

**SATYADHEESH**
सत्याधीश

UPSC DAILY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs · 14 August 2026**44**
NOTES**7**
STORIES MERGEDGS1 · 7 GS2 · 21 GS3 · 16
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

3

HERITAGE SITES, UNESCO & GI TAGS

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14 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/104198

Parliamentary Committee Flags Slow Digitisation of Manuscripts Under Gyan Bharatam Mission

WHY IN NEWS The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture flagged delays in the Gyan Bharatam Mission's goal to digitize manuscripts.

SCHEME | Gyan Bharatam Mission: A government initiative to digitize manuscripts for cultural preservation.

FACT | Target: 1 crore manuscripts to be digitized by 2030.

FACT | Current progress: 7.5 lakh manuscripts digitized as of August 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of digitizing cultural heritage in preserving India's history and the challenges faced in large-scale manuscript preservation projects.

USE: cultural preservation digital archiving heritage management public-private partnership

MODERN INDIA & FREEDOM STRUGGLE

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14 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/103978

Madras High Court to play Vande Mataram before national anthem during Independence Day 2026 celebrations

WHY IN NEWS The Madras High Court administration announced the playing of 'Vande Mataram' before the National Anthem on August 15, 2026, to mark the 150th anniversary of the national song.

FACT | Vande Mataram will be celebrated for its 150th anniversary in 2026.

PLACE | The initiative covers judicial units in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

BODY | The Registrar General of the High Court oversees the administrative decisions of the court.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of national symbols and songs in fostering a sense of national identity and unity among diverse citizens of India.

USE: National Identity Symbolism Cultural Heritage Unity in Diversity

HERITAGE SITES, UNESCO & GI TAGS

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14 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/103641

18 historic sites delisted as no longer meeting national importance criteria

WHY IN NEWS Union Minister of Culture announced the delisting of 18 historic sites from the protected monuments list for failing to meet national importance criteria.

BODY | ASI: Archaeological Survey of India is the primary body responsible for archaeological research and protection of cultural heritage in India.

ACT / BILL | Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958: The primary legislation governing the protection of archaeological sites.

FACT | 3,688: The current number of centrally protected sites maintained by the ASI.

ACT / BILL | Public Records Act, 1993: Governs the preservation and auditing of public records.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in balancing urban development with the preservation of heritage sites in India. How can the ASI ensure the integrity of national heritage?

USE: heritage conservation national importance ASI legislative framework cultural preservation

The Population Census 2027, the first digital and caste-enumerating Census in independent

WHY IN NEWS The Population Census 2027 is significant as it marks the first digital and caste-enumerating census in independent India.

- FACT** | Population Census 2027 is the first digital census in independent India.
- FACT** | Housing Listing Operations (HLO) concluded on September 30, 2026.
- FACT** | Self-enumeration for the census is available from August 17 to August 31, 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of digital census enumeration and the inclusion of caste data in planning socio-economic development in India.

USE: Digital Census Demographic profiling Socio-economic planning Data integrity

India Registrar notifies 40 census questions for September 1 start in snow-bound areas

WHY IN NEWS The Registrar General of India notified 40 census questions for the upcoming population enumeration, notably including caste details for the first time via self-reporting.

- FACT** | Total budget allocated for the census: Rs 11,718 crore
- FACT** | Self-enumeration period: August 17 to August 31
- BODY** | Registrar General of India: The primary authority responsible for conducting the census in India
- FACT** | Caste details to be collected for the first time based on self-reporting

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the Census in formulating socio-economic policies and the challenges associated with collecting demographic data in geographically difficult terrains.

USE: Demographic profile Data-driven governance Logistical hurdles Self-enumeration Socio-economic planning

Arunachal Pradesh Scraps 80:20 Reservation, Mandates Indigenous Language Proficiency

WHY IN NEWS The Arunachal Pradesh government scrapped the 80:20 reservation system for state jobs, replacing it with uniform eligibility criteria including indigenous language proficiency.

- BODY** | APPSC: Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission is the body responsible for state civil services.
- FACT** | The previous reservation system followed an 80:20 ratio for state government jobs.
- PLACE** | Arunachal Pradesh: A North-Eastern state in India.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of linguistic proficiency and residency requirements on the inclusivity of public service recruitment in culturally diverse states.

USE: Public Service Recruitment Cultural Identity Administrative Efficiency Inclusivity State Autonomy

Delhi Development Authority Approves Master Plan 2047 Pending Central Approval

WHY IN NEWS The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) approved the Master Plan 2047 to address the housing shortage of 40 lakh units by 2047, pending Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs approval.

BODY | DDA: Delhi Development Authority is the primary agency for land and infrastructure planning in Delhi.

FACT | Master Plan 2047 targets a requirement of 40 lakh additional homes by 2047.

FACT | Proposed smaller home sizes range from 25 to 60 square metres of carpet area.

BODY | Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs: The central body responsible for final approval of the Delhi Master Plan.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges of urban housing in rapidly growing metropolitan cities like Delhi and evaluate the effectiveness of 'Transit-Oriented Development' and 'Land Pooling' in addressing these issues.

USE :

urban planning

Transit-Oriented Development

land pooling

affordable housing

urban sprawl

Polity & Constitution

8

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, DPSP & DUTIES

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14 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/103786](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/103786)

Supreme Court rules direct communication essential for every arrest in India

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court ruled in *Vihaan Kumar v. State of Haryana* that direct communication of arrest grounds to the individual is mandatory to prevent arbitrary use of power.

CONSTITUTION | Article 22(1) guarantees the right to be informed of grounds of arrest and to consult a legal practitioner.

ACT / BILL | Section 50 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) mandates informing the person of the grounds of arrest.

POST | The Supreme Court is the highest judicial body in India, exercising judicial review over executive actions.

MAINS Q Critically examine the importance of procedural safeguards during arrest in ensuring the protection of fundamental rights against arbitrary state action.

USE: Arbitrary power Procedural safeguards Due process Judicial review Fundamental rights

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, DPSP & DUTIES

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14 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/103532](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/103532)

Supreme Court to Hear MP Rahim's Petition on Unconstitutional Facial Recognition Use Against Protesters

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court is hearing a petition by MP A.A. Rahim challenging the use of facial recognition technology and mass surveillance against protesters as a violation of constitutional rights.

S&T | Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) uses biometric data to identify individuals in real-time or from stored images.

BODY | The Supreme Court of India has the power of judicial review to strike down executive actions that violate Fundamental Rights.

FACT | The petition highlights the involvement of private agencies in hosting government-collected biometric data.

MAINS Q Critically examine the tension between state surveillance for public order and the fundamental right to privacy in a democratic setup.

USE: Right to Privacy Mass Surveillance Biometric Data Judicial Review Proportionality

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

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2 REPORTS MERGED

14 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/104150](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/104150)

Supreme Court Halts Jobs Order for Karur Stampede Victims, Quashes Gandhi Hate Speech Case

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court intervened to stay a High Court order regarding government jobs for stampede victims and quashed a hate speech case, highlighting judicial oversight on executive actions and free speech.

BODY | Supreme Court of India: The highest judicial body in India, exercising judicial review.

FACT | The Supreme Court has the power to stay orders passed by High Courts.

PLACE | Karur: A city in the state of Tamil Nadu.

BODY | White House: The official residence and workplace of the US President.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of the judiciary in balancing the executive's power to provide social welfare and the protection of fundamental rights like freedom of speech.

USE: Judicial Review Rule of Law Social Justice Freedom of Speech Executive Oversight

The Haryana Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls is causing issues

WHY IN NEWS The Haryana Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls is creating hurdles for women married into the state from other states due to lack of parental records in older rolls.

FACT | The current revision process references the 2002 electoral rolls as a baseline for verification.

BODY | Electoral Rolls are maintained by the Election Commission of India (ECI) and State Election Commissions.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced by marginalized groups and migrants in the electoral roll revision process and suggest measures to ensure inclusive voter participation.

USE: Universal Adult Franchise Inclusivity Administrative Hurdles Voter Identity Right to Suffrage

Supreme Court Orders BCI to Lift Ban on NALSAR Graduates' Enrolment

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court intervened to stop the Bar Council of India (BCI) from blocking the enrolment of NALSAR graduates, highlighting the limits of regulatory bodies' punitive powers.

BODY | Bar Council of India (BCI): The statutory body responsible for regulating the standards of legal practice and education in India.

PLACE | NALSAR University of Law: Located in Hyderabad, Telangana.

FACT | The BCI directive specifically targeted the 2026 graduating batch of NALSAR.

MAINS Q Examine the role of statutory bodies in regulating professional standards while ensuring they do not infringe upon the fundamental rights of students and professionals.

USE: statutory body regulatory oversight procedural fairness judicial intervention professional ethics

High Court Reverses Tarun Tejpal Acquittal, Calls Survivor Cross-Examination "Invasive"

WHY IN NEWS The Bombay High Court reversed the acquittal of Tarun Tejpal, highlighting the issue of 'invasive' cross-examinations of rape survivors despite legal prohibitions.

ACT / BILL | Section 53A of the Indian Evidence Act prohibits questions regarding the previous sexual experience of a victim of sexual offences.

CONSTITUTION | Article 21 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the Right to Life and Personal Liberty, encompassing the right to a fair trial.

FACT | The Bombay High Court reversed the acquittal of Tarun Tejpal for a 2013 rape and assault case.

MAINS Q Critically analyze the challenges in ensuring a victim-centric judicial process in sexual offence cases despite existing legal safeguards against invasive cross-examination.

USE: judicial prejudice fair trial victim-centric institutional reform gender stereotypes

CJI Surya Kant Emphasizes Judiciary's Role in Safeguarding Constitutional Values

WHY IN NEWS CJI Surya Kant emphasized the judiciary's role in upholding constitutional values and the use of judicial activism to protect marginalized groups.

- POST | CJI Surya Kant: Chief Justice of India as of November 2025
- S&T | PIL: Public Interest Litigation allows any public-spirited individual to file a case for the protection of public interest
- FACT | Judicial activism includes suo motu actions where the court takes up a matter on its own initiative

MAINS Q Discuss the role of judicial activism in safeguarding the basic structure of the Constitution and protecting the rights of marginalized sections in India.

USE: Judicial Activism Basic Structure Public Interest Litigation Suo Motu Constitutional Values

Union Public Service Commission delays DG Police selection amid Chidambaram's legal challenge

WHY IN NEWS The UPSC delayed the selection of Odisha's Director General of Police (DGP) following a legal challenge alleging violations of the Prakash Singh judgment.

- BODY | UPSC: Constitutional body established under Article 315 to recruit for All India Services and Central Services.
- FACT | Prakash Singh Case: Landmark Supreme Court judgment (2006) regarding police reforms and merit-based recruitment.
- POST | Director General of Police (DGP): The highest-ranking police officer in a state/UT, typically appointed by the State Government.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the Prakash Singh judgment in ensuring the integrity of the police recruitment process and the role of the UPSC in maintaining institutional autonomy.

USE: meritocracy judicial oversight institutional autonomy police reforms transparency

Governance

2

Karnataka proposes bill requiring permission for events on public property

WHY IN NEWS The Karnataka government proposed a bill to regulate the use of public property for events to ensure accountability and prevent unauthorized usage.

- ACT / BILL | Karnataka Regulation of Use of Government Premises and Public Property Bill, 2026
- FACT | Organizers must apply at least seven days before the event.
- FACT | Penalties for repeat offences include up to 5 years imprisonment and fines up to Rs 10 lakh.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of legislative frameworks in regulating the use of public infrastructure to balance individual rights with public order and administrative accountability.

USE: public infrastructure administrative accountability regulatory framework deemed approval penal provisions

Urban Development Department publishes new parking rules in Karnataka

WHY IN NEWS The Karnataka Urban Development Department published the Greater Bengaluru Authority (Parking) Rules, 2026, to overhaul the city's paid parking system and generate municipal revenue.

- BODY** | DULT: Directorate of Urban Land Transport is the body responsible for urban transport planning in Karnataka.
- FACT** | The new rules aim to address low demand and implementation struggles in the existing paid parking system.
- PLACE** | Greater Bengaluru Authority: The specific jurisdiction for the new parking rules.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in implementing efficient urban parking management systems in rapidly growing Indian cities and suggest measures to enhance municipal revenue.

USE: urban planning municipal revenue infrastructure management public-private partnership

Social Justice

4

Kerala hikes caregiver aid to ₹1,000 from ₹600

WHY IN NEWS The Kerala government increased the monthly caregiver assistance under the Ashwasakiranam scheme to ₹1,000 to support those caring for the elderly or disabled.

- SCHEME** | Ashwasakiranam: A Kerala state government scheme providing financial aid to caregivers.
- FACT** | The monthly caregiver assistance was increased from ₹600 to ₹1,000 in the 2026-27 budget.
- BODY** | Kerala Social Security Mission: The body responsible for overseeing social security schemes in the state.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of state-led social security schemes in supporting the elderly and disabled in India's aging society.

USE: social security welfare schemes vulnerable sections elderly care state intervention

Andhra Minister: Nearly Half State Overweight, Plans Joint Task Force

WHY IN NEWS Andhra Pradesh Health Minister announced a joint task force to combat obesity, affecting nearly half the state's population according to NFHS-6 data.

- FACT** | NFHS-6: National Family Health Survey data indicates nearly 50% of Andhra Pradesh's population is overweight.
- SCHEME** | Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK): A government initiative for screening and management of health issues in children.
- BODY** | Food Safety Department: The body responsible for monitoring food quality and safety standards.

MAINS Q Discuss the rising challenge of lifestyle diseases like obesity in India and suggest a multi-sectoral approach to address public health challenges.

USE: public health preventive measures lifestyle diseases inter-departmental task force nutritional security

Supreme Court Criticizes FSSAI for Delay in Front-of-Pack Warning Labels

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court criticized the FSSAI for the delay in implementing front-of-pack warning labels on packaged foods to protect children's health.

- BODY** | FSSAI: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, the apex body for food safety and standards in India.
- FACT** | The Supreme Court hearing occurred on August 13, 2026.
- POST** | Justice J.B. Pardiwala presided over the bench criticizing the regulatory delay.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of regulatory bodies like FSSAI in ensuring public health and the importance of mandatory labeling in curbing lifestyle diseases.

USE: [regulatory compliance](#) [public health](#) [consumer protection](#) [preventive healthcare](#) [statutory mandate](#)

State Health Department orders rollout of Samasta digital platform for health workers

WHY IN NEWS The Karnataka State Health Department is rolling out the 'Samasta' digital platform to streamline data collection for ASHA and community health workers.

- BODY** | ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers are frontline health workers in India's rural healthcare system.
- FACT** | The Samasta platform supports both online and offline functionality for areas with limited connectivity.
- PLACE** | The platform was first piloted in the Udupi district of Karnataka.

MAINS Q Discuss how the integration of digital platforms like 'Samasta' can enhance the efficiency of primary healthcare delivery and the role of frontline health workers in India.

USE: [digital health](#) [frontline workers](#) [data accuracy](#) [operational efficiency](#) [primary healthcare](#)

International Relations

7

U.S. Report Names Pune-Gujarat-Chennai Belt in 'Great Transshipment Scam'

WHY IN NEWS The White House released a report naming India's Pune-Gujarat-Chennai belt as a hub for illegal transshipment to help China evade U.S. tariffs.

- FACT** | The U.S. imposed a 10% tariff on India for failing to curb forced labor imports.
- PLACE** | The Pune-Gujarat-Chennai belt was specifically identified as a transshipment hub.
- FACT** | The report identifies over 40 countries associated with illegal transshipment risks.

MAINS Q Discuss the impact of trade-related allegations and tariff impositions on India's 'Make in India' initiative and its bilateral trade relations with the United States.

USE: [Trade Evasion](#) [Supply Chain Integrity](#) [Tariff Imposition](#) [Geopolitical Friction](#) [Transshipment](#)

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman of Bangladesh will visit India for bilateral talks

WHY IN NEWS PM Tarique Rahman of Bangladesh is scheduled to visit India for bilateral talks to reset strained ties and revive stalled infrastructure projects.

PLACE	Agartala-Akhaura rail-link: Connects Northeast India with Bangladesh.
FACT	India extended \$8 billion in Lines of Credit to Bangladesh between 2009–2019.
POST	Dinesh Trivedi: Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh.
BODY	BRICS: A multi-national forum where Dhaka preferred a bilateral meeting over a multilateral interaction.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of infrastructure connectivity in strengthening India's 'Neighborhood First' policy with Bangladesh.

USE: Neighborhood First Cross-border connectivity Lines of Credit Strategic autonomy Bilateral diplomacy

Turkey, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia Sign Mutual Defence Pact Mirroring NATO's Article 5

WHY IN NEWS Turkey, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia signed a mutual defence pact where an attack on one member is considered an attack on all, mirroring NATO's Article 5.

INTL. ORG	NATO Article 5: A collective defense clause stating that an attack against one member is an attack against all.
FACT	Signatories of the new pact: Turkey, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia.
S&T	The pact emphasizes cooperation in the defense industry for technological and military advancement.

MAINS Q Analyze the implications of emerging trilateral defense pacts in West Asia and Central Asia on regional security architecture and India's 'Neighborhood First' policy.

USE: Collective Defense Regional Security Defense Diplomacy Strategic Alignment Geopolitical Realignment

India Suspends Indus Waters Treaty with "Terror-Harboring" Pakistan on Independence Eve

WHY IN NEWS President Droupadi Murmu announced the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan due to cross-border terrorism.

INTL. ORG	Indus Waters Treaty (IWT): A water-sharing treaty between India and Pakistan signed in 1960.
FACT	Operation Sindoor: A military operation cited by the President regarding the fight against terrorism.
POST	President Droupadi Murmu: The current President of India.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of suspending the Indus Waters Treaty on India-Pakistan bilateral relations and regional water security.

USE: bilateral relations water diplomacy cross-border terrorism sovereignty

India views Pakistan as greatest threat: 54% in Pew survey distrust neighboring nation

WHY IN NEWS A Pew Research survey reveals that 54% of Indian adults perceive Pakistan as their primary geopolitical threat, highlighting deep-seated regional distrust.

REPORT	Pew Research: American think tank that conducts global opinion polls.
FACT	54% of surveyed Indian adults identify Pakistan as the greatest geopolitical threat.
FACT	21% of surveyed Indian adults identify China as a geopolitical threat.

MAINS Q Analyze how deep-seated mutual distrust between India and Pakistan hinders regional cooperation and impacts India's security architecture.

USE: geopolitical threat mutual suspicion security dilemma regional stability

Indian Abroad Attacks Rise to 104 in 2025, Mostly in US, UAE, UK, Canada

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of External Affairs reported a significant surge in attacks on Indian nationals abroad, highlighting growing safety concerns for the Indian diaspora.

- FACT** | Total reported cases of attacks on Indians abroad between 2021 and 2025 reached 302.
- FACT** | The US, UAE, UK, and Canada accounted for the majority of incidents in 2025.
- POST** | Kirti Vardhan Singh is the Minister of State for External Affairs.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced by the Indian government in ensuring the safety of the diaspora and the importance of bilateral cooperation in tackling transnational crimes.

USE: [transnational crime](#) [diplomatic engagement](#) [diaspora safety](#) [bilateral cooperation](#)

The Trump administration flagged over 40 countries, including India, Canada

WHY IN NEWS The Trump administration flagged over 40 countries, including India, for allegedly facilitating Chinese tariff evasion through transshipment schemes.

- FACT** | Section 301 tariffs: US trade law used to investigate and penalize unfair trade practices by foreign countries.
- S&T** | The Trump administration plans to deploy Artificial Intelligence (AI) to detect and monitor transshipment patterns.
- FACT** | The report identifies over 40 countries, including India, Canada, and the EU, as facilitators of these practices.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges posed by transshipment and tariff evasion on global trade dynamics and the role of technology in ensuring trade transparency.

USE: [tariff evasion](#) [transshipment](#) [trade integrity](#) [supply chain transparency](#) [geoeconomics](#)

Economy

7

FISCAL POLICY, BUDGET & TAXATION (GST)

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14 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/103926**Bill Strips States of Mineral Tax Power, Leaving 11 Affected Regions in Fiscal Limbo**

WHY IN NEWS The Lok Sabha passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, which restricts states' power to tax mineral rights, impacting federal fiscal autonomy.

ACT / BILL	Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026
FACT	The bill affects 11 states including Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh.
FACT	The bill nullifies mineral tax arrears dating back to 2005.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, on the fiscal federalism and revenue-sharing dynamics between the Centre and States.

USE: [Fiscal Federalism](#) [Revenue Autonomy](#) [Mineral Rights](#) [Centralization](#) [Resource Governance](#)

MONETARY POLICY, RBI & BANKING

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14 Aug · Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/104176**SEBI Allows OBPPs to Offer Products Regulated by RBI IRDAI IFSCA PFRDA**

WHY IN NEWS SEBI has expanded the scope for Online Bond Platforms (OBPPs) to offer products regulated by multiple financial bodies, aiming to deepen the capital markets.

BODY	SEBI: Securities and Exchange Board of India, regulates the securities market.
BODY	IRDAI: Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India.
BODY	IFSCA: International Financial Services Centres Authority.
BODY	PFRDA: Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority.
FACT	Sections 54EC and 85 of tax acts relate to tax-saving bonds and capital gains.

MAINS Q Discuss how the expansion of Online Bond Platforms (OBPPs) can enhance retail participation in the Indian debt market and the regulatory challenges involved.

USE: [Capital Market](#) [Regulatory Framework](#) [Financial Inclusion](#) [Asset Allocation](#) [Compliance](#)

EMPLOYMENT & INCLUSIVE GROWTH

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14 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/104169**Youth Unemployment Soars to 16.2%, Young Women Face 20.7% Job Hunt Struggles**

WHY IN NEWS The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) reported a significant spike in youth unemployment, highlighting a widening gender and urban-rural divide in the job market.

FACT	Youth unemployment rate in India reached 16.2% in June 2026.
FACT	Urban youth unemployment (18.2%) is higher than rural youth unemployment (15.1%).
FACT	Female youth unemployment (20.7%) is significantly higher than male youth unemployment (14.6%).
BODY	Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) is the primary source for unemployment data in India.

MAINS Q Analyze the factors contributing to the widening gender and urban-rural gap in youth unemployment in India and suggest measures to enhance inclusive job creation.

USE: [structural unemployment](#) [gender disparity](#) [demographic dividend](#) [skill mismatch](#) [inclusive growth](#)

Sebi Proposes Credit Risk-o-Meter with Six Color Codes to Simplify Ratings for Investors

WHY IN NEWS Sebi proposed a 'Credit Risk-o-Meter' to simplify complex credit ratings for debt securities to enhance investor protection.

- BODY** | SEBI: Statutory body regulating the securities and commodity markets in India
- FACT** | The proposed Credit Risk-o-Meter uses six distinct color codes to represent risk levels
- FACT** | Sebi requested public comments on the proposal until September 3

MAINS Q Discuss how simplifying credit rating disclosures can enhance investor protection and transparency in the Indian debt market.

USE: Transparency Investor Protection Debt Securities Risk Assessment Market Regulation

Sebi Proposes Video-Based KYC for Foreign Clients, Seeks Public Comments

WHY IN NEWS Sebi proposed a video-based KYC framework for foreign clients (PROI) to streamline onboarding while ensuring regulatory compliance.

- BODY** | Sebi: The primary regulator for the securities and commodity markets in India.
- FACT** | PROI: Includes Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs), and foreign nationals.
- BODY** | FATF: Financial Action Task Force, an intergovernmental body that sets global standards to prevent money laundering.
- S&T** | Video-based KYC: A digital onboarding process using live video to verify identity and prevent fraud.

MAINS Q Discuss how the adoption of digital KYC frameworks like video-based identification balances the need for financial inclusion with the necessity of preventing money laundering.

USE: Digital Onboarding Regulatory Compliance Financial Integrity AML/CFT Ease of Doing Business

India launches Crude Sunflower Oil futures contract on MCX

WHY IN NEWS MCX launched a Crude Sunflower Oil futures contract to mitigate price volatility for a commodity where India is heavily import-dependent.

- BODY** | MCX: Multi Commodity Exchange of India is a premier commodity derivatives exchange.
- FACT** | India imports over 60% of its annual edible oil requirement.
- FACT** | Sunflower oil accounts for approximately 9% of India's total edible oil consumption.
- FACT** | The new Crude Sunflower Oil futures contract is cash-settled based on Ex-Tank JNPT prices.

MAINS Q Discuss how the development of commodity derivatives markets can contribute to ensuring food security and price stability in India's edible oil sector.

USE: price volatility hedging commodity derivatives import dependency risk management

SAT Overrules SEBI: Zee Entertainment Gets Green Light for Rs 3,143 Crore Issue

WHY IN NEWS The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) stayed a SEBI order against Zee Entertainment, allowing a ₹3,143 crore preferential warrant issue despite allegations of fraudulent transactions.

- BODY** | SAT (Securities Appellate Tribunal) is the first appellate tribunal for securities market disputes.
- BODY** | SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) is the primary regulator of the Indian securities market.
- FACT** | Zee Entertainment was permitted to proceed with a ₹3,143 crore preferential warrant issue.
- FACT** | The dispute involves alleged fraudulent title deed transactions regarding a Hyderabad property.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of the Securities Appellate Tribunal in ensuring a balance between stringent market regulation by SEBI and the ease of doing business for corporate entities.

USE: preferential warrants regulatory compliance market access judicial stay securities regulation

Science & Technology

6

DRDO faces PMO-directed reforms to become leaner and compete in AI by 2026

WHY IN NEWS The PMO has directed reforms for the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to streamline operations and enhance competitiveness in AI and autonomous systems by 2026.

- BODY** | DRDO: Defence Research and Development Organisation, the primary R&D wing of the Ministry of Defence.
- S&T** | Key focus areas for DRDO reforms include AI, semiconductors, and autonomous systems.
- FACT** | The target year for the completion of these structural reforms is 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced by India's defense R&D ecosystem in achieving self-reliance in emerging technologies like AI and semiconductors.

USE: innovation ecosystem self-reliance structural reforms dual-use technology R&D efficiency

Magnetic snaps power 93% of corona's heat, debunking energy loss mystery

WHY IN NEWS Astrophysicists using data from India's Aditya-L1 mission discovered that magnetic snaps power 93% of the solar corona's heat, solving a long-standing energy loss mystery.

- S&T** | Aditya-L1: India's first dedicated space-based observatory to study the Sun.
- FACT** | Magnetic snaps and reconnection account for 93% of the solar corona's heat.
- S&T** | Solar Corona: The outermost layer of the Sun's atmosphere, which remains millions of degrees hotter than the surface.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of India's Aditya-L1 mission in advancing solar physics and its implications for understanding space weather and its impact on Earth.

USE: Solar Physics Aditya-L1 Magnetic Reconnection Space Weather Astrophysics

Defence Ministry Signs Rs 1,577-Crore Loiter Munition Deal For Army

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Defence signed contracts worth ₹1,577 crore with private firms for Loiter Munition Systems to enhance artillery precision and promote indigenous manufacturing.

- S&T** | Loiter Munition Systems: Autonomous drones designed to hover over a target area before striking.
- FACT** | Contract value: Approximately Rs 1,577 crore.
- BODY** | Tata Advanced Systems Limited and NIBE Private Limited are the private entities contracted for the munitions.
- FACT** | Procurement Category: 'Buy (Indian)' category aims to prioritize domestic production.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the 'Buy (Indian)' policy in achieving the objectives of Atmanirbhar Bharat in the defence sector.

USE: Atmanirbhar Bharat indigenous production operational readiness Fast Track Procedure defence procurement

On India's 80th Independence Day, Russian cosmonauts Pyotr Dubrov, Anna Kikina

WHY IN NEWS Russian cosmonauts unfurled the Indian flag on the ISS during India's 80th Independence Day, highlighting the long-standing space cooperation between India and Russia.

- S&T** | Aryabhata: India's first indigenous satellite launched in 1975
- S&T** | Gaganyaan: India's upcoming human spaceflight mission
- BODY** | ISS: International Space Station, a collaborative modular space station
- FACT** | India's 80th Independence Day marks the milestone of 1947-2027

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of India's space cooperation with Russia and its role in achieving the objectives of the Gaganyaan mission.

USE: Space Diplomacy Indo-Russian Friendship Human Spaceflight Strategic Partnership

India Spends \$13,302 Per Kg to Launch Payloads, Most Among Major Space Nations

WHY IN NEWS A study in Economics Letters highlights that India's space launch costs per kg are the highest among major space nations due to the prevalence of small rocket launches.

- FACT** | India's launch cost per kg: \$13,302
- FACT** | U.S. launch cost per kg: \$3,225
- S&T** | ISRO: Space agency under the Department of Space, Ministry of Home Affairs
- FACT** | Economics Letters: Journal that published the analysis on August 14, 2026

MAINS Q Analyze the economic challenges faced by ISRO in optimizing launch costs and suggest measures to achieve cost-effective space exploration.

USE: economies of scale fixed costs payload optimization space economy

Germany Unveils World's First Wooden Wind Turbine Blades, Cuts CO2 by 78%

WHY IN NEWS Germany's Voodin Blade Technology unveiled the world's first prototype of wind turbine blades made from laminated veneer lumber (LVL) to reduce carbon footprint.

- S&T** | Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL) is used to create more recyclable and durable wind turbine blades.
- FACT** | Wooden wind turbine blades can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 78%.
- FACT** | The prototype blades measure 19.3 meters in length.

MAINS Q Discuss how the shift towards sustainable materials in renewable energy infrastructure can contribute to achieving India's Net Zero targets.

USE: decarbonization circular economy renewable energy sustainable materials carbon footprint

Environment & Ecology

1

Human factors, not climate change, worsened Assam floods, killing 103

WHY IN NEWS A World Weather Attribution (WWA) study highlights that land-use changes, rather than climate change, were the primary drivers of the devastating floods in eastern Assam.

- BODY** | World Weather Attribution (WWA) is a global initiative that investigates the links between extreme weather events and climate change.
- PLACE** | Sivasagar, Charaideo, and Jorhat are districts in the state of Assam.
- FACT** | The floods in eastern Assam resulted in at least 103 deaths.

MAINS Q Discuss how anthropogenic land-use changes exacerbate the impact of natural disasters in the Northeast region of India. Suggest measures for sustainable flood management.

USE: anthropogenic factors land-use change climate resilience disaster mitigation hydrological impact

Internal Security

2

Kashmiri Pandit workers sent on leave after Lashkar-e-Taiba threats, police investigate

WHY IN NEWS Kashmiri Pandit employees were sent on leave and relocated to Jammu following a threat letter linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) targeting minority workers.

- FACT** | Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) is a Pakistan-based terrorist organization.
- PLACE** | Jammu and Kashmir is the primary region of concern for Kashmiri Pandit security.
- FACT** | The Prime Minister's Special Employment Package is a scheme for Kashmiri Pandit employment.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in ensuring the safety of minority communities in conflict-prone zones and the role of state security apparatus in mitigating targeted terrorism.

USE: targeted killings minority rights internal security counter-terrorism rehabilitation

1,057 personnel receive medals on Independence Day, including 301 Gallantry Medals

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Home Affairs announced the conferment of Gallantry and Service Medals to 1,057 personnel for bravery and distinguished service during Independence Day.

- BODY** | Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is the nodal ministry for internal security and police forces in India
- FACT** | 301 Gallantry Medals were awarded, with 272 specifically to police personnel
- FACT** | Medals were awarded to personnel from Police, Fire, Home Guard, Civil Defence, and Correctional Services

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of recognizing gallantry and meritorious service among internal security forces in maintaining national integrity and public morale.

USE: [Gallantry Medals](#) [Internal Security](#) [Ministry of Home Affairs](#) [Meritorious Service](#) [Bravery Awards](#)



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