy Strategic Partnership Lunar Exploration Technological Collaboration

## White House Trade Adviser Peter Navarro stated that the U.S

**WHY IN NEWS** White House Trade Adviser Peter Navarro stated that the U.S. and India are addressing potential U.S. tariffs on India's purchase of Russian oil following the 2022 Ukraine war.

- FACT** | U.S. Senate authorized 100% tariffs on the top five purchasers of Russian oil.
- PLACE** | Ukraine war: Conflict involving Russia and Ukraine starting in 2022.
- POST** | Peter Navarro: White House Trade Adviser.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the impact of geopolitical tensions and energy security on India's trade relations with the United States and Russia.

**USE:** strategic autonomy energy security geopolitical alignment trade barriers multilateral pressure

## Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Pakistan Sign Defence Pact in Mecca Amid Regional Turmoil

**WHY IN NEWS** Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan signed a trilateral defence pact in Mecca to enhance collective deterrence and counter-terrorism efforts.

- FACT** | The defence pact involves three nations: Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan.
- PLACE** | The agreement was signed in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.
- FACT** | India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is the primary body monitoring the regional security implications.

**MAINS Q** Analyze the implications of trilateral defence pacts in the Middle East on India's strategic autonomy and regional security architecture.

**USE:** collective deterrence regional stability strategic autonomy counter-terrorism geopolitical realignment

## India Delivers First 19 Coaches to Bangladesh Railway, Packed with Passenger Comfort Features

**WHY IN NEWS** India is delivering the first batch of 19 LHB coaches to Bangladesh Railway as part of a major infrastructure cooperation deal.

- FACT** | The total deal value for the 200 coaches is Rs 915 crore.
- PLACE** | The coaches were manufactured at the Rail Coach Factory in Kapurthala, Punjab.
- S&T** | LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) coaches are designed for high-speed and safety, featuring automatic couplers and disc brakes.
- BODY** | The project is being financed by the European Investment Bank (EIB).

**MAINS Q** Discuss how infrastructure cooperation and railway connectivity serve as pillars of India's 'Neighborhood First' policy and regional economic integration.

**USE:** Neighborhood First Infrastructure Diplomacy Regional Connectivity LHB Coaches Economic Cooperation

## Assam Floods: Himanta Biswa Sarma Seeks ₹1,000 Crore, Narendra Modi Assures Full Help

**WHY IN NEWS** Assam Chief Minister requested ₹1,000 crore from the Centre for flood rehabilitation, highlighting the recurring disaster management challenges in the Northeast.

- FACT** | Initial flood damage in Upper Assam estimated at over ₹150 crore.
- PLACE** | Upper Assam is a region frequently affected by Brahmaputra river floods.
- BODY** | Anganwadi centres are part of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the challenges in disaster management and rehabilitation in flood-prone regions of Northeast India. Suggest measures for building climate-resilient infrastructure.

**USE:** disaster management climate resilience federalism rehabilitation

## Japan suspends Indian mango imports, highlighting food safety concerns

**WHY IN NEWS** Japan suspended Indian mango imports due to quarantine concerns, highlighting challenges in meeting international food safety and traceability standards.

- FACT** | Japan suspended Indian mango imports starting March 31.
- FACT** | China revoked rice export licenses for three Indian firms on April 17 due to GMO traces.
- S&T** | GMO (Genetically Modified Organisms) refers to organisms whose genetic material has been altered by humans.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the challenges faced by Indian agricultural exports in meeting international food safety and traceability standards. Suggest measures to enhance India's global competitiveness.

**USE:** Food Safety Traceability Phytosanitary Standards Export Competitiveness GMO Regulations

## High Commissioner Trivedi meets PM Modi after Bangladesh visit

**WHY IN NEWS** High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi met PM Modi following a diplomatic meeting with Bangladesh's PM Tarique Rahman regarding extradition and bilateral tensions.

- POST** | High Commissioner: The head of the Indian High Commission in a foreign country.
- FACT** | Bangladesh and India are neighbors sharing a land border.
- PLACE** | New Delhi: The seat of the Government of India.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the evolving dynamics of India-Bangladesh bilateral relations in the context of recent political shifts and security cooperation.

**USE:** Bilateral relations Extradition Diplomatic tension Regional cooperation

## India Reviews Bangladesh's Request to Extradite Sheikh Hasina

**WHY IN NEWS** India is reviewing Bangladesh's formal request to extradite former PM Sheikh Hasina following her flight to India after the collapse of her government.

- PLACE** | Sheikh Hasina: Former Prime Minister of Bangladesh who fled to India in August 2024.
- FACT** | Tarique Rahman: Current Prime Minister of Bangladesh invited for a bilateral visit to India.
- INTL. ORG** | BRICS: India is a member and host of the upcoming outreach session in September.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the complexities of extradition treaties and the diplomatic challenges India faces in balancing bilateral ties with Bangladesh amidst internal political shifts.

**USE:** Extradition Bilateral relations Diplomatic protocols Geopolitical stability

## Economy

13

INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT &amp; MSMEs

P

M

2 REPORTS MERGED

12 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/102506](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/102506)**NCDC's mandate expands to direct loans and grants for cooperatives without extra funding**

**WHY IN NEWS** The Rajya Sabha passed the National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, expanding the NCDC's mandate to provide direct loans and grants to cooperatives.

**ACT / BILL** | National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026

**BODY** | NCDC: A statutory body established to provide credit and support to cooperative societies

**FACT** | The amendment allows for direct financial assistance without extra government funding

**MAINS Q** Discuss how the expansion of the NCDC's mandate can strengthen the cooperative movement and contribute to rural industrial development in India.

**USE:** cooperative movement financial autonomy industrial goods streamlined assistance

CAPITAL MARKETS &amp; SEBI

P

2 REPORTS MERGED

12 Aug · Economic Times · [satyadheesh.in/news/101748](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/101748)**SEBI Allows FPIs to Trade in Non-Agricultural Commodity Derivatives, Sets Strict Unwinding Rules**

**WHY IN NEWS** SEBI issued a circular allowing Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to trade in non-cash settled non-agricultural commodity derivatives to enhance market liquidity.

**BODY** | SEBI: Securities and Exchange Board of India, the regulator for securities and commodity markets.

**FACT** | FPIs: Foreign Portfolio Investors are permitted to trade in non-cash settled non-agricultural commodity derivatives under the new framework.

**FACT** | T-3 Rule: FPIs must voluntarily square off or roll over positions by the close of market hours on the day preceding the tender period, or face automatic transfer.

**FACT** | CDAC: Commodity Derivatives Advisory Committee provided deliberations for this regulatory shift.

**MAINS Q** Discuss how deepening institutional participation in commodity derivatives can enhance price discovery and market liquidity in the Indian economy.

**USE:** liquidity price discovery institutional participation market depth regulatory safeguards

INFRASTRUCTURE (ENERGY, PORTS, ROADS, RAILWAYS)

P

M

12 Aug · NDTV · [satyadheesh.in/news/102576](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/102576)**Under new NHAI rules, ambulances on National Highways must reach accidents within**

**WHY IN NEWS** NHAI issued new rules mandating strict response timelines for ambulances on National Highways to reduce mortality from road accidents.

**BODY** | NHAI: National Highways Authority of India

**FACT** | Penalty of up to Rs 10,000 per incident for non-compliance with response timelines

**S&T** | NHAI Care Dashboard and GPS tracking are used for real-time monitoring of ambulance movements

**FACT** | Ambulance must reach the hospital within 1 hour of alert acceptance

**MAINS Q** Discuss the significance of establishing strict service-level benchmarks in emergency medical services to improve road safety and reduce mortality rates in India.

**USE:** Golden Hour Service-level benchmarks Real-time monitoring Accountability Road safety

## SEBI aims to vault-manage all bullion trades by September 1

**WHY IN NEWS** SEBI proposed bringing all bullion trades under vault management rules to strengthen oversight of the digital bullion market and expand the Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR) framework.

- BODY** | SEBI: Securities and Exchange Board of India, the regulator for securities markets in India.
- FACT** | Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR): Digital receipts representing physical gold stored in vaults.
- FACT** | Bullion ETFs: Exchange-traded funds that track the price of physical gold.
- FACT** | Vault Management: Rules governing the storage and security of physical bullion backing electronic assets.

**MAINS Q** Discuss how the regulation of digital bullion and vault management can enhance investor confidence and transparency in India's capital markets.

**USE:** market oversight transparency digital bullion investor protection regulatory framework

## Retail trader losses plunge 18% to ₹916.85 billion after SEBI curbs speculation

**WHY IN NEWS** The Indian government reported a significant decline in retail option trader losses and turnover following SEBI's regulatory measures to curb speculative trading.

- BODY** | SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) is the primary regulator for the securities market in India.
- FACT** | Retail losses peaked at ₹1.12 trillion in the fiscal year ending March 2025.
- FACT** | India hosts the world's largest equity derivative market by volume.
- FACT** | A SEBI study found that 9 out of 10 retail traders made losses on average in the derivatives segment.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the role of regulatory bodies like SEBI in protecting retail investors from speculative risks in the equity derivatives market.

**USE:** speculative trading retail investors market regulation financial literacy equity derivatives

## India's IRCTC Launches First Private Branded Train Sprite Tejas Express

**WHY IN NEWS** IRCTC launched India's first private branded train, the 'Sprite' Tejas Express, marking a shift towards private-public branding in railway infrastructure.

- BODY** | IRCTC: A subsidiary of Indian Railways responsible for catering and tourism services.
- FACT** | The Sprite Tejas Express is the first private branded train in India.
- PLACE** | The train route connects Lucknow and Delhi.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the potential of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and branding models in enhancing the efficiency and revenue of India's railway infrastructure.

**USE:** Public-Private Partnership Revenue Model Infrastructure Development Branding

## Sebi Cuts Z-score Threshold for Commodity Derivatives from 10 to 5

**WHY IN NEWS** Sebi revised the Z-score threshold for stress testing in commodity derivatives to improve the Ease of Doing Business.

- BODY** | Sebi: The primary regulator for the securities and commodity derivatives markets in India.
- FACT** | Z-score threshold: Reduced from 10 to 5 for commodity derivatives stress testing.
- FACT** | Core SGF: Uses mean and sigma of returns over a 15-year Margin Period of Risk.

**MAINS Q** Discuss how regulatory reforms in commodity derivatives markets contribute to the 'Ease of Doing Business' and financial market stability in India.

**USE:** Stress Testing Market Stability Regulatory Framework Ease of Doing Business

## Bank of America to partner with Jio Financial through 26.5% stake investment

**WHY IN NEWS** Bank of America announced a strategic investment in Jio Financial's non-bank lending arm to expand its footprint in India's growing financial services market.

- FACT** | Bank of America's initial stake in Jio Financial's non-bank lending arm is 26.5%.
- FACT** | The maximum stake Bank of America can hold in the entity is 49.9%.
- BODY** | Jio Financial Services is a prominent Indian non-banking financial company (NBFC).

**MAINS Q** Discuss the significance of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India's non-banking financial sector for enhancing financial inclusion and deepening capital markets.

USE: FDI Financial Inclusion NBFC Capital Market Strategic Investment

## SIPB approves ₹2,08,406 crore investments, 25 projects, 21,627 jobs

**WHY IN NEWS** The State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) approved ₹2.08 lakh crore in investments for 25 projects to boost industrial growth and job creation in Andhra Pradesh.

- FACT** | SIPB approved investment of ₹2,08,406 crore for 25 projects.
- FACT** | Projected job creation: 21,627 jobs.
- S&T** | Green ammonia and lithium batteries identified as emerging industrial sectors.
- PLACE** | Puttaparthi and Hindupur identified for defense and aerospace projects respectively.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the role of state-led investment promotion in fostering industrial growth and creating employment in India's emerging green energy sectors.

USE: industrial incentives job creation green ammonia MSME parks investment promotion

## Stock Closing Auction Participation Soars to 25% in Mumbai Reform

**WHY IN NEWS** SEBI-led market reforms in Mumbai have seen a surge in participation in the stock closing auction, moving from an average-price to a volume-based execution model.

- FACT** | Stock closing auction participation by mutual funds increased from 5-6% to 20-25%.
- FACT** | The closing auction is a 20-minute session replacing the previous 30-minute average price method.
- S&T** | The reform aims to reduce tracking error for passive funds.

**MAINS Q** Discuss how market reforms in price discovery mechanisms contribute to investor confidence and the efficiency of capital markets in India.

USE: price discovery tracking error market transparency passive funds capital market efficiency

## Maharashtra Cabinet Grants 25% Discount on Land Transfers for Renewable Energy Projects

**WHY IN NEWS** The Maharashtra Cabinet approved a 25% discount on land transfer fees and stamp duty exemptions to accelerate renewable energy project development.

- FACT** | Maharashtra Cabinet granted a 25% discount on land-transfer fees for renewable energy projects.
- FACT** | Full stamp duty exemption is provided for internal transfers between group/SPV companies.
- FACT** | Interest rate for delayed land acquisition compensation is set one percentage point higher than the RBI's lending rate to commercial banks.

**MAINS Q** Discuss how state-level fiscal incentives and land policy reforms can accelerate India's transition towards a renewable energy-led economy.

USE: Renewable Energy Fiscal Incentives Ease of Doing Business SPV Land Acquisition

## Himachal Pradesh Introduces 60 Paise Per Litre Widow and Orphan Cess, Sparking Border Fears

**WHY IN NEWS** Himachal Pradesh introduced a 60 paise per litre Widow and Orphan Cess on fuel to fund welfare schemes, sparking concerns over revenue leakage due to cross-border fuel smuggling.

- FACT** | Widow and Orphan Cess: 60 paise per litre on petrol and diesel in Himachal Pradesh.
- FACT** | Estimated annual revenue from VAT and cesses: Over Rs 1,000 crore.
- PLACE** | Himachal Pradesh: State implementing the new fuel cess.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the challenges faced by state governments in maintaining fiscal revenue while implementing welfare-oriented cesses in a federal structure.

**USE:** [fiscal federalism](#) [revenue leakage](#) [social welfare](#) [cess](#) [inter-state trade](#)

## RBI's Malhotra Warns AI Risks Bias, Cyber Threats at FICCI-IBA Conference

**WHY IN NEWS** RBI official Malhotra highlighted the dual-edged nature of AI in banking, emphasizing the need for a formal AI governance policy to mitigate bias and cyber risks.

- BODY** | RBI: The central bank of India responsible for monetary policy and banking regulation.
- S&T** | Regulatory Sandbox: A framework that allows financial institutions to test innovative products in a live environment with regulatory oversight.
- FACT** | AI Governance: Frameworks designed to ensure AI systems are transparent, fair, and secure in financial operations.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the challenges and opportunities of integrating Artificial Intelligence in the Indian banking sector. How can a robust governance framework mitigate risks like algorithmic bias and cyber threats?

**USE:** [Financial Inclusion](#) [Algorithmic Bias](#) [Regulatory Sandbox](#) [Cyber Resilience](#) [Governance Framework](#)

## Agriculture

1

## Maharashtra makes Marathi mandatory for commercial vehicle drivers

**WHY IN NEWS** The Maharashtra government amended the Motor Vehicles Act to mandate Marathi language proficiency for commercial vehicle drivers to ensure passenger safety and effective communication.

- ACT / BILL** | Motor Vehicles Act: Primary legislation governing road transport and vehicle licensing in India.
- FACT** | Penalty for non-compliance: 1-month notice followed by a 3-month license suspension.
- PLACE** | Maharashtra: State implementing the mandatory language requirement for commercial drivers.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the balance between linguistic preservation and ease of mobility in a diverse country like India. How can states ensure safety without creating barriers for migrant workers?

**USE:** [Linguistic proficiency](#) [Public safety](#) [Regulatory framework](#) [Mobility rights](#) [State policy](#)

IT, AI, SEMICONDUCTORS &amp; COMPUTING

P

M

2 REPORTS MERGED

12 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/102417

## AI Cameras to Prevent Accidents After Cuddalore Tragedy That Killed 3 Schoolchildren

**WHY IN NEWS** Indian Railways plans to deploy AI-powered CCTV cameras at non-interlocked level crossings to prevent accidents following a fatal tragedy in Cuddalore.

- S&T** | AI-powered CCTV cameras are being proposed for real-time monitoring of railway level crossings.
- FACT** | The system will be solar-powered to ensure functionality at remote non-interlocked crossings.
- BODY** | Indian Railways is the primary body implementing the safety technology.

**MAINS Q** Discuss how the integration of Artificial Intelligence and IoT can enhance public safety and infrastructure management in the Indian Railways.

**USE:** technological intervention real-time monitoring public safety infrastructure modernization risk mitigation

DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

P

12 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/102396

## After an Air India flight from Phuket to Delhi suddenly lost 300

**WHY IN NEWS** The DGCA classified an Air India flight incident as 'serious' after a pilot was found to have marijuana and sleep medication in his system, leading to a review of dope-testing protocols.

- BODY** | DGCA: Directorate General of Civil Aviation is the regulatory body for civil aviation safety in India.
- BODY** | Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau: The body responsible for investigating aviation-related accidents in India.
- FACT** | The incident involved a loss of 300 feet in altitude and resulted in 24 total injuries.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the importance of stringent aviation safety protocols and dope-testing measures in ensuring passenger safety and maintaining international aviation standards.

**USE:** aviation safety regulatory framework standard operating procedures human factors compliance

BIOTECHNOLOGY &amp; HEALTH RESEARCH

P

12 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/102262

## Scientists Unveil 3 New Frog Species in Northeast India After 15 Years

**WHY IN NEWS** Scientists discovered three new species of cascade frogs in Northeast India, highlighting the region's rich biodiversity and the importance of long-term ecological research.

- ENVIRONMENT** | Amolops ammachi, A. sendenyu, and A. bella are newly discovered cascade frog species in Northeast India.
- S&T** | DNA analysis was used to confirm the genetic distinctness of the new frog species.
- FACT** | The research was conducted over a period of 15 years.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the significance of biodiversity hotspots in Northeast India and the role of long-term ecological research in documenting India's unique fauna.

**USE:** biodiversity endemic species taxonomic discovery ecological research conservation

BIOTECHNOLOGY &amp; HEALTH RESEARCH

P

M

12 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/102237

## Scientists can turn adult human cells into brain organoids that mimic

**WHY IN NEWS** Scientists have developed brain organoids from adult human cells to study neurological diseases and drug responses, sparking ethical debates on consciousness.

- S&T** | Brain organoids: 3D in vitro tissue models derived from stem cells or adult cells to mimic brain architecture.
- FACT** | NIH (National Institutes of Health) invested \$150 million in human-based research models as of March 2026.
- S&T** | Cortical Labs: Research entity that demonstrated goal-directed activity in neurons connected to electrodes.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the potential of brain organoids in advancing neurological research and the ethical challenges regarding consciousness and human rights in biotechnology.

**USE:** biotechnology organoids neuroscience bioethics synthetic biology

## Indian physicist Deepak Dhar wins Dirac Medal, second Indian after Ashoke Sen

**WHY IN NEWS** Deepak Dhar became the second Indian to win the Dirac Medal for his contributions to statistical physics.

|      |                                                                                 |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BODY | ICTP: International Centre for Theoretical Physics is located in Trieste, Italy |
| POST | Deepak Dhar: Indian theoretical physicist recognized for statistical physics    |
| FACT | Ashoke Sen was the first Indian to receive the Dirac Medal in 2012              |

**MAINS Q** Discuss the importance of international recognition of Indian scientists in fostering global scientific collaboration and enhancing India's position in the global knowledge economy.

USE: theoretical physics statistical physics scientific recognition global collaboration

## Environment & Ecology

3

## One-third of farmland causes two-thirds of farming biodiversity and carbon loss: Global study

**WHY IN NEWS** A global study published in Nature Food highlights that 1/3 of farmland causes 2/3 of biodiversity and carbon loss, identifying specific hotspots and trade-related impacts.

|             |                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ENVIRONMENT | One-third of global agricultural land accounts for two-thirds of farming-related biodiversity and carbon loss.                   |
| FACT        | Targeted restoration of high-impact areas could capture 170 billion tonnes of carbon.                                            |
| FACT        | Restoration of high-impact areas could prevent approximately 60% of agriculture-driven extinction risks.                         |
| PLACE       | Brazil is identified as the largest net exporter of environmental impacts from agriculture, while China is the largest importer. |

**MAINS Q** Discuss the impact of intensive agricultural practices on global biodiversity and carbon sequestration. How can international trade policies be aligned with environmental sustainability?

USE: biodiversity loss carbon sequestration agricultural hotspots environmental externalities sustainable agriculture

## Arctic Village Sinks as Thawing Ice Releases Ancient Gases, Costs Billions

**WHY IN NEWS** Researchers documented ground subsidence in Point Lay (Alaska) due to thawing permafrost, which releases methane and CO<sub>2</sub>, creating a feedback loop for global warming.

|             |                                                                                            |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ENVIRONMENT | Permafrost: Ground that remains completely frozen for at least two consecutive years.      |
| FACT        | Ice content in Point Lay ground reaches approximately 40%.                                 |
| S&T         | Methane and CO <sub>2</sub> are primary greenhouse gases released from thawing permafrost. |
| PLACE       | Point Lay (Kali) is located in Alaska, USA.                                                |

**MAINS Q** Discuss how the thawing of Arctic permafrost acts as a positive feedback loop in global warming and its socio-economic impact on indigenous communities.

USE: Permafrost degradation Positive feedback loop Methane release Ground subsidence Climate vulnerability

## Gibbon's Journey: Tamil Nadu Forest Dept Seeks Docs After Vikram Video Goes Viral

**WHY IN NEWS** The Tamil Nadu Forest Department is investigating the legal ownership and CITES compliance of a Lar Gibbon featured in a viral video involving actor Vikram.

|             |                                                                                                               |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ENVIRONMENT | Lar Gibbon: A primate species whose trade is regulated under international and domestic wildlife laws.        |
| INTL. ORG   | CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.                       |
| FACT        | The animal's movement was documented across Manipur and Malaysia before reaching Tamil Nadu.                  |
| S&T         | Zoonotic diseases: Diseases that can spread from animals to humans, a risk highlighted by wildlife activists. |

**MAINS Q** Discuss the challenges in regulating the private ownership of endangered species and the role of CITES in curbing illegal wildlife trade in India.

USE: CITES compliance    zoonotic risk    wildlife trafficking    statutory requirements    biodiversity conservation

## Disaster Management

1

## Floods in Madhya Pradesh: 527 Rescued as Nine Die in Rajgarh Van Tragedy

**WHY IN NEWS** Heavy flooding in Madhya Pradesh led to significant casualties and large-scale rescue operations involving multiple state agencies.

|       |                                                                                                         |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FACT  | 527 people rescued from flood-hit areas in Madhya Pradesh                                               |
| PLACE | Rajgarh, Shivpuri, Raisen, Bhopal, Sehore, Ujjain, Mandla, and Mauganj are the worst-affected districts |
| BODY  | SDERF (State Disaster Response Force) is involved in rescue operations                                  |

**MAINS Q** Discuss the challenges in disaster management during extreme weather events in India and suggest measures to enhance the efficacy of state-level response mechanisms.

USE: disaster mitigation    inter-agency coordination    climate resilience    emergency response

## Internal Security

4

## Former MP Prajwal Revanna found with mobile phone in prison, raising security concerns

**WHY IN NEWS** A mobile phone was discovered in the prison cell of former MP Prajwal Revanna, highlighting lapses in security and surveillance protocols within high-security correctional facilities.

|            |                                                                                                                 |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BODY       | Central Crime Branch (CCB): A specialized wing of the police force in Karnataka.                                |
| FACT       | Parappana Agrahara Central Prison: A high-security prison located in Bengaluru, Karnataka.                      |
| ACT / BILL | Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006: Used by Karnataka to ban gutka and pan masala containing tobacco/nicotine. |

**MAINS Q** Discuss the challenges in maintaining security and surveillance in high-security prisons and suggest measures to prevent the infiltration of prohibited electronic devices.

USE: surveillance    security breach    correctional administration    protocol lapse    high-security

## Cannabis in pilot's system as Air India flight plunges, injuring 20

**WHY IN NEWS** A pilot's cannabis-positive test following an Air India flight incident has sparked a debate on the adequacy of DGCA's pre-flight drug screening regulations.

**BODY** | DGCA: Directorate General of Civil Aviation is the regulatory body for civil aviation safety in India.

**FACT** | Flight AI2379 involved an Airbus A320 (VT-EXO) experiencing a 300-foot loss of altitude.

**BODY** | AAIB: Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau is the body responsible for investigating aviation accidents in India.

**MAINS Q** Critically analyze the current aviation safety protocols regarding pilot drug screening and suggest measures to enhance passenger safety in civil aviation.

**USE:** aviation safety regulatory oversight standard operating procedures risk mitigation public safety

## Kuki Group Lifts Blockade on NH-202 After Meeting with Manipur Delegation

**WHY IN NEWS** The Kuki Civil Society Working Committee-Ukhrul lifted a blockade on NH-202 following a meeting with a Manipur government delegation, highlighting ongoing ethnic tensions and logistical disruptions in the region.

**PLACE** | NH-202 and NH-2 are critical transport arteries in the state of Manipur.

**FACT** | Approximately 300 trucks were released from the Ukhrul district following the agreement.

**POST** | Konthoujam Govindas serves as the Home Minister of Manipur.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the impact of ethnic conflicts on internal security and infrastructure development in Northeast India. Suggest measures to ensure communal harmony and logistical stability.

**USE:** internal security ethnic conflict logistical disruption communal harmony mediation

## Centre Blocks 3,718 Mobile Apps, Saves Over Rs 11,158 Crore Since 2021

**WHY IN NEWS** The Ministry of Home Affairs reported the blocking of over 3,700 fraudulent mobile apps and the saving of over Rs 11,158 crore through the CFCFRMS portal.

**BODY** | I4C: Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre is the nodal agency for cybercrime coordination.

**ACT / BILL** | IT Act, 2000: Sections 69(A) and 79(3)(b) are used for blocking apps and content.

**SCHEME** | CFCFRMS: Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System launched in 2021.

**FACT** | Over Rs 11,158 crore saved from cyber fraud via CFCFRMS since 2021.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the growing challenges of cyber-enabled financial fraud in India and evaluate the effectiveness of the I4C and CFCFRMS in mitigating these risks.

**USE:** cybercrime financial fraud digital infrastructure I4C CFCFRMS

## Ethics &amp; Integrity

1

ETHICS IN TECHNOLOGY &amp; BUSINESS

P

M

12 Aug · Wired · [satyadheesh.in/news/102242](https://satyadheesh.in/news/102242)**Holographic Lasers Make Mice See False Images, Raising Ethical Alarms**

**WHY IN NEWS** Neuroscientist Rafael Yuste demonstrated using holographic lasers to implant false visual stimuli into mice brains, sparking a debate on 'neurorights' and mental privacy.

**S&T** | Holographic lasers can be used to both read and manipulate neural activity in the brain.

**S&T** | Visual cortex is the primary area of the brain responsible for processing visual information.

**POST** | Rafael Yuste is a neuroscientist at Columbia University.

**MAINS Q** Discuss the ethical implications of neurotechnology and the necessity of establishing 'neurorights' to protect mental privacy and cognitive liberty.

**USE:** [neurorights](#) [cognitive liberty](#) [neuroethics](#) [neural manipulation](#) [mental privacy](#)



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