

**SATYADHEESH**
सत्याधीश

UPSC DAILY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs • 19 August 2026**44**

NOTES

4

STORIES MERGED

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PAPER MIX

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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.

Indian Society

1

URBANISATION

P

M

19 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/107909**Delhi's Fire Safety Lags with Only 5% Buildings Certified, 71 Short of Needed Stations**

WHY IN NEWS A report highlights Delhi's critical fire safety infrastructure deficit, where only 5% of buildings are certified, necessitating a shift toward third-party certification and infrastructure expansion.

FACT | Only 5% of buildings in Delhi currently have Occupancy Certificates.

FACT | Delhi requires 120 fire stations but currently operates with 71.

S&T | Proposed safety measures include mandatory sprinklers and smoke detectors in high-risk buildings.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in urban fire safety management in metropolitan cities and suggest measures to improve infrastructure and regulatory compliance.

USE : [urban governance](#) [regulatory compliance](#) [infrastructure deficit](#) [public safety](#) [urban planning](#)

Polity & Constitution

9

STATUTORY, REGULATORY & QUASI-JUDICIAL BODIES

P M

19 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/108339](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/108339)

NMC proposes single ID for doctors to practice across India, renews every five years

WHY IN NEWS The National Medical Commission (NMC) proposed a draft amendment to create a unified national registration system for doctors to facilitate seamless practice across India.

BODY | NMC: National Medical Commission is the apex body regulating medical education and practice in India.

FACT | License renewal: Proposed mandatory renewal every five years to maintain active status.

BODY | Ethics and Medical Registration Board: The body designated to hear appeals regarding medical registration.

MAINS Q Discuss how a unified national registration system for medical practitioners can improve healthcare delivery and professional accountability in India.

USE: Regulatory framework Professional mobility Standardization Accountability Unified registration

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

P M

19 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/107837](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/107837)

The Supreme Court agreed to use Article 142 to quash FIRs

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court invoked Article 142 to quash FIRs against students protesting NEET-UG, highlighting the judiciary's power to ensure justice in exceptional cases.

CONSTITUTION | Article 142: Grants the Supreme Court the power to pass any decree or order necessary for doing complete justice.

BODY | Supreme Court of India: The highest judicial body in the country, exercising original, appellate, and advisory jurisdiction.

FACT | 2,873 individuals with criminal records were identified among the protesters by the Solicitor General.

MAINS Q Discuss the scope and limitations of the Supreme Court's extraordinary powers under Article 142 in balancing the right to protest with the maintenance of public order.

USE: Complete justice Judicial review Extraordinary jurisdiction Right to protest Public order

FEDERALISM & CENTRE-STATE RELATIONS

P

19 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/108493](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/108493)

Southern Zonal Council to meet near Mamallapuram on August 20

WHY IN NEWS The 31st meeting of the Southern Zonal Council was convened to discuss regional cooperation and federal coordination among Southern states and Union Territories.

BODY | Zonal Councils are statutory bodies established to facilitate coordination between the Centre and States.

BODY | The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) oversees the functioning of Zonal Councils.

FACT | The Southern Zonal Council includes the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of Zonal Councils in strengthening cooperative federalism and addressing regional issues in India.

USE: cooperative federalism inter-state coordination administrative decentralization regional development

Madras High Court backs Tamil Nadu's decision on Tamil Thai Vazhthu priority

WHY IN NEWS The Madras High Court upheld Tamil Nadu's authority to prioritize the state song 'Tamil Thai Vazhthu' during official events, citing MHA guidelines on state autonomy.

CONSTITUTION	Article 29(1) protects the interests of minorities and their right to conserve distinct language, script, or culture.
FACT	Tamil Thai Vazhthu is the official state song of Tamil Nadu.
BODY	The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued the circular regarding the order of state songs.

MAINS Q Discuss the balance between the Union's role in maintaining national uniformity and the States' rights to preserve cultural identity under the federal structure of India.

USE: [Federalism](#) [Cultural Rights](#) [State Autonomy](#) [Constitutional Provisions](#)

Andhra Pradesh Restores Direct Mayor Elections After 18 Years

WHY IN NEWS The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed the Municipal Laws (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2026 to restore direct elections for Mayors and Chairpersons after an 18-year hiatus.

ACT / BILL	Municipal Corporations Act, 1955 and Municipalities Act, 1965 govern urban local bodies in Andhra Pradesh.
FACT	Direct elections for Mayors and Chairpersons were suspended in Andhra Pradesh since August 6, 2005.
FACT	The new amendment sets a fixed five-year term for the positions of Mayor and Chairperson.

MAINS Q Discuss how the restoration of direct elections for urban local body heads can enhance democratic decentralization and improve urban governance in India.

USE: [Democratic decentralization](#) [Urban governance](#) [Local self-government](#) [Accountability](#) [Legislative amendment](#)

Supreme Court warns Odisha: Act on Dara Singh's remission plea or face intervention

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court warned the Odisha government against delaying a decision on the remission plea of Dara Singh, a convict in the 1999 murder of Australian missionary Graham Staines.

BODY	Supreme Court of India: The highest judicial body in India with the power of judicial review.
FACT	Dara Singh: Convicted for the 1999 murder of Australian missionary Graham Staines.
PLACE	Odisha: State government responsible for the administration of prison remission rules.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of the judiciary in ensuring accountability of the executive in the administration of prison reforms and remission policies.

USE: [Judicial Review](#) [Executive Accountability](#) [Remission Policy](#) [Prison Reform](#) [Rule of Law](#)

Maharashtra Grants Fadnavis Power to Override Ministers' Decisions August 14

WHY IN NEWS The Maharashtra Government notified the Maharashtra Government Rules of Business, 2026, granting the Chief Minister the power to override cabinet ministers' decisions.

FACT	Maharashtra Government Rules of Business, 2026: New rules for streamlining executive decision-making.
BODY	Finance Department: Must provide concurrence for decisions with financial implications.
POST	Chief Minister: Holds the power to override cabinet decisions under the new rules.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of centralizing executive powers within the Chief Minister's office on the principle of collective responsibility in a coalition government.

USE: [collective responsibility](#) [executive overreach](#) [coalition dynamics](#) [administrative streamlining](#) [checks and balances](#)

Karnataka High Court reinstates Shivashankarappa S. Sahukar as KPSC chairperson

WHY IN NEWS The Karnataka High Court struck down the Governor's suspension of the KPSC chairperson, highlighting the constitutional requirement for the Governor to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

BODY	KPSC: Karnataka Public Service Commission is a state-level body responsible for recruiting civil servants.
CONSTITUTION	Article 165: Provides that the Governor shall act on the advice of the Council of Ministers in matters regarding the State Public Service Commission.
POST	Governor: Appointed by the President of India to serve as the constitutional head of a State.

MAINS Q Discuss the constitutional significance of the Governor's obligation to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers in matters concerning State Public Service Commissions.

USE: Constitutional mandate Council of Ministers Executive overreach Checks and balances Rule of Law

2.07 crore voters excluded from Maharashtra's electoral roll in first phase of revision

WHY IN NEWS The Chief Electoral Officer of Maharashtra announced the exclusion of 2.07 crore voters from the draft electoral roll during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) 2026.

BODY	Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) is the primary authority responsible for the preparation and maintenance of electoral rolls in a state.
FACT	The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) 2026 aims to purge 'ASDD' categories: Permanently Shifted, Absent/Not Found, Deceased, and Duplicate entries.
FACT	The final electoral roll for Maharashtra is scheduled for publication on October 27.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of periodic electoral roll revisions in ensuring the integrity of the democratic process and preventing electoral fraud.

USE: Electoral Integrity Special Intensive Revision ASDD categories Democratic Process Voter Awareness

Governance

7

Tamil Nadu Public Works Minister Aadhav Arjuna Plans PWD Modernization

WHY IN NEWS Tamil Nadu's Public Works Minister announced a modernization plan for the PWD involving AI-enabled systems, vertical development, and a new infrastructure corporation.

FACT	Tamil Nadu Infrastructure and Construction Corporation: New body for large-scale projects with ₹1 crore initial funding.
S&T	AI-enabled Building Management System: Planned for Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in collaboration with IIT.
FACT	FSI (Floor Space Index): A measure used to determine the ratio of total floor area to the plot area.

MAINS Q Discuss how the integration of AI and modernization of public infrastructure can enhance the efficiency of state-level public works departments in India.

USE: infrastructure modernization vertical development AI-enabled management public works urban planning

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) published a draft of the Electricity

WHY IN NEWS The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) released a draft of the Electricity Supply Regulations (ESR) 2026 to enhance consumer transparency and simplify connection processes.

- BODY** | KERC: A statutory body responsible for regulating the electricity sector in Karnataka.
- FACT** | ESR 2026: Draft regulations requiring mandatory disclosure of power cut frequency and duration.
- FACT** | Self-certification: A proposed mechanism to simplify the application process for new electricity connections.

MAINS Q Discuss how regulatory reforms in the power sector can enhance consumer rights and improve ease of doing business in India.

USE: transparency regulatory framework consumer rights ease of doing business accountability

The Madras High Court, comprising Justices G.R

WHY IN NEWS The Madras High Court directed the Tamil Nadu government to form a committee to address systemic gaps in the implementation of criminal laws concerning children.

- BODY** | Madras High Court: The highest judicial authority in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- FACT** | The government has been given a four-month timeline to revert with the committee's progress.
- S&T** | SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) are established protocols to ensure consistency in administrative and legal actions.

MAINS Q Discuss the systemic challenges in the implementation of criminal justice for children in India and suggest measures to ensure a child-centric legal framework.

USE: Systemic gaps Child-centric justice Standard Operating Procedures Institutional reform Gender-neutral policing

Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Housing and Revenue Minister, requested cement industries to supply

WHY IN NEWS Andhra Pradesh Housing and Revenue Minister requested cement industries to provide subsidized cement for the Indiramma Houses project to manage rising construction costs.

- FACT** | Indiramma Houses project: Phase 1 sanctioned 4.5 lakh houses outside Hyderabad.
- FACT** | Indiramma Houses project: Phase 2 will sanction an additional 2.5 lakh houses.
- FACT** | Government subsidy per house: ₹5 lakh.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced by state governments in implementing large-scale housing schemes amidst rising inflation in construction materials.

USE: fiscal burden subsidized procurement infrastructure development inflationary impact

Jharkhand Cancels 44 Recruitment Exams Following Student Protests

WHY IN NEWS The Jharkhand Government cancelled 44 recruitment exams due to irregularities, highlighting systemic issues in public recruitment processes and the need for transparency.

- BODY** | JPSC: Jharkhand Public Service Commission is the state body for recruiting civil servants.
- BODY** | TDPL: Jharkhand Teachers Recruitment Board (formerly known as Teacher Deployment and Placement Board).
- FACT** | The cancellation covers exams conducted since 2014.

MAINS Q Discuss the measures required to ensure transparency and integrity in the recruitment processes of state public service commissions to prevent irregularities.

USE: Transparency Accountability Meritocracy Public Service Commission Administrative Reforms

NTA Overhaul: Joshi Orders Enhanced Security, Four-Tier Checks for National Exams

WHY IN NEWS Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi ordered the NTA to implement a four-tier checking system and enhanced security to restore public trust after repeated exam leaks.

BODY	NTA (National Testing Agency): An autonomous body responsible for conducting major national-level entrance exams.
POST	Pralhad Joshi: Union Minister of Education, Government of India.
FACT	The NTA is implementing a four-tier checking system to minimize errors and leaks.
BODY	CISF (Central Industrial Security Force): Responsible for providing security to the relocated NTA offices.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in maintaining the integrity of high-stakes national examinations in India and suggest measures to ensure transparency and prevent malpractices.

USE: [transparency](#) [accountability](#) [integrity](#) [institutional reform](#) [standardization](#)

Tamil Nadu to Launch Chief Minister's Road Safety Mission at ₹500 Crore Annually

WHY IN NEWS Tamil Nadu government announced the 'Chief Minister's Road Safety Mission' with an annual budget of ₹500 crore to address high road accident fatalities.

FACT	Chief Minister's Road Safety Mission budget: ₹500 crore annually
S&T	ANPR: Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras used for speed and registration monitoring
PLACE	Tamil Nadu: State with high road accident rates leading to this mission

MAINS Q Discuss the role of technological interventions and emergency medical infrastructure in reducing road fatalities in India. How can states replicate successful models like Kerala's?

USE: [road safety](#) [emergency response](#) [technological intervention](#) [public safety](#) [infrastructure](#)

Social Justice

4

Few know: Supreme Court allowed passive euthanasia in 2018

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court's 2018 ruling on passive euthanasia and 'living wills' is being highlighted due to a lack of public awareness and infrastructure for palliative care.

BODY	AIIMS: A premier public medical research and tertiary care hospital in New Delhi.
FACT	Passive Euthanasia: The withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment (e.g., ventilators) to allow a patient to die naturally.
FACT	Living Will: A legal declaration by a person specifying what medical treatments they do or do not want in the event of terminal illness.

MAINS Q Discuss the ethical and legal challenges associated with 'living wills' and passive euthanasia in India. How can the state improve palliative care infrastructure?

USE: [Right to Life](#) [Palliative Care](#) [Living Will](#) [Passive Euthanasia](#) [Bioethics](#)

Supreme Court Grills NTA Over NEET-UG Leaks, Questions Nilekani Task Force

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court questioned the National Testing Agency (NTA) over NEET-UG paper leaks and the lack of continuity in implementing reforms across different task forces.

- BODY** | NTA: National Testing Agency is the autonomous body responsible for conducting major entrance exams like NEET and JEE.
- POST** | Nandan Nilekani: Former Chairman of UIDAI and current head of the task force for exam reforms.
- FACT** | The Supreme Court's observations were made on August 19, 2026, regarding the NEET-UG examination.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in ensuring the integrity of large-scale competitive examinations in India and suggest measures to institutionalize technological reforms.

USE: institutional memory technological integrity accountability standardization systemic reform

Delhi High Court Dismisses Plea to Stay UGC-NET Results, Orders Retest

WHY IN NEWS Delhi High Court dismissed a plea to stay UGC-NET results, leading to the Centre's decision to conduct retests for specific subjects due to alleged paper leaks.

- BODY** | UGC-NET: Conducted by the University Grants Commission to determine eligibility for Assistant Professor and Junior Research Fellowship.
- FACT** | Retests scheduled for Sociology, English, and Commerce papers in September 2026.
- POST** | Solicitor General: The highest-ranking law officer of the Government of India.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in maintaining the integrity of national-level competitive examinations and suggest measures to prevent paper leaks and procedural errors.

USE: procedural integrity transparency standardization grievance redressal academic merit

Tamil Nadu triples third-child maternity leave to 365 days

WHY IN NEWS The Tamil Nadu government announced a significant extension of maternity leave for women employees giving birth to their third child to 365 days.

- FACT** | Tamil Nadu extended third-child maternity leave from 12 weeks to 365 days
- POST** | Minister D Sarathkumar announced the welfare measure

MAINS Q Discuss how state-led maternity leave policies contribute to women's empowerment and social welfare in India.

USE: social welfare women's empowerment maternity benefits gender equality

International Relations

8

Syria Unveils Tons of Nuclear Material to UN Probe Amid IAEA Praise

WHY IN NEWS Syria disclosed tons of nuclear material to the IAEA during a UN probe, highlighting the role of international monitoring in non-proliferation.

- BODY** | IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency, an autonomous organization within the United Nations framework.
- S&T** | Nuclear Safeguards: Measures taken to verify that nuclear materials are not diverted to weapons.
- FACT** | Syria disclosed material from the Bashir Al-Assad era to the UN probe.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the IAEA's role in global nuclear non-proliferation and the challenges of monitoring nuclear materials in conflict-affected regions.

USE: Non-proliferation Nuclear Safeguards IAEA Transparency Global Security

BRICS Slams EU Carbon Plan as "Unilateral and Discriminatory" at Delhi Meet

WHY IN NEWS BRICS nations collectively opposed the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) at the 12th Environment Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi, highlighting concerns over trade equity and climate finance.

INTL. ORG	BRICS: An intergovernmental organization comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (plus new members).
S&T	CBAM: A carbon tax on carbon-intensive products imported into the EU.
FACT	The meeting was the 12th Environment Ministers' Meeting of BRICS.

MAINS Q Discuss how unilateral trade measures like the EU's CBAM impact the climate goals and economic interests of developing nations in the Global South.

USE: [Trade Protectionism](#) [Climate Justice](#) [Global South](#) [Carbon Border Adjustment](#) [Climate Finance](#)

US Ambassador to India may reconsider travel advisories after Jammu and Kashmir visit

WHY IN NEWS US Ambassador Sergio Gor indicated a potential revision of the Level 4 travel advisory for Jammu and Kashmir following a visit to Srinagar.

FACT	US travel advisory for Jammu and Kashmir is currently at Level 4 (Do Not Travel).
POST	Sergio Gor is the current US Ambassador to India.
PLACE	Srinagar is the summer capital of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

MAINS Q Discuss how diplomatic engagement and security improvements in Jammu and Kashmir influence India's bilateral relations with the United States.

USE: [bilateral relations](#) [security architecture](#) [diplomatic engagement](#) [travel advisory](#) [regional stability](#)

India's MEA Secretary Reaffirms Support for Two-State Solution in Ramallah Talks

WHY IN NEWS MEA Secretary Sripriya Ranganathan met with Palestine's Foreign Minister to reaffirm India's stance on a two-state solution and discuss Gaza's humanitarian situation.

PLACE	Ramallah: The administrative center and de facto capital of the Palestinian National Authority.
FACT	India's official stance: Support for a two-state solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
POST	Sripriya Ranganathan: Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

MAINS Q Discuss India's strategic role in mediating the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the significance of its 'Two-State Solution' stance in the Middle East.

USE: [Two-state solution](#) [Strategic autonomy](#) [Humanitarian diplomacy](#) [Bilateral cooperation](#)

India's Rijju dismisses Chinese incursion claims as incorrect

WHY IN NEWS Union Minister Kiren Rijju dismissed Chinese claims of an incursion into Arunachal Pradesh, highlighting the lack of clear demarcation on the border.

PLACE	Arunachal Pradesh: A state in Northeast India bordering China.
BODY	ITBP: Indo-Tibetan Border Police, the primary force for guarding the LAC.
FACT	The border between India and China in Arunachal Pradesh is not clearly demarcated.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges posed by the lack of a clearly demarcated border with China and the significance of infrastructure development in border management.

USE: [demarcation](#) [infrastructure development](#) [border management](#) [strategic security](#)

Kerala High Court Blocks Movie Shoot in Periyar Tiger Reserve, Rejects Filmmaker's Plea

WHY IN NEWS The Kerala High Court blocked a commercial film shoot in Periyar Tiger Reserve, reinforcing the legal protection of wildlife sanctuaries against commercial exploitation.

- PLACE** | Periyar Tiger Reserve is located in the Western Ghats of Kerala.
- FACT** | The court dismissed the plea on August 19, 2026.
- BODY** | The Travancore Devaswom Board initially granted permission subject to Forest official approval.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in balancing the development of the creative industries with the preservation of ecologically sensitive zones in India.

USE: [biodiversity conservation](#) [ecological sensitivity](#) [judicial oversight](#) [sustainable development](#)

UNHCR, the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI), and Ethiraj

WHY IN NEWS UNHCR, SICCI, and Ethiraj College signed an MoU to enhance education and research for the self-reliance of Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu.

- BODY** | UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a UN agency mandated to protect refugees.
- PLACE** | Tamil Nadu: The primary state of focus for the refugee self-reliance initiative in this MoU.
- FACT** | The initiative focuses on 'refugee self-reliance' through education and research.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges and opportunities in integrating refugees into the socio-economic fabric of India, highlighting the role of civil society and international bodies.

USE: [refugee self-reliance](#) [civil society engagement](#) [humanitarian assistance](#) [socio-economic integration](#)

The U.S

WHY IN NEWS The U.S. White House issued a report accusing India and 39 other nations of facilitating Chinese tariff evasion through transshipment, posing a risk to India's trade relations.

- FACT** | The U.S. accused India and 39 other countries of enabling Chinese tariff evasion.
- FACT** | India has previously reduced tariffs on motorcycles and shrimp feed in response to trade pressures.
- FACT** | The report was published by the White House on August 19, 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges India faces in balancing its manufacturing dependencies on China with its strategic trade relations with the United States.

USE: [Trade diversion](#) [Tariff evasion](#) [Supply chain resilience](#) [Geopolitical leverage](#)

Economy

8

MONETARY POLICY, RBI & BANKING

P

M

19 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/108111**RBI Proposes Faster Floating-Rate Loans, Resetting Interests Every Three Months**

WHY IN NEWS The RBI proposed a draft to shorten the reset cycle of floating-rate home loans from annually to every three months to enhance interest rate transmission.

- BODY** | RBI: The central bank of India responsible for monetary policy and banking regulation.
- FACT** | Proposed reset frequency: Every three months (previously annual).
- FACT** | Applicability: Specifically targets home loans; excludes personal and auto loans.
- FACT** | Migration deadline: Existing borrowers to migrate by April 1, 2029, without additional fees.

MAINS Q Discuss how the RBI's proposal to shorten the interest rate reset cycle for home loans contributes to more efficient monetary policy transmission in India.

USE: [monetary policy transmission](#) [floating-rate loans](#) [interest rate cycle](#) [liquidity management](#) [consumer protection](#)

INFRASTRUCTURE (ENERGY, PORTS, ROADS, RAILWAYS)

P

3 REPORTS MERGED

19 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/108594**Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday announced the Union Cabinet's approval**

WHY IN NEWS The Union Cabinet approved major railway multi-tracking projects and a four-lane highway expansion in Bihar to boost logistics and regional connectivity.

- FACT** | Total cost of railway multi-tracking projects: Rs 9,450 crore
- PLACE** | NH-22 upgrade covers Muzaffarpur–Sitamarhi–Sonbarsa section in Bihar
- FACT** | Cost of NH-22 upgradation: Rs 3,590.73 crore
- PLACE** | Railway projects approved for Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal

MAINS Q Discuss how the expansion of multi-modal transport infrastructure contributes to the 'Gati Shakti' vision of enhancing logistics efficiency in India.

USE: [logistics efficiency](#) [multi-modal connectivity](#) [infrastructure development](#) [regional integration](#)

INFRASTRUCTURE (ENERGY, PORTS, ROADS, RAILWAYS)

P

19 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/108226**Mumbai 3.0 plans new urban centre near Navi Mumbai Airport with \$12 billion investment**

WHY IN NEWS The MMRDA announced 'Mumbai 3.0', a massive urban expansion project near Navi Mumbai Airport to alleviate land pressure and infrastructure strain in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

- PLACE** | Raigad district is the location for the proposed Mumbai 3.0 urban centre.
- FACT** | The project covers an area of 323.44 sq km.
- BODY** | MMRDA (Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority) is the nodal agency for the project.
- FACT** | The project is backed by a \$12 billion investment from Brookfield.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges and opportunities of creating satellite urban centres to manage the rapid urbanisation and infrastructure pressure in India's mega-cities.

USE: [urban sprawl](#) [infrastructure deficit](#) [decentralisation](#) [satellite cities](#) [sustainable urbanisation](#)

IGL, MGL, Adani Total Gas shares rally up to 6% as govt boosts domestic PNG push

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas announced a scheme to fast-track domestic piped natural gas (PNG) connections by subsidizing city gas distribution entities.

- FACT** | India currently has 1.74 crore domestic piped natural gas (PNG) connections.
- FACT** | The new scheme aims to reduce the payback period for gas distribution entities from 10 years to 3 years.
- S&T** | PNG is a cleaner and safer alternative to LPG cylinders for domestic use.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of expanding Piped Natural Gas (PNG) infrastructure in India's transition towards cleaner energy and its impact on rural-urban energy equity.

USE: Energy transition Infrastructure development Subsidies Clean energy Payback period

The US-Israel war on Iran has disrupted crude oil and natural gas

WHY IN NEWS Geopolitical tensions between the US, Israel, and Iran have disrupted oil and gas supplies, leading to a global surge in coal consumption to meet energy shortages.

- FACT** | Coal prices remain cheaper than oil despite the surge in demand.
- PLACE** | Thungela Resources is a thermal coal producer based in South Africa.
- FACT** | Major coal exporters include Indonesia, Australia, and Russia.

MAINS Q Analyze how geopolitical conflicts in the Middle East impact global energy security and the transition towards renewable energy sources.

USE: Energy Security Commodity Volatility Geopolitical Risk Energy Transition Supply Chain Disruption

Kotak Mahindra Bank attracts \$2.1 billion peak demand for 5.47% five-year bonds

WHY IN NEWS Kotak Mahindra Bank successfully raised \$2.1 billion in demand for its first-ever debt issuance, highlighting strong global investor appetite for Indian corporate bonds.

- FACT** | Kotak Mahindra Bank's five-year bonds were priced at 5.47%.
- BODY** | S&P (Standard & Poor's) provided a 'BBB' rating for the bonds.
- BODY** | SEBI is the regulatory body preparing a consultation paper on corporate bond distribution.
- FACT** | One basis point (bps) is equal to 0.01 percentage point.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of deepening the corporate bond market in India and the role of regulatory reforms in enhancing retail participation.

USE: capital markets debt instruments basis points regulatory framework liquidity

Karnataka forms sub-committee to vet revised minimum wages

WHY IN NEWS The Karnataka government formed a Cabinet sub-committee to review minimum wage revisions scheduled for May 2026 in alignment with the Code on Wages, 2019.

ACT / BILL	Code on Wages, 2019: A central legislation aimed at simplifying and universalizing minimum wages, wages, and bonus.
FACT	The notification for minimum wage revisions is slated for May 22, 2026.
BODY	Cabinet Sub-committee: A smaller group of ministers appointed to examine specific issues in detail before a final Cabinet decision.

MAINS Q Discuss the impact of minimum wage revisions on industrial growth and labor welfare in India. How does the Code on Wages, 2019, aim to balance these competing interests?

USE: [Minimum Wage](#) [Code on Wages 2019](#) [Labor Welfare](#) [Industrial Investment](#) [Wage Revision](#)

Rural workers lose jobs as VB-G RAM G Act cuts employment by over 40%

WHY IN NEWS The VB-G RAM G Act has led to a significant decline in rural employment generation, dropping by over 40% compared to July 2025.

FACT	Employment generation under VB-G RAM G Act dropped by over 40% compared to July 2025.
FACT	Projected employment for July 2026 is around 9 crore person-days.
BODY	VB-G RAM G Act is a Union Government employment guarantee law.

MAINS Q Analyze the impact of legislative changes in employment guarantee schemes on rural livelihoods and the socio-economic stability of the agrarian workforce.

USE: [employment guarantee](#) [rural livelihoods](#) [socio-economic impact](#) [labor dynamics](#)

Science & Technology

2

China recovers Zhuque-3 rocket stage on land for first time

WHY IN NEWS China successfully recovered the first stage of the Zhuque-3 rocket on land for the first time, marking a milestone in reusable rocket technology.

S&T	Zhuque-3: A rocket developed by the private Chinese firm LandSpace.
S&T	Reusable rockets: Spacecraft designed to be launched multiple times to reduce costs and increase efficiency.
FACT	China's second recovery effort: The first was a sea platform retrieval in July.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of reusable rocket technology in reducing the cost of space exploration and its implications for global space competition.

USE: [Reusable technology](#) [Space exploration](#) [Cost-efficiency](#) [Aerospace engineering](#)

NASA Releases New SpaceX Falcon 9 Crater Images on Moon

WHY IN NEWS NASA released high-resolution images of a SpaceX Falcon 9 impact crater on the Moon, highlighting advancements in lunar surface observation and international space collaboration.

- S&T** | Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO): A NASA spacecraft designed to map the lunar surface.
- FACT** | The SpaceX Falcon 9 impact crater measures 60 feet wide and less than 10 feet deep.
- S&T** | KPLO: Korea Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter, used by the Korean space agency to share initial images.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of lunar exploration and the role of private-public partnerships in advancing space technology and lunar surface mapping.

USE: lunar exploration space technology public-private partnership orbital reconnaissance

Environment & Ecology

3

Kerala's Air Quality Worst in South India, Study Shows 25 Cities Failing PM10 Standards

WHY IN NEWS A CSTEP study revealed that Kerala has the highest local contribution to air pollution in South India, with 25 cities failing PM10 standards under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

- FACT** | Kerala's local contribution to air pollution in South India is 65%.
- FACT** | 25 cities in South India are classified as non-attainment under NCAP.
- BODY** | CSTEP (Council on Sustainable Ecological Systems and Technologies) conducted the study.
- SCHEME** | NCAP (National Clean Air Programme) targets cities with PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations exceeding specified limits.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in managing air quality at the 'airshed' level in India. Suggest measures to improve inter-state cooperation for pollution control.

USE: airshed management non-attainment cities source apportionment inter-state cooperation NCAP

Marine Worms Break Down Plastic-like Substances, Hinting at Natural Cleanup Capabilities

WHY IN NEWS Researchers discovered that marine worms like *Olavius algarvensis* possess enzymes to break down polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs), offering insights into natural biodegradation of bioplastics.

- S&T** | Olavius algarvensis: A marine worm species capable of breaking down polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs).
- S&T** | PHAs: Natural polymers produced by microorganisms that serve as a basis for bioplastics.
- BODY** | Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology: Research body involved in the study.

MAINS Q Discuss the potential of biological biodegradation in addressing the global plastic pollution crisis and the role of bioplastics in sustainable waste management.

USE: biodegradation bioplastics bioremediation marine microbiology carbon cycle

Great Pacific Garbage Patch: 79 Thousand Tons of Plastic Endangers Marine Life

WHY IN NEWS A study highlights the massive scale of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and the severe threat posed by microplastics and fishing nets to marine biodiversity.

- FACT** | Great Pacific Garbage Patch covers 1.6 million square kilometres.
- FACT** | Microplastics constitute 94% of the pieces but only 8% of the total mass.
- FACT** | Fishing nets account for at least 46% of the total mass of the patch.
- BODY** | NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) monitors marine debris and ocean health.

MAINS Q Discuss the ecological impact of marine plastic pollution and evaluate the challenges in implementing effective international cleanup strategies.

USE: marine debris microplastics biodiversity loss transboundary pollution oceanic ecosystem

Disaster Management

1

Odisha CM Announces ₹1,000-Crore Flood Relief Package for 9.4 Lakh Affected People

WHY IN NEWS Odisha CM announced a ₹1,000-crore relief package to address the impact of heavy rainfall and flooding on 9.4 lakh people.

- FACT** | Odisha received 1,100 mm of rainfall since June, which is 34% above the normal average.
- FACT** | The relief package covers 6 districts and targets 9.4 lakh affected people.
- FACT** | Relief measures include subsidies for farmers, artisans, and weavers.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in disaster management and rehabilitation in flood-prone states like Odisha. Suggest measures to enhance the resilience of rural livelihoods.

USE: disaster mitigation rehabilitation climate resilience socio-economic impact

Internal Security

1

Pakistani Cleric Claims Hafiz Saeed Sent 10,000 Terrorists to Kashmir

WHY IN NEWS A Pakistani cleric's claim regarding Hafiz Saeed sending 10,000 terrorists to Kashmir has reignited scrutiny over Lashkar-e-Taiba's (LeT) role in regional terrorism.

- FACT** | Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) is a Pakistan-based militant group.
- PLACE** | Pahalgam is a location in the Kashmir region.
- FACT** | Hafiz Saeed is the founder of the Lashkar-e-Taiba organization.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges posed by cross-border terrorism to India's internal security and the necessity of international cooperation in curbing such activities.

USE: asymmetric warfare cross-border terrorism non-state actors national security



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