

**SATYADHEESH**
सत्याधीश

UPSC DAILY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs · 15 August 2026**58**

NOTES

6

STORIES MERGED

GS1 · 6

GS2 · 28

GS3 · 24

PAPER MIX

CONTENTS**Every note, grouped by paper****GS1 History · Society · Geography**

6 notes

History & Culture	4
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GS2 Polity · Governance · Social Justice · IR

28 notes

Polity & Constitution	7
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GS3 Economy · S&T · Environment · Security

24 notes

Economy	8
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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

4

MODERN INDIA & FREEDOM STRUGGLE

P

M

15 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/104827](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/104827)**The Mountbatten Plan: How June 3 sealed the Partition of India**

WHY IN NEWS The Mountbatten Plan and the subsequent Indian Independence Act of 1947 are highlighted as the foundational legal and political framework for the partition of India.

POST | Lord Mountbatten served as the last Viceroy of India.

ACT / BILL | The Indian Independence Act of 1947 was the legislative instrument that ended British rule.

FACT | The Mountbatten Plan was proposed on June 3, 1947.

MAINS Q Discuss how the Mountbatten Plan and the Indian Independence Act of 1947 shaped the geopolitical and social landscape of the Indian subcontinent.

USE: Partition Decolonization Communal Violence Transfer of Power

POST-INDEPENDENCE CONSOLIDATION

M

3 REPORTS MERGED

15 Aug · NDTV · [satyadheesh.in/news/104634](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/104634)**India Marks 80 Years, Sings Vande Mataram from Red Fort for First Time**

WHY IN NEWS India celebrated its 80th Independence Day with the first-ever rendition of Vande Mataram from the Red Fort, symbolizing its evolution into a global power.

PLACE | Red Fort: Historical site in Delhi where the Prime Minister delivers the Independence Day speech.

FACT | India is currently ranked among the world's five largest economies.

S&T | Operation Sindoor: A 2025 security operation against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

MAINS Q Discuss India's transition from a 'fragile republic' to a 'global power' over the last eight decades, highlighting its shift in diplomatic and security strategies.

USE: Multi-alignment Strategic autonomy National pride Economic trajectory

MODERN INDIA & FREEDOM STRUGGLE

M

15 Aug · NDTV · [satyadheesh.in/news/104768](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/104768)**Independence Day 1947: Nehru Speaks, Gandhi Walks, Faiz Writes Amid Joy and Sorrow**

WHY IN NEWS The historical context of India's independence and the partition of 1947 is highlighted through the actions of key figures like Nehru, Gandhi, and Jinnah.

POST | Lord Mountbatten: Served as the first Governor-General of independent India.

PLACE | Noakhali: Region in present-day Bangladesh where Gandhi conducted peace marches.

FACT | August 15, 1947: Date of India's independence from British rule.

MAINS Q Discuss the dual nature of joy and sorrow that characterized the partition of India in 1947 and its long-term impact on the subcontinent's socio-political fabric.

USE: Partition Sovereignty Communalism Nationalism Post-colonialism

Hindus Fled as Razakars Threatened, While Hyderabad Defied India's Independence Celebrations

WHY IN NEWS Historical accounts of the 1947 Independence period highlight the communal tensions and the Razakar-led threats in Hyderabad while the rest of India celebrated freedom.

- PLACE** | Musheerabad Central Jail: Location of the detention of Congress workers in Hyderabad in 1947
- FACT** | Razakars: A militant group active in Hyderabad during the 1940s known for communal violence
- POST** | Nizam of Hyderabad: The ruler of the Hyderabad State during the partition and independence era

MAINS Q Discuss the role of communal violence and regional autonomy in the integration of Princely States into the Indian Union post-1947.

USE: Princely States Communal Violence Integration Razakars Independence Movement

Indian Society

1

Census 2027: India Expands Questionnaire to 40, Adding Caste Beyond 29 Categories

WHY IN NEWS The Census 2027 will expand its questionnaire to 40 questions, including a shift to recording caste information from all respondents beyond the previous 29 categories.

- FACT** | Census 2027 questionnaire expanded to 40 questions.
- FACT** | Caste information will be recorded from all respondents for the first time since Independence.
- FACT** | The new system moves beyond the previous 29 caste categories to an open-column approach.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of comprehensive caste data collection in the Census for inclusive policymaking and social justice in India.

USE: Demographic data Inclusive policymaking Social justice Data-driven governance

Geography

1

Landslide buries labourers, flash flood sweeps away army personnel in Arunachal Pradesh

WHY IN NEWS Heavy rainfall in Arunachal Pradesh triggered landslides and flash floods, causing casualties among civilians and army personnel, highlighting the vulnerability of the Himalayan region to extreme weather.

- PLACE** | Upper Subansiri and Dibang Valley are districts in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- FACT** | Flash floods and landslides in the region are often triggered by intense monsoon rainfall and seismic activity.
- S&T** | The Himalayan region is highly prone to landslides due to steep slopes and fragile geological structures.

MAINS Q Discuss the geological and climatic factors contributing to increasing frequency of landslides and flash floods in the Himalayan region and suggest mitigation strategies.

USE: geological vulnerability disaster mitigation climate resilience hazard mapping

Polity & Constitution

7

CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES (CAG, UPSC, FC, NCSC...)

P

M

15 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/104302

Census Overhaul: Modi Approves Full Caste Enumeration for All Respondents

WHY IN NEWS The Registrar General of India notified a major overhaul in the Census methodology, including full caste enumeration for all respondents, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs.

ACT / BILL	Census Act, 1948: The primary legislation governing the conduct of the census in India.
BODY	Registrar General of India: The primary authority responsible for the census and demographic data collection.
FACT	Full caste enumeration: A shift from only enumerating Scheduled Castes and Tribes to including all respondents.
PLACE	Snow-bound areas: Ladakh, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand are the first regions for population enumeration.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of comprehensive caste enumeration in the Census for inclusive policy formulation and social justice in India.

USE: [Demographic profiling](#) [Social justice](#) [Data-driven policy](#) [Inclusivity](#) [Census Act](#)

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

P

M

15 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/104914

Madras High Court Adds Tamil Thai Vazhthu at Start, Sparks Protocol Debate

WHY IN NEWS The Madras High Court revised its Independence Day protocol to include 'Tamil Thai Vazhthu' as the opening song, sparking a debate on the hierarchy of state vs. national protocols.

PLACE	Madras High Court: The oldest High Court in India, located in Chennai.
FACT	Tamil Thai Vazhthu: A state song of Tamil Nadu.
BODY	Madurai Bench Bar Association: A professional body representing advocates in the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court.

MAINS Q Discuss the constitutional implications and the balance between state-specific cultural identities and national protocols in official state functions.

USE: [Protocol](#) [Federalism](#) [Cultural Identity](#) [Judicial Review](#) [State Sovereignty](#)

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

P

15 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/104852

NALSAR row: Can BCI freeze enrolment of an entire graduating batch?

WHY IN NEWS The Bar Council of India (BCI) directed State Bar Councils to halt the enrollment of NALSAR 2026 graduates following a student protest against the Chief Justice of India.

BODY	Bar Council of India (BCI): Statutory body established under the Advocates Act, 1961, to regulate the legal profession.
BODY	NALSAR: National Academy of Legal Studies and Research, a premier national law university.
POST	Chief Justice of India (CJI): The highest judicial office in India, heading the Supreme Court.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of the Bar Council of India in maintaining the professional ethics and decorum of the legal fraternity in India.

USE: [Professional Ethics](#) [Statutory Body](#) [Legal Fraternity](#) [Regulatory Oversight](#)

CJI Surya Kant Praises Resilient Youth, Days After Bar Council's NALSAR Controversy

WHY IN NEWS CJI Surya Kant addressed the Supreme Court on Independence Day, emphasizing the role of youth in upholding legal institutions amidst the Bar Council of India's controversy regarding NALSAR graduates.

BODY	Bar Council of India (BCI): Statutory body established under the Advocates Act, 1961, to regulate the legal profession.
BODY	Supreme Court of India: The apex court and the highest judicial forum in India.
POST	Chief Justice of India (CJI): The highest-ranking judge in the Indian judiciary.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of the Bar Council of India in maintaining the integrity of the legal profession and the importance of youth participation in judicial reforms.

USE: judicial integrity legal profession institutional resilience social awareness

Supreme Court stays Madras High Court order on Tamil Nadu stampede kin jobs

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court stayed a Madras High Court order regarding the government's decision to provide jobs to kin of victims of the Karur stampede.

BODY	Supreme Court of India: The highest judicial forum in India.
FACT	The Karur stampede occurred on September 27, 2025.
POST	Justice J.B. Pardiwala: Presiding judge who argued for compassion in the case.

MAINS Q Discuss the tension between the principle of 'equality of opportunity' in public employment and the state's duty to provide compassionate relief to victims of tragedies.

USE: Judicial Review Compassionate Appointment Equality of Opportunity Executive Discretion

Supreme Court Bars BCI from Acting Against NALSAR Over Convocation Row

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court intervened to stop the Bar Council of India (BCI) from blocking the professional enrollment of NALSAR students following a dispute over a convocation speech.

BODY	Bar Council of India (BCI): Statutory body established under the Advocates Act, 1961, to regulate the legal profession.
PLACE	NALSAR: National Academy of Legal Studies and Research, a premier national law university.
POST	Chief Justice of India: The highest judicial office in India, presiding over the Supreme Court.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of statutory bodies like the Bar Council of India in maintaining professional standards while ensuring the rights of students to pursue professional enrollment.

USE: judicial oversight statutory body professional enrollment administrative discretion right to education

EROs face impossible task: Less than a minute per voter for 94 lakh verifications

WHY IN NEWS Telangana's Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) face a logistical crisis in verifying 94 lakh voters due to incomplete data and lack of door-to-door verification.

- BODY** | EROs (Electoral Registration Officers) are responsible for the preparation and revision of electoral rolls.
- FACT** | 78.3% of voters were enrolled in the Telangana Special Intensive Revision (SIR).
- POST** | Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are the grassroots level officials responsible for door-to-door verification and form distribution.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced by electoral authorities in maintaining the integrity of electoral rolls during intensive revisions and suggest measures to ensure inclusive voter verification.

USE: electoral integrity logistical bottleneck voter disenfranchisement grassroots outreach data verification

Governance

5

Information and Broadcasting ministry removes 12-minute ad cap for TV channels

WHY IN NEWS The Information and Broadcasting Ministry removed the 12-minute-per-hour advertisement cap for TV channels to adapt to the evolving digital broadcasting landscape.

- BODY** | Information and Broadcasting Ministry (IB) is the nodal ministry for television and radio regulations in India.
- FACT** | The number of TV channels in India has grown from 62 in 2006 to over 900 currently.
- FACT** | The previous advertisement cap was 12 minutes per hour of broadcast.

MAINS Q Discuss the impact of the removal of television advertisement caps on the regulatory framework of broadcasting and the competitiveness of traditional media against digital platforms.

USE: Regulatory framework Digital disruption Market competition Broadcasting policy

Karnataka's Transport Minister Announces 15,000 New Buses and Free Passes for 10 Lakh Students

WHY IN NEWS Karnataka's Transport Minister announced a large-scale procurement of 15,000 buses and a free bus pass scheme for 10 lakh students to improve rural connectivity.

- FACT** | 15,000 new buses to be procured by Karnataka's State-owned transport corporations.
- FACT** | ₹286 crore allocated for the free bus pass scheme for 10 lakh students.
- PLACE** | Karnataka State Transport Corporations are the primary bodies for rural connectivity.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of public transport infrastructure in promoting social inclusion and rural-urban connectivity in India.

USE: public infrastructure social inclusion last-mile connectivity fiscal allocation rural development

Assam Chief Minister Plans Rs 1.5 Lakh Crore Youth Investment Program

WHY IN NEWS Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma announced a Rs 1.5 lakh crore youth investment program and a new youth-focused department to drive regional development.

- FACT** | Assam Youth Investment Program: Rs 1.5 lakh crore over 5 years
- PLACE** | Guwahati: Capital of Assam and site of the Independence Day celebrations
- POST** | Himanta Biswa Sarma: Chief Minister of Assam

MAINS Q Discuss how localized governance models, like the 'Assam Model', can effectively balance the preservation of indigenous traditions with modern economic development.

USE: inclusive growth indigenous rights localized governance socio-economic development

President Droupadi Murmu pledges reforms in public exams to curb irregularities on Independence Day

WHY IN NEWS President Droupadi Murmu pledged reforms in public examinations to curb paper leaks and irregularities during her Independence Day address.

- FACT** | 65% of India's population is below the age of 35 as of 2026.
- SCHEME** | Khelo India: A government programme aimed at building a sports ecosystem from grassroots to national levels.
- POST** | Droupadi Murmu: The current President of India.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in ensuring the integrity of public examinations in India and suggest measures to curb irregularities like paper leaks.

USE: demographic dividend transparency meritocracy systemic reforms youth empowerment

Telangana government extends upper age limit for uniformed services recruitment by 2 more years

WHY IN NEWS The Telangana government extended the upper age limit for uniformed services recruitment by 2 years to accommodate unemployed youth.

- FACT** | Total age relaxation for uniformed services in Telangana is now 7 years (5 years in May + 2 years in August).
- FACT** | The relaxation applies to departments including Police, Fire, Prisons, State Forest Department, and Excise.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of age relaxations in public recruitment for ensuring inclusive employment and addressing youth unemployment in India.

USE: inclusive growth public recruitment youth empowerment administrative policy

Andhra Pradesh sends 29 top teachers to Finland for education makeover

WHY IN NEWS Andhra Pradesh's School Education Department sent 29 teachers to Finland to study international education systems and innovative teaching methods.

- PLACE** | Finland is known for its high-performing education system and 'play-based' learning models.
- BODY** | University of Turku is a public research university in Finland.
- FACT** | 29 teachers were selected from the Andhra Pradesh School Education Department for the program.

MAINS Q Discuss how international exposure and pedagogical innovations from countries like Finland can be adapted to improve the quality of primary education in India.

USE: pedagogical innovation teacher training capacity building educational reform global best practices

Tribal Musician Nanjamma Wins National Award, Boosts Copyright Initiatives

WHY IN NEWS Tribal musician Nanjamma won a National Film Award, highlighting the push for protecting the intellectual property and copyright rights of indigenous artists.

- POST** | Nanjamma: National Film Award winner for Best Female Playback Singer
- BODY** | IPRS: Indian Performing Right Society, a collective management organization for copyright
- FACT** | Living Roots Originals camp: Attended by 25 artistes from 8 communities across 5 states
- S&T** | Copyright: Legal right granted to the creator of an original work to authorize its use

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of protecting the intellectual property rights of tribal and indigenous communities to ensure cultural preservation and economic empowerment.

USE: Intellectual Property Rights Cultural Preservation Marginalized Communities Economic Empowerment Authorship Rights

Andhra Pradesh Celebrates Stree Shakti Year – Double Dignity Anniversary

WHY IN NEWS Andhra Pradesh celebrated the first anniversary of the 'Stree Shakti' scheme, which provides free bus travel for women to enhance their mobility and economic participation.

- SCHEME** | Stree Shakti: A scheme by the Andhra Pradesh government providing free bus travel for women.
- FACT** | The scheme covers 76% of the APSRTC bus fleet.
- FACT** | Women's travel share increased to 62% under the scheme.

MAINS Q Discuss how targeted mobility schemes like 'Stree Shakti' can contribute to women's economic empowerment and social inclusion in rural and urban India.

USE: women empowerment social inclusion mobility gender parity fiscal expenditure

Choudhary unveils ₹68,678 crore education budget, aims for one crore jobs by 2030

WHY IN NEWS Bihar CM Samrat Choudhary announced a ₹68,678 crore education budget and a target of one crore government jobs by 2030 to improve human resource development.

FACT	Bihar education budget: ₹68,678 crore
FACT	Target: One crore government jobs by 2030
SCHEME	Chief Minister's Agricultural Electricity Connection Scheme: provides free connections to farmers
BODY	Saraswati Vidya Niketans: centers providing free coaching for entrance exams

MAINS Q Discuss the role of state-led educational reforms and employment generation in addressing the challenges of human capital development in developing economies like Bihar.

USE: human capital educational reform employment generation fiscal allocation social justice

Telangana Govt to credit fee reimbursement amounts in advance to avoid hardship to students: CM

WHY IN NEWS Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy announced a ₹2,650 crore advance deposit for fee reimbursement to ensure students' certificates are not withheld by colleges.

FACT	Total advance deposit for fee reimbursement: ₹2,650 crore
POST	A. Revanth Reddy: Chief Minister of Telangana
SCHEME	Fee reimbursement scheme aims to facilitate student mobility and certificate access

MAINS Q Discuss how proactive government funding in education can mitigate systemic barriers for students from marginalized backgrounds and ensure equitable access to higher education.

USE: equitable access marginalized sections social mobility proactive governance

NHRC Notices Maharashtra Over Deaths of Three Tribal Girls from Snakebite

WHY IN NEWS The NHRC issued a notice to the Maharashtra government regarding the deaths of three tribal girls from snakebites due to poor infrastructure in a Gadchiroli hostel.

BODY	NHRC: National Human Rights Commission is a statutory body established under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
PLACE	Gadchiroli: A tribal-dominated district in the state of Maharashtra.
FACT	The NHRC directed the state to submit a report within two weeks regarding the incident.

MAINS Q Discuss the systemic challenges faced by tribal communities in accessing adequate healthcare and safe infrastructure in remote regions of India.

USE: marginalized communities institutional accountability infrastructure gap human rights protection

INDIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS P

15 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/104890

Putin Orders Russia to Target NATO and EU from Within in Secret Meeting

WHY IN NEWS Reports suggest Russia is planning a dual-track strategy to destabilize NATO and the EU from within while seeking to annex Moldova.

- INTL. ORG | NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a collective defense alliance.
- PLACE | Moldova: A landlocked country in Eastern Europe bordering Romania, Ukraine, and the Black Sea.
- FACT | Russia has conducted strikes on Ukrainian hydroelectric plants affecting Moldova's water and electricity.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of hybrid warfare and infrastructure sabotage on European security and the collective defense mechanisms of NATO.

USE: hybrid warfare collective defense infrastructure sabotage geopolitical destabilization

POLICIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES AFFECTING INDIA P M

15 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/104632

US to warn 35 countries to choose between US-led AI initiative and China's framework

WHY IN NEWS The US State Department is pressuring 35 countries to choose between the US-led 'Pax Silica' initiative and China's AI framework to secure technological hegemony.

- S&T | Pax Silica: A US-led initiative aimed at establishing standards and leadership in Artificial Intelligence.
- FACT | 35 countries are currently signatories of the US 'AI Opportunity Statement'.
- S&T | Critical minerals and semiconductors are identified as key resources in the global AI race.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of 'technological decoupling' and the emergence of competing AI frameworks on global governance and international trade.

USE: technological decoupling strategic autonomy semiconductor diplomacy digital hegemony

INDIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS P M

15 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/104286

India, Russia Discuss Deep Cooperation Along Strategic Arctic Route NSR

WHY IN NEWS India and Russia are discussing deeper cooperation on the Northern Sea Route (NSR) to enhance Arctic maritime connectivity and trade.

- PLACE | Northern Sea Route (NSR): A maritime route along the Russian Arctic coast connecting Europe.
- FACT | INSTC: A multi-modal network connecting India, Iran, Afghanistan, and Russia.
- FACT | Chennai-Vladivostok: A proposed maritime corridor connecting India's eastern coast to the Russian Far East.

MAINS Q Discuss the strategic and economic significance of the Northern Sea Route for India's maritime connectivity and its role in diversifying trade routes.

USE: Strategic autonomy Maritime connectivity Arctic geopolitics Trade diversification Multimodal transport

INDIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS P M

15 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/104243

India Races to Match China: IAC-2 Awaits Approval as Fujian Nears 2026 Operational Capabilities

WHY IN NEWS India is accelerating the development of its third aircraft carrier (IAC-2) to counter China's Fujian carrier, which is expected to be operational by 2026.

- FACT | India currently operates two aircraft carriers: INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant.
- FACT | China's Fujian carrier is expected to reach full operational capability by 2026.
- S&T | Aircraft carriers are used for power projection and maritime presence.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of aircraft carriers in India's maritime strategy to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

USE: Power projection Maritime security Strategic autonomy Indo-Pacific Naval supremacy

Marco Rubio Extends Greetings To India On Independence Day: Congratulations

WHY IN NEWS US Secretary of State Marco Rubio congratulated India on Independence Day, highlighting the deepening strategic and technological partnership between the two nations.

- POST** | Marco Rubio: US Secretary of State
- FACT** | India celebrates Independence Day on August 15
- S&T** | Key areas of cooperation include AI, space collaboration, and critical minerals

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the India-US strategic partnership in the context of global energy security and technological cooperation in the 21st century.

USE: strategic partnership bilateral cooperation energy security people-to-people ties regional stability

India reaffirms longstanding ties with Afghanistan, highlights strengthened partnerships

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of External Affairs reaffirmed India's commitment to Afghanistan through development cooperation and trade despite the Taliban's presence in Kabul.

- POST** | Randhir Jaiswal: Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)
- FACT** | August 14, 2026: Date of the official statement regarding India-Afghanistan ties
- PLACE** | Kabul: Capital of Afghanistan, currently under Taliban control

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges and opportunities for India's 'Connect Central Asia' policy in the context of the evolving political landscape in Afghanistan.

USE: Strategic Autonomy Regional Connectivity Development Cooperation Neighborhood First

Defence Attachés Must Learn Local Languages, Face Periodic Evaluations

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Defence announced a new mandate requiring Defence Attachés (DAs) to learn local languages and undergo periodic evaluations to bolster military diplomacy and defence exports.

- POST** | Defence Attachés (DAs) are officers posted at Indian embassies and High Commissions abroad to handle military-related diplomacy.
- FACT** | The MoD will evaluate DAs on language proficiency and other parameters before and after their postings.
- BODY** | The Ministry of Defence (MoD) is the nodal body responsible for the appointment and evaluation of Defence Attachés.

MAINS Q How can enhancing the linguistic and diplomatic capabilities of Defence Attachés contribute to India's objective of becoming a global hub for defence exports?

USE: military diplomacy defence exports soft power strategic communication institutional streamlining

India, Taliban Highlight Trade Cooperation at Afghan Embassy Reception

WHY IN NEWS India and the Taliban-led Afghan government highlighted trade and connectivity cooperation during a reception at the Afghan embassy in Delhi.

- FACT** | India has allowed Taliban diplomats to operate from the Afghan embassy since 2021.
- PLACE** | Afghanistan is a neighbor of India and a key focus of India's 'Connect Central Asia' policy.
- FACT** | The cooperation focuses on three pillars: trade, connectivity, and development.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of India's pragmatic engagement with the Taliban-led government in the context of regional connectivity and trade.

USE: Pragmatic engagement Regional connectivity Strategic autonomy Trade cooperation

US Under Secretary: India is a "critical power," vows strengthened partnership

WHY IN NEWS US Under Secretary of War for Policy Elbridge A. Colby reaffirmed India's status as a 'critical power' and emphasized the strengthening of the US-India strategic partnership.

POST | Elbridge A. Colby: US Under Secretary of War for Policy

FACT | INDOPACOM and PACOM: US military commands involved in Indo-Pacific and Pacific theater operations

PLACE | Indian Ocean: A key maritime region for India's strategic and security interests

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the US-India strategic partnership in the context of a shifting global order and the evolving security dynamics in the Indo-Pacific region.

USE: critical power strategic alignment Indo-Pacific maritime security geopolitical shift

India Reviews Bangladesh's Request for Additional Petroleum Supplies

WHY IN NEWS India is reviewing Bangladesh's request for additional petroleum supplies to address its energy crisis and has invited PM Tarique Rahman to the BRICS summit.

PLACE | Bangladesh: A neighboring country of India in South Asia.

INTL. ORG | BRICS: Expanded to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, and Indonesia.

FACT | BRICS Summit 2024: Scheduled in New Delhi on September 12-13.

POST | Tarique Rahman: Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of India's energy cooperation with its neighbors in ensuring regional stability and economic growth.

USE: Energy Security Bilateral Cooperation Regional Stability Strategic Autonomy

Economy

8

MONETARY POLICY, RBI & BANKING

P

15 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/105186](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/105186)**Taxpayers get immunity: I-T Department launches 60% tax FAST-DS for hidden foreign wealth**

WHY IN NEWS The Income Tax Department launched the FAST-DS scheme to encourage small taxpayers to voluntarily disclose hidden foreign assets in exchange for immunity from prosecution.

BODY	Income Tax Department: Responsible for administering direct taxes in India.
FACT	FAST-DS Scheme: Effective tax rate for voluntary disclosure is 60%.
FACT	FAST-DS Scheme: Disclosure window is open until December 31, 2026.
ACT / BILL	Black Money Act: The primary legislation under which penalties and prosecutions for undisclosed foreign assets are governed.

MAINS Q Discuss how voluntary disclosure schemes like FAST-DS can enhance tax compliance and curb money laundering in India.

USE: [voluntary disclosure](#) [tax compliance](#) [money laundering](#) [revenue mobilization](#) [immunity](#)

FISCAL POLICY, BUDGET & TAXATION (GST)

P

M

15 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/104823](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/104823)**Rajya Sabha Passes Amendment Prohibiting States From Levying Taxes on Mining Operations**

WHY IN NEWS The Rajya Sabha passed an amendment to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act to prohibit states from levying taxes or cess on mining operations to ensure fiscal stability.

ACT / BILL	Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act governs the mining sector in India.
FACT	The amendment prohibits states from levying taxes or cess on minerals and mining operations.
PLACE	Odisha and Jharkhand are identified as major mineral-rich states in India.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of central legislation prohibiting state taxes on mining operations on the principle of cooperative federalism and fiscal autonomy.

USE: [fiscal federalism](#) [cooperative federalism](#) [mineral governance](#) [fiscal stability](#) [constitutional rights](#)

GROWTH, INFLATION & MACRO INDICATORS

P

M

15 Aug · NDTV · [satyadheesh.in/news/104643](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/104643)**According to the Maddison Project Database 2023, India's GDP per capita fell**

WHY IN NEWS The Maddison Project Database 2023 highlights India's long-term GDP per capita trajectory, showcasing the impact of colonial history and post-1990s reforms.

FACT	India's GDP per capita was 32% of the global average in 1940.
FACT	India's projected GDP growth rate for 2026 is 6.4%.
FACT	Maddison Project Database is a primary source for historical GDP data.

MAINS Q Analyze the factors that contributed to the stagnation of India's GDP per capita during the colonial period and the role of 1990s reforms in its recovery.

USE: [GDP per capita](#) [economic trajectory](#) [structural reforms](#) [growth indicators](#) [historical analysis](#)

RBI to close FCNR(B) swaps a month earlier due to gush

WHY IN NEWS The RBI announced the closure of the swap facility for FCNR(B) deposits for new mobilizations after August 31, impacting foreign currency deposit management.

- BODY** | RBI: The Reserve Bank of India is the central bank of India.
- FACT** | FCNR(B) deposits accounted for \$52.30 billion out of a total \$56.84 billion in foreign inflows as of August 13.
- FACT** | The swap facility for FCNR(B) deposits will be available for swaps availed until September 11, 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of FCNR(B) deposits in managing India's external debt and the role of the RBI in regulating foreign currency liquidity.

USE: liquidity management foreign currency deposits monetary policy external debt capital flows

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the 'Sapta Dhara' framework at Red Fort

WHY IN NEWS PM Modi unveiled the 'Sapta Dhara' framework on Independence Day 2026 as a seven-point roadmap to achieve the goal of a developed India (Viksit Bharat) by 2047.

- FACT** | Sapta Dhara framework aims for a developed India by the year 2047.
- FACT** | The framework includes 'Green and Blue Economy' as key pillars of development.
- FACT** | Manufacturing goal: Establishing India as a trusted global supply chain partner.
- FACT** | Agriculture focus: Enhancing access to global markets through Free Trade Agreements (FTAs).

MAINS Q Discuss how the 'Sapta Dhara' framework can position India as a global manufacturing and supply chain hub while ensuring sustainable growth in the green and blue economies.

USE: Viksit Bharat Value chain Global competitiveness Sustainable development Soft power

Defence budget soars to ₹7.85 lakh crore, R&D gets 90% boost: Rajnath Singh

WHY IN NEWS Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced a significant hike in the defence budget and R&D allocation to bolster self-reliance in manufacturing.

- FACT** | Defence budget for 2026-27: ₹7.85 lakh crore
- FACT** | Defence R&D allocation increase: 90%
- FACT** | Defence exports reached an all-time high of ₹38,424 crore
- FACT** | Domestic production in FY 25-26: ₹1.78 lakh crore

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of increasing R&D and domestic manufacturing in achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in the defence sector.

USE: self-reliance modernization R&D procurement reforms strategic autonomy

Karnataka targets one lakh new jobs, AI hubs, and a \$3 trillion economy by 2047

WHY IN NEWS Karnataka CM D.K. Shivakumar announced the 'Young Karnataka–New India' vision focusing on job creation, AI education, and a \$3 trillion economy goal.

- FACT** | Karnataka aims to achieve a \$3 trillion economy by 2047.
- SCHEME** | Udyoga Sankalpa and Nidhi are Karnataka state schemes for job creation and entrepreneurship.
- S&T** | AI education is planned to be integrated into the school curriculum starting from Class 6.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of technology integration and skill development in achieving the goal of a \$3 trillion economy for a state like Karnataka.

USE: economic growth skill development technological integration entrepreneurship

The Indian stock market, which began in the 1800s under a banyan

WHY IN NEWS The article traces the historical evolution of the Indian stock market from its 19th-century origins to its current status as a digital financial ecosystem.

- FACT** | BSE was established in 1875 as Asia's oldest stock exchange.
- FACT** | Reliance Industries went public in October 1977 with 2.8 million equity shares.
- FACT** | Hindustan Unilever (HUL) was the first foreign subsidiary to launch an IPO in India in 1956.
- FACT** | ITC was established in 1910 as the Imperial Tobacco Company of India Limited.

MAINS Q Discuss the evolution of India's capital markets from the colonial era to the modern digital age and its role in driving industrial growth.

USE: Capital Formation Sensex Market Capitalization Financial Ecosystem IPO

Agriculture

1

Minister of Tourism and Culture Kandula Durgesh announced infrastructure projects worth ₹2,643

WHY IN NEWS The Minister of Tourism and Culture announced infrastructure projects for Godavari Pushkarams 2027 and the expansion of cocoa cultivation in Andhra Pradesh.

- FACT** | ₹2,643 crore allocated for Godavari Pushkarams 2027 infrastructure projects.
- FACT** | ₹94.44 crore released by the Ministry of Tourism for the Akhanda Godavari project.
- FACT** | Cocoa crop expansion planned for 1,000 additional acres in Amalapuram district.
- PLACE** | Godavari River: Major river in Southern India, central to the Pushkarams and Akhanda Godavari project.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of infrastructure development and crop diversification in boosting regional tourism and rural livelihoods in India.

USE: infrastructure development crop diversification tourism promotion rural livelihoods regional development

Science & Technology

9

Modi aims for 100 GW nuclear energy by 2047 in ambitious Independence Day speech

WHY IN NEWS PM Modi announced a target of 100 GW of nuclear energy by 2047 in his Independence Day speech to drive India's energy transition.

- FACT** | Nuclear energy target: 100 GW by 2047
- S&T** | AI training target: 1 crore youth
- S&T** | Focus on semiconductor manufacturing expansion

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of nuclear energy in achieving India's net-zero goals and the challenges in scaling up nuclear capacity to 100 GW by 2047.

USE: Energy Transition Decarbonization Nuclear Infrastructure Strategic Autonomy Technological Advancement

Modi unveils AI training for one crore youth, sports hunt for 10 million kids

WHY IN NEWS PM Modi announced a massive AI skill training initiative for one crore youth and a nationwide sports talent hunt to enhance human capital and technological readiness.

- FACT** | Target: AI skill training for 1 crore (10 million) youth within one year.
- FACT** | Nuclear Energy Target: 100 GW by the year 2047.
- FACT** | Sports Talent Hunt: Targeted at children aged 5 to 15 years.
- S&T** | Focus areas include semiconductor manufacturing and AI skill development.

MAINS Q Discuss how the integration of Artificial Intelligence and skill development can drive India's goal of becoming a global manufacturing and technology hub.

USE: Human Capital Digital Literacy Technological Sovereignty Skill India Nuclear Energy

Indian Army gets 84 loiter munition systems in ₹1,577 crore 'Buy Indian' deal

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Defence signed contracts with TASL and NIBE for 84 loiter munition systems to enhance the Indian Army's precision-strike capabilities.

- S&T** | Loiter munitions are autonomous systems capable of hovering over a target area before striking.
- FACT** | The systems provide precision-strike capabilities up to a range of 100 km.
- FACT** | The contract includes 60% overall indigenous content under the 'Buy Indian' category.
- POST** | The Ministry of Defence (MoD) is the nodal ministry for defense procurement in India.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the 'Buy Indian' initiative in achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in the defense sector and its impact on India's strategic autonomy.

USE: precision-strike indigenous content Atmanirbhar Bharat defense procurement strategic autonomy

BCG Vaccine Retrains Aging Immune Cells, Offers Hope for Alzheimer's Treatment

WHY IN NEWS A study published on August 13, 2026, suggests that the BCG vaccine may retrain innate immune cells to combat 'inflammaging' and neuroinflammation in Alzheimer's patients.

- S&T** | Inflammaging: Chronic low-grade inflammation associated with aging and neuroinflammation.
- S&T** | BCG Vaccine: Traditionally used for tuberculosis, now being studied for its role in retraining innate immune cells.
- FACT** | Study publication date: August 13, 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of biotechnology and immunology in addressing age-related neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's. How can repurposing existing vaccines contribute to geriatric healthcare?

USE: Inflammaging Neuroinflammation Innate Immunity Biotechnology Alzheimer's Disease

An international study published in Nature predicts that global photovoltaic (PV) waste

WHY IN NEWS A study in Nature predicts a massive surge in photovoltaic (PV) waste by 2060, highlighting the economic potential of circular economy models in renewable energy.

- S&T** | Photovoltaic (PV) waste refers to discarded solar panels and related components.
- FACT** | Predicted global PV waste: 297 million to 402 million tonnes by 2060.
- FACT** | Potential economic value of recycled PV waste: nearly \$1 trillion.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges and opportunities of establishing a circular economy for solar waste management in the context of India's transition to renewable energy.

USE: Circular Economy Renewable Energy Waste Management Resource Recovery Sustainable Development

Lakshadweep Safe: Study Shows No Damage from Sinking MSC Elsa 3

WHY IN NEWS The NCSCM released a study confirming that the sinking of the MSC Elsa 3 did not cause ecological damage to Lakshadweep, highlighting the need for maritime contingency plans.

- BODY** | NCSCM: National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management is a nodal agency for coastal management.
- PLACE** | Lakshadweep: A Union Territory of India located in the Arabian Sea.
- BODY** | NGT: National Green Tribunal is a specialized body for environmental protection.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of robust maritime contingency plans and coastal management strategies in protecting ecologically sensitive island territories from maritime accidents.

USE: [ecological impact](#) [maritime preparedness](#) [contingency planning](#) [coastal management](#)

Andaman and Nicobar Invites Proposals for Green AI/Data Centre, Faces Tribal Opposition

WHY IN NEWS The Andaman and Nicobar administration invited proposals for a private-sector-led 'Green AI/Data Centre Vertical' while facing tribal opposition to infrastructure projects in Great Nicobar Island.

- PLACE** | Campbell Bay is located in the Great Nicobar Island.
- FACT** | The proposed mega infrastructure project in Great Nicobar Island is valued at ₹91,000 crore.
- S&T** | Green AI refers to AI development aimed at reducing environmental impact and energy consumption.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges of balancing large-scale technological infrastructure development with the rights and livelihoods of indigenous tribal communities in ecologically sensitive zones.

USE: [Indigenous rights](#) [Sustainable infrastructure](#) [Data sovereignty](#) [Ecological sensitivity](#) [Public-Private Partnership](#)

Maharashtra forms drone task force to attract investments, ease delays

WHY IN NEWS Maharashtra government formed a ministerial task force to streamline drone policy implementation, attract investments, and accelerate the development of a 'Drone City'.

- BODY** | MIDC: Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation is the state body responsible for industrial land development.
- S&T** | Drone City: A dedicated infrastructure initiative by Maharashtra to foster drone manufacturing and ecosystem growth.
- FACT** | The task force was established on August 13, 2026, to oversee the state's drone policy.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of creating dedicated industrial hubs and task forces in promoting the growth of emerging technologies like drones in India.

USE: [Ease of Doing Business](#) [Drone Ecosystem](#) [Incentivization](#) [Infrastructure Development](#) [Policy Implementation](#)

Drones deliver National Flag to remote village in Independence Day first

WHY IN NEWS India Post conducted its first drone delivery of the National Flag to a remote village in Himachal Pradesh as part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign.

- BODY** | Department of Posts: Under the Ministry of Communications.
- FACT** | Drone delivery was conducted to Rehardhar Branch Post Office in Himachal Pradesh.
- S&T** | Drones are being utilized for 'last-mile' connectivity in remote and hilly regions.

MAINS Q Discuss how the integration of drone technology in postal services can enhance rural connectivity and logistical efficiency in India's difficult terrains.

USE: [last-mile connectivity](#) [technological integration](#) [logistics](#) [rural infrastructure](#) [digital India](#)

The CAG report, tabled in Parliament on Wednesday, revealed that the Green

WHY IN NEWS The CAG report highlighted a significant shortfall in the Green India Mission's (GIM) forest cover targets, revealing systemic issues in implementation and monitoring.

SCHEME	Green India Mission (GIM): A government initiative to enhance forest/tree cover and improve ecosystem services.
BODY	CAG: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is the supreme audit institution of the country.
FACT	GIM shortfall: 97.57% discrepancy between target (1.4 million hectares) and achievement (0.03 million hectares).

MAINS Q Critically analyze the challenges in implementing large-scale afforestation schemes in India and suggest measures to ensure better convergence and monitoring.

USE:

ecosystem services

convergence

accountability

afforestation

audit evaluation

Tribunal Orders TNPCB to Act on Conflicting Mercury Levels in Neyveli

WHY IN NEWS The National Green Tribunal (NGT) intervened to resolve conflicting reports on mercury contamination in Neyveli, directing the TNPCB to formalize a study by IIT-Madras.

BODY	National Green Tribunal (NGT): A statutory body established to handle environmental disputes.
BODY	TNPCB: The state-level body responsible for implementing environmental laws in Tamil Nadu.
PLACE	Neyveli: A prominent mining and industrial hub in Tamil Nadu.
FACT	Mercury: A heavy metal and potent neurotoxin that poses significant environmental and health risks.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in monitoring heavy metal pollution in industrial hubs and the role of statutory bodies in ensuring environmental accountability.

USE:

Heavy metal contamination

Statutory oversight

Environmental adjudication

Pollution monitoring

Precautionary principle

Drones sow hope: HML seeds 15 acres with 24 native species near Peerumade hills

WHY IN NEWS Harrisons Malayalam Limited (HML) utilized drone seeding technology to restore 15 acres of land near Peerumade hills with 24 native species to promote biodiversity.

PLACE	Peerumade hills are located in the Idukki district of Kerala.
S&T	Drone seeding technology is used for large-scale reforestation and seed dispersal.
FACT	The project aims for a plant density of 5,000 plants per hectare.
BODY	Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) manages seed banks for native species.

MAINS Q Discuss how the integration of drone technology and seed ball dispersal can enhance large-scale reforestation and biodiversity conservation in India's Western Ghats.

USE:

biodiversity restoration

drone seeding

native species

reforestation

technological intervention

LEFT-WING EXTREMISM P M

15 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/104430

Supreme Court urges Kuki, Meitei groups to remove blockades on Manipur highways

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court intervened in the Manipur ethnic conflict, urging Kuki and Meitei groups to remove highway blockades to restore essential services.

- PLACE** | Manipur: A North-Eastern state of India currently facing ethnic conflict between Kuki and Meitei groups.
- FACT** | National Highway 2: A key arterial route in Manipur currently facing blockades.
- POST** | Chief Justice of India (CJI): The highest judicial authority in India, currently held by Surya Kant (as per the article).

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in maintaining internal security and ensuring the flow of essential services in regions plagued by ethnic violence, with reference to the Manipur crisis.

USE: internal security ethnic conflict essential services judicial intervention human rights

SECURITY FORCES & AGENCIES P M

15 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/105003

Indian President Approves 78 Gallantry Awards on Independence Day, Including Nine Kirti Chakras

WHY IN NEWS President Droupadi Murmu approved 78 gallantry awards, including Kirti Chakras and Shaurya Chakras, on the eve of India's 80th Independence Day to honor bravery in various operations.

- FACT** | 78 gallantry awards approved on August 15, 2026, including 9 Kirti Chakras and 19 Shaurya Chakras.
- FACT** | Order of precedence: Param Vir Chakra, Ashoka Chakra, Mahavir Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Vir Chakra, and Shaurya Chakra.
- FACT** | Param Vir Chakra: Highest wartime gallantry award; first recipient was Major Somnath Sharma (1947).
- FACT** | Ashoka Chakra: Highest peacetime gallantry award; Kirti Chakra is the second-highest peacetime award.
- FACT** | CAPF personnel and other forces under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) are eligible for these awards.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of gallantry awards in maintaining the morale of the armed forces and the role of the state in recognizing exceptional bravery.

USE: gallantry awards morale param vir chakra posthumous national security

TERRORISM & INSURGENCY (J&K, NORTH-EAST) P M

15 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/104491

The J&K administration denied issuing work-from-home orders for Kashmiri Pandits but confirmed

WHY IN NEWS The J&K administration and Kashmiri Pandit community are investigating a data breach where personal details of employees were leaked in a terror threat letter.

- BODY** | NHRC: National Human Rights Commission is a statutory body established under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
- BODY** | NCM: National Commission for Minorities is a statutory body established under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
- FACT** | The incident involved the leak of personal data of 'Prime Minister Package' employees.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges of ensuring data privacy and cybersecurity for government employees in conflict-prone regions like Jammu and Kashmir.

USE: data breach cybersecurity internal security minority rights institutional oversight



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