

**SATYADHEESH**
सत्याधीश

UPSC DAILY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs • 26 August 2026**48**

NOTES

8

STORIES MERGED

GS2 • 28

GS3 • 20

PAPER MIX

CONTENTS**Every note, grouped by paper****GS2 Polity • Governance • Social Justice • IR**

28 notes

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GS3 Economy • S&T • Environment • Security

20 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.

Polity & Constitution

5

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

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M

26 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/114586](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/114586)

On July 27, Bombay High Court Justices Ajay Gadkari and Kamal Khata

WHY IN NEWS Bombay High Court directed the Union Government and UIDAI to amend the Aadhaar Act to facilitate the identification and deportation of illegal foreign nationals.

BODY	UIDAI: Unique Identification Authority of India, responsible for Aadhaar issuance
ACT / BILL	Aadhaar Act: The primary legislation governing the Aadhaar system in India
FACT	The court ordered a four-week timeline for investigation and deportation proceedings

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in ensuring the integrity of biometric identification systems and the legal implications of using such data for national security and deportation.

USE: Identity Theft National Security Data Integrity Judicial Oversight Deportation

CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENTS & BASIC STRUCTURE

P

26 Aug · NDTV · [satyadheesh.in/news/113910](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/113910)

Kerala Is Now Officially "Keralam", Centre Notifies New Name

WHY IN NEWS The Union Home Ministry notified 'Keralam' as the new name for the state of Kerala, effective August 25, 2026, following the passage of the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026.

ACT / BILL	Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026: Legislation to rename the state of Kerala to Keralam.
FACT	Effective date of the name change: August 25, 2026.
BODY	Union Home Ministry: The body responsible for notifying the name change and issuing the gazette notification.
POST	President of India: Gave assent to the Bill, turning it into an Act.

MAINS Q Discuss the constitutional provisions and legislative procedures involved in the renaming of a state in India. How does such a move impact federal relations?

USE: Federalism Legislative Procedure Constitutional Amendment State Identity Executive Notification

ELECTIONS, ECI & ELECTORAL REFORMS

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M

26 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/113858](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/113858)

Supreme Court Orders ECI to Detail 38 Lakh Electoral Roll Appeals

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to provide a detailed affidavit on 38 lakh pending and decided electoral roll appeals in West Bengal to ensure voter inclusivity.

BODY	Election Commission of India (ECI) is the constitutional body responsible for administering elections in India.
FACT	38 lakh total appeals were filed regarding electoral roll inclusions and exclusions in West Bengal.
FACT	7 lakh appeals were specifically filed by disenfranchised voters seeking reinclusion.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of maintaining an accurate and inclusive electoral roll in ensuring the principle of Universal Adult Franchise in India.

USE: Universal Adult Franchise Disenfranchisement Electoral Integrity Constitutional Mandate Inclusivity

Kumar to lead democracy drive: 1,000 delegates from 300 schools meet in Chennai

WHY IN NEWS Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar is chairing a regional conference in Chennai to promote electoral literacy and voter outreach among students and Booth Level Officers (BLOs).

- POST** | Gyanesh Kumar is the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India.
- BODY** | Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are the grassroots level officials responsible for voter list maintenance and election logistics.
- FACT** | The conference involves delegates from 300 schools, 75 colleges, and 25 universities.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of electoral literacy and the role of grassroots-level officers in ensuring a robust democratic process in India.

USE: electoral literacy voter outreach grassroots democracy constitutional literacy democratic participation

Karnataka electoral rolls slash 1.08 crore voters in unprecedented 19.5% drop

WHY IN NEWS Karnataka's draft electoral rolls showed an unprecedented 19.5% decline in voters following a Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

- FACT** | Karnataka saw a 19.5% decline in electoral rolls following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).
- FACT** | The total number of voters in Karnataka was reduced from 5.54 crore to 4.46 crore.
- FACT** | The revision affected 224 Assembly Constituencies in the state.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of periodic electoral roll revisions in ensuring the integrity of the democratic process and the challenges faced in maintaining accurate voter data.

USE: electoral integrity Special Intensive Revision voter disenfranchisement democratic accountability

Governance

6

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister scraps ₹27,400-crore Parandur airport project due to protests

WHY IN NEWS The Tamil Nadu government scrapped the ₹27,400-crore Parandur airport project following farmer protests, raising legal questions regarding the return of acquired land.

- FACT** | Project cost: ₹27,400 crore
- PLACE** | Parandur: Location of the proposed greenfield airport in Tamil Nadu
- ACT / BILL** | Land Acquisition Act: Governs the process of acquiring land for public purposes

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges of balancing large-scale infrastructure development with the rights of farmers and local communities in India. Suggest a way forward for land restitution.

USE: Land Acquisition Public Purpose Right to Livelihood Infrastructure Development Social Unrest

Uttar Pradesh approves rules for private workers: health checks, canteens, rest rooms mandated

WHY IN NEWS The Uttar Pradesh government approved the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Rules, 2026 to mandate safety and welfare facilities for private-sector workers.

ACT / BILL	Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Rules, 2026
FACT	Mandates include appointment letters, annual health check-ups, and canteens
PLACE	Noida is a key industrial area mentioned in the context of worker conditions

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of formalizing labor welfare rules for the private sector in ensuring the dignity of labor and industrial productivity.

USE: labor welfare occupational safety formalization industrial relations regulatory framework

On October 12, Tokhan Sahu, Minister of State for Housing and Urban

WHY IN NEWS Minister of State Tokhan Sahu chaired review meetings in Gurugram to address infrastructure bottlenecks and progress on AMRUT 2.0 and CITIIS 2.0 projects.

SCHEME	AMRUT 2.0: Aims to provide universal coverage of water supply and sewerage to urban households.
SCHEME	CITIIS 2.0: Focuses on creating smart cities and improving urban infrastructure.
FACT	₹71,133 crore allocated for sewerage projects under AMRUT 2.0.
PLACE	Gurugram: A major urban hub in Haryana facing infrastructure and metro connectivity challenges.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in urban infrastructure development in India and the role of schemes like AMRUT 2.0 in achieving sustainable urbanisation.

USE: urban infrastructure inter-agency coordination sustainable urbanisation bottlenecks public-private partnership

Minister R. Kumar Plans ₹5 Crore "Vettri Tamil Nadu Super App" for 500 Services

WHY IN NEWS The Tamil Nadu government announced the 'Vettri Tamil Nadu Super App' to provide a unified digital platform for 500 government services and an AI Advisory Council.

FACT	Vettri Tamil Nadu Super App aims to provide 500 government services via mobile.
FACT	The Cultural Digital Repository project is allocated a budget of ₹60 lakh.
S&T	The initiative includes the establishment of an AI Advisory Council.

MAINS Q Discuss how 'Super Apps' and AI-driven governance can enhance service delivery and transparency in Indian public administration.

USE: Digital India Service delivery Artificial Intelligence Transparency E-governance

Modi reviews Rs 30,000 crore infrastructure projects at PRAGATI meeting

WHY IN NEWS PM Modi chaired the 53rd PRAGATI meeting to review ₹30,000 crore infrastructure projects and discuss the Digital Agriculture Mission's AgriStack.

BODY	PRAGATI: A platform for monitoring and expediting infrastructure projects in India.
FACT	The 53rd PRAGATI meeting reviewed projects worth over ₹30,000 crore across nine states.
S&T	AgriStack: A key component of the Digital Agriculture Mission for farmer data integration.

MAINS Q Discuss how the PRAGATI platform exemplifies the use of technology and proactive monitoring to overcome bottlenecks in India's infrastructure development.

USE: pro-active governance infrastructure bottlenecks digital agriculture timely implementation capacity building

Karnataka KPSC Chairman Suspended Again in Recruitment Corruption Raids

WHY IN NEWS The Governor of Karnataka suspended the KPSC Chairman for the second time following allegations of recruitment corruption and Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids.

CONSTITUTION	Article 317 of the Constitution deals with the removal of members of the Commission and the High Court.
BODY	KPSC (Karnataka Public Service Commission) is a state-level body responsible for recruiting civil servants.
FACT	The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted raids on over 20 premises, including the KPSC office.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of transparency and integrity in the functioning of State Public Service Commissions to ensure merit-based recruitment in civil services.

USE: meritocracy accountability institutional integrity transparency administrative ethics

Social Justice

7

Andhra Pradesh became the first state in India to notify a comprehensive

WHY IN NEWS Andhra Pradesh became the first Indian state to notify a comprehensive framework for pedestrian safety and universal accessibility to improve infrastructure for the disabled and daily commuters.

PLACE	Andhra Pradesh is the first state to notify a comprehensive pedestrian safety and universal accessibility policy.
FACT	The policy was officially notified on August 26, 2026.
S&T	Universal accessibility refers to the design of products, buildings, and environments to be usable by all people, regardless of age, size, ability, or disability.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of universal accessibility in urban planning and infrastructure development for the empowerment of persons with disabilities in India.

USE: Universal Accessibility Inclusive Infrastructure Pedestrian Safety Urban Planning Social Inclusion

Tamil Nadu Banned Sex-Reassignment Surgeries on Intersex Minors in 2019

WHY IN NEWS The Tamil Nadu government's 2019 ban on non-emergency sex-reassignment surgeries on intersex minors highlights the legal and ethical protections for bodily autonomy of vulnerable groups.

PLACE	Madras High Court: The judicial body that ruled on the ban of sex-reassignment surgeries in Tamil Nadu.
FACT	Intersex conditions: Characterized by variations in sex development (DSD) or ambiguous genital anatomy.
BODY	The mandated panel includes a paediatric surgeon/urologist, endocrinologist, social worker/psychologist/intersex activist, and a government representative.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of protecting the bodily autonomy of intersex children and the role of state intervention in regulating invasive medical procedures.

USE: bodily autonomy vulnerable sections medical ethics intersex rights genetic infrastructure

Migrants Fight Maharashtra's Marathi Compulsion, Petition Bombay High Court

WHY IN NEWS A PIL was filed in the Bombay High Court challenging the Maharashtra government's mandate of compulsory Marathi language proficiency for commercial drivers

- FACT** | Approximately 9,65,000 rickshaw and taxi permit holders are affected by the notification.
- PLACE** | The petition was filed in the Bombay High Court against a Maharashtra state government notification.
- FACT** | The notification was issued by the Home (Transport) Department of Maharashtra.

MAINS Q Discuss the tension between state-led linguistic preservation policies and the fundamental right to livelihood and freedom of movement for internal migrants in India.

USE: Right to Livelihood Internal Migration Linguistic Policy Constitutional Validity Social Inclusion

High Court Rejects Student's Hijab Petition, Upholds School Uniform Policy

WHY IN NEWS The Allahabad High Court dismissed a student's petition to wear a hijab, upholding school uniform policies and prioritizing institutional discipline.

- PLACE** | Allahabad High Court: Located in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh
- FACT** | The court ruled that headscarf wearing is not an 'essential religious practice' for Muslim women
- FACT** | The ruling upheld the school's uniform policy over individual requests for modification

MAINS Q Discuss the balance between individual religious freedom and institutional discipline in educational settings in India.

USE: Institutional discipline Religious freedom Judicial precedent Uniformity Secularism

Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Approves Free Lifetime Bus Travel for Women 60+

WHY IN NEWS The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the Lokmata Ahilyabai Matrushakti Yojana to provide free lifetime bus travel for women aged 60 and above.

- SCHEME** | Lokmata Ahilyabai Matrushakti Yojana: Provides free lifetime bus travel for women aged 60+ in Uttar Pradesh.
- FACT** | Approximately 88,438 women are estimated to benefit daily from this scheme.
- BODY** | UPSRTC: Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation.

MAINS Q Discuss how targeted welfare schemes for senior women contribute to social empowerment and inclusivity in rural and urban India.

USE: social justice gender-inclusive development welfare schemes mobility rights

Madhya Pradesh launches SHIVAA to reduce snakebite deaths in 2025

WHY IN NEWS Madhya Pradesh is launching the SHIVAA digital platform to provide emergency guidance and connect citizens with trained rescuers to combat rising snakebite fatalities.

- FACT** | Snakebite deaths in MP rose from 12 in 2023-24 to 27 in 2025.
- BODY** | SHIVAA is a digital platform for snake rescue and emergency medical guidance.
- PLACE** | Wildlife Week in India is observed from October 2-8.
- FACT** | The platform tracks rescues to prevent illegal snake trade.

MAINS Q Discuss how digital interventions like the SHIVAA platform can improve emergency healthcare delivery and wildlife conservation in rural India.

USE: digital health emergency response wildlife conservation public health intervention

The Allahabad High Court on Monday ordered the Uttar Pradesh government

WHY IN NEWS The Allahabad High Court directed the UP government to relocate and rehabilitate the family of the Hathras gang rape victim to the Delhi-NCR region due to safety concerns.

- BODY** | Allahabad High Court: The highest judicial authority in the state of Uttar Pradesh.
- FACT** | The court mandated relocation to Ghaziabad or Noida within a three-month timeframe.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of the judiciary in ensuring the safety and rehabilitation of victims of heinous crimes in India. How can state mechanisms be strengthened to provide timely justice?

USE: judicial oversight victim rehabilitation state accountability human rights

International Relations

10

Doval, Wang discuss border cooperation in 25th round of talks in Beijing

WHY IN NEWS National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held the 25th round of Special Representatives' talks to discuss LAC delimitation and border cooperation.

- POST** | Ajit Doval serves as the National Security Advisor (NSA) of India
- PLACE** | The Line of Actual Control (LAC) is the de facto border between India and China
- FACT** | This meeting marked the 25th round of Special Representatives' talks on border issues

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges and opportunities in managing the India-China border dispute through diplomatic mechanisms like the Special Representatives' talks.

USE: strategic stability delimitation early harvest approach bilateral diplomacy border management

Oman, Iran Agree on Temporary Strait of Hormuz Corridor to Clear Mines

WHY IN NEWS Oman and Iran agreed to establish a temporary joint navigation corridor in the Strait of Hormuz to clear mines and ensure the flow of global oil markets.

- PLACE** | Strait of Hormuz: A strategic waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- FACT** | The Strait of Hormuz is a primary transit point for a significant portion of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports.
- POST** | Badr Albusaidi is the Foreign Minister of Oman; Abbas Araghchi is the Foreign Minister of Iran.

MAINS Q Analyze the significance of the Strait of Hormuz in global energy security and discuss the implications of maritime cooperation between Oman and Iran.

USE: Maritime Security Energy Chokepoint Geopolitics Bilateral Cooperation Trade Facilitation

Nepal floods kill 95, leave 384 missing including 105 Indian nationals

WHY IN NEWS Flash floods in Nepal's Rasuwa district caused significant casualties, including 105 Indian nationals, highlighting the impact of climate-induced disasters on the India-Nepal corridor.

- PLACE** | Rasuwa district: A district in Nepal located near the Tibet border.
- FACT** | Bhotekoshi River: A major river in Nepal that experienced a sudden surge causing flash floods.
- FACT** | Casualties: 95 deaths and 384 missing including 105 Indian nationals as of August 26, 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of regional cooperation in disaster management between India and Nepal, especially in the face of increasing climate-induced flash floods.

USE: trans-boundary cooperation HADR climate resilience regional stability

Keralam sets up help desk as floods claim over 100 lives in Nepal

WHY IN NEWS The Kerala government and the Indian Embassy established help desks and helplines to assist Keralites and Indians stranded in Nepal due to devastating flash floods.

- BODY** | NoRKA: Non-Resident Keralites' Affairs (Kerala) Bill, 1984 established the body to look after the welfare of Keralites living abroad.
- BODY** | NoRKA-Roots: The field agency of NoRKA responsible for providing services to the diaspora.
- FACT** | The Indian Embassy in Nepal is the primary diplomatic mission providing consular assistance to Indian nationals in the country.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of diplomatic missions and state-sponsored diaspora bodies in providing humanitarian assistance during natural disasters in neighboring countries.

USE: humanitarian assistance diaspora welfare bilateral cooperation disaster management

IAF Ready to Deploy for Nepal Floods: C-17, C-130 Set to Transport Relief Supplies

WHY IN NEWS The Indian Air Force (IAF) and NDRF are ready to deploy relief and rescue missions to Nepal following devastating flash floods.

- S&T** | C-17 Globemaster III: A large military transport aircraft used for heavy cargo and medical evacuation.
- S&T** | C-130 Hercules: A multi-mission tactical transport aircraft capable of landing on short, unprepared runways.
- BODY** | NDRF: National Disaster Response Force, a specialized force for disaster management in India.
- PLACE** | Nepal: A landlocked country in South Asia, a key neighbor of India.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of India's 'Neighborhood First' policy in the context of disaster management and humanitarian assistance in South Asia.

USE: Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Management Neighborhood First Soft Power Logistics

Strait Authority Blacklists 45 Vessels, At Least 14 Attacked Since February Conflicts Erupted

WHY IN NEWS The Persian Gulf Strait Authority blacklisted 45 vessels, including an Indian-owned bulk carrier, for violating Iranian transit protocols in the Strait of Hormuz.

- PLACE** | Strait of Hormuz: A strategic maritime passage connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- FACT** | 45 vessels were blacklisted by the Persian Gulf Strait Authority for violating transit protocols.
- FACT** | The Indian-owned bulk carrier Maha Roos was among the vessels blacklisted.
- FACT** | Blacklisted vessels face penalties including fines or seizure.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the Strait of Hormuz in global energy security and the implications of maritime security threats on India's trade routes.

USE: Maritime Security Chokepoint Energy Security Trade Routes Geopolitics

FBI Warns Sikh Activist Pannun of New Credible Threat, Restricts Travel

WHY IN NEWS The FBI and RCMP issued a credible threat warning to Sikh activist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, highlighting ongoing security concerns and diplomatic friction between Canada and India.

- POST** | Gurpatwant Singh Pannun: General counsel of Sikhs For Justice (SFJ)
- FACT** | Hardeep Singh Nijjar was assassinated in June 2023, leading to diplomatic tensions between Canada and India
- FACT** | Nikhil Gupta pleaded guilty to federal conspiracy charges for a plot to assassinate Pannun

MAINS Q Discuss the impact of transnational activities by non-state actors on bilateral relations and national security between India and Canada.

USE: transnational crime bilateral friction non-state actors extraterritoriality national security

US Sanctions Four Indian Firms, Three Nationals Over Iran Trade

WHY IN NEWS The US State Department sanctioned four Indian firms and three nationals for facilitating trade with Iran's petroleum and petrochemical sectors under 'Operation Economic Outcast'.

- FACT** | Sadashiva Overseas Ltd was sanctioned for importing petroleum valued at approximately \$69 million from Iran.
- FACT** | PP Softtech and Prakrutees Infra Impex India Pvt Ltd were sanctioned for importing goods worth approximately \$25 million each.
- BODY** | The US State Department is the body responsible for imposing these economic sanctions.
- FACT** | Operation Economic Outcast targets 60 individuals, entities, and vessels in total.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of unilateral economic sanctions on India's trade relations and its strategic autonomy in the Middle East.

USE: economic sanctions strategic autonomy petrochemical trade geopolitical alignment

UN committee calls for addressing 'hate speech' and 'hate crimes' in India

WHY IN NEWS India rejected the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD) findings regarding human rights violations against marginalized groups and refugees.

- BODY** | UNCERD: UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- POST** | Solicitor General: The highest ranking law officer of the Government of India
- FACT** | The news pertains to the 11th periodic review of the UNCERD

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges India faces in balancing international human rights obligations with domestic socio-political realities regarding marginalized communities.

USE: Human Rights Sovereignty Constitutional Protections International Oversight Marginalized Communities

UK, Andhra sign ₹40,000 crore pact for Amaravati's urban makeover

WHY IN NEWS Andhra Pradesh and the UK signed a ₹40,000 crore MoU to collaborate on urban development, sustainability, and infrastructure for Amaravati.

- FACT** | The total value of the urban development pact is ₹40,000 crore.
- PLACE** | Amaravati is the planned capital city of Andhra Pradesh.
- FACT** | The agreement covers cooperation across 123 municipalities.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of international partnerships in accelerating urban infrastructure development and sustainable city planning in India.

USE: urban infrastructure technology transfer sustainability bilateral cooperation

Economy

8

INFRASTRUCTURE (ENERGY, PORTS, ROADS, RAILWAYS) P

26 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/114272

Construction for India's first bullet train on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor

WHY IN NEWS The progress of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) corridor construction marks a milestone in India's high-speed rail infrastructure development.

- FACT** | The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) is India's first bullet train project.
- PLACE** | The project covers a 135.45-km elevated stretch in the Thane and Palghar districts of Maharashtra.
- FACT** | Phased operations for the bullet train are expected to commence in 2029.
- FACT** | The target date for the first bullet train operation is August 15, 2027.

MAINS Q Discuss how high-speed rail corridors can act as catalysts for regional economic development and industrial growth in India.

USE: infrastructure development multimodal connectivity economic corridor urban-rural linkage

MONETARY POLICY, RBI & BANKING P M

26 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/114107

UPI Surges Past Rs 314 Lakh Crore in Payments Since Launch

WHY IN NEWS UPI reached a milestone of ₹314 lakh crore in payments, highlighting its role as a cornerstone of India's digital public infrastructure.

- BODY** | NPCI: The body responsible for operating the UPI infrastructure in India.
- FACT** | UPI reached a cumulative payment volume of ₹314 lakh crore in 2025-26.
- FACT** | UPI currently supports over 55 crore users and 6.5 crore merchants.
- S&T** | UPI is an interoperable, real-time payment system enabling fee-free transactions.

MAINS Q Discuss how the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has contributed to financial inclusion and the formalization of the Indian economy.

USE: Digital Public Infrastructure Financial Inclusion Interoperability Formalization Real-time Payments

GROWTH, INFLATION & MACRO INDICATORS P M

26 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/113821

India Leads in Real-Time Payments but Faces Gender Gap in Digital Usage

WHY IN NEWS India's leadership in real-time payments via UPI is contrasted by a significant gender gap in digital banking adoption.

- BODY** | NPCI: National Payments Corporation of India, the body responsible for UPI.
- FACT** | Women's bank account ownership in India stands at approximately 89%.
- FACT** | Online banking usage: 25.2% for women vs 47.1% for men.
- S&T** | UPI: A real-time payment system facilitating instant money transfers.

MAINS Q Despite high bank account ownership, why does a significant gender gap persist in digital payment adoption in India? Suggest measures to bridge this divide.

USE: financial inclusion digital divide gender parity real-time payments technological leapfrogging

New LPG connections still on hold due to latest flare-ups in West Asia

WHY IN NEWS Shortage of new 14.2 kg LPG cylinder connections in major cities due to the West Asia conflict affecting supply chains.

- FACT** | India currently imports 67% of its LPG from the United States.
- BODY** | The Union Petroleum Ministry oversees the distribution and supply of LPG in India.
- FACT** | Average pending applications for new LPG connections are 100–120 per state.

MAINS Q Analyze how geopolitical conflicts in West Asia impact India's energy security and the stability of domestic commodity markets.

USE: Energy Security Supply Chain Geopolitical Risk Import Dependency

India, the world's largest sugar consumer, is importing 1 million tonnes

WHY IN NEWS India is importing 1 million tonnes of sugar for the first time in nearly a decade to counter a 40% price surge and supply shortages.

- FACT** | India's sugar production is estimated at 30.6 million tonnes.
- FACT** | Sugar prices surged by 40% leading to the decision to import 1 million tonnes.
- S&T** | El Niño is cited as a climatic factor affecting rainfall and subsequent sugar production.
- FACT** | Sugar imports are permitted through special economic zones starting September 1st.

MAINS Q Analyze the factors contributing to the volatility of sugar prices in India and discuss the role of government intervention in stabilizing agricultural commodity markets.

USE: supply-side constraints price volatility import liberalization climatic resilience market intervention

India-Japan 'Shark Tank'-style pitch series proposed to boost startup ties

WHY IN NEWS Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal proposed a 'Shark Tank'-style pitch series to facilitate direct investment and collaboration between Indian startups and Japanese investors.

- FACT** | The initiative aims to facilitate investment in deeptech and precision engineering.
- POST** | Piyush Goyal is the current Minister of Commerce and Industry of India.
- FACT** | The proposal was discussed during a roundtable meeting on August 26, 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss how fostering startup ecosystems and deeptech collaboration can enhance India's economic ties with developed economies like Japan.

USE: Deeptech Precision Engineering Startup Ecosystem Bilateral Investment Commercial Ties

AERA cuts Hyderabad airport user fee for domestic passengers by over 30%

WHY IN NEWS AERA reduced the user development fee (UDF) for domestic and international passengers at Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport to ease costs.

- BODY** | AERA: The statutory body responsible for regulating tariffs and charges at airports in India.
- FACT** | Hyderabad Airport domestic UDF reduction: Over 30% (from ₹750 to ₹515).
- FACT** | Hyderabad Airport international UDF reduction: From ₹1,500 to ₹1,030.
- FACT** | Effective date of new tariff: September 1, 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of regulatory bodies in balancing infrastructure development costs with passenger affordability in the aviation sector.

USE: regulatory framework cost recovery infrastructure development tariff regulation

Tamil Nadu forms Revenue Augmentation Committee to boost own-tax revenues

WHY IN NEWS Tamil Nadu formed a Revenue Augmentation Committee to enhance fiscal self-reliance by strengthening own-tax and non-tax revenue streams.

- FACT** | Revenue Augmentation Committee: State-level body in Tamil Nadu to boost fiscal self-reliance.
- POST** | Montek Singh Ahluwalia: Chairman of the Revenue Augmentation Committee.
- FACT** | Revenue Buoyancy: A measure of the increase in tax revenue relative to the increase in GDP.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of fiscal self-reliance for state governments in India and the challenges involved in plugging revenue leakages.

USE: fiscal self-reliance revenue buoyancy leakage plugging fiscal autonomy tax administration

Agriculture

2

Minister Announces Dashboard to Track 224 Constituency Groundwater Projects

WHY IN NEWS The Minister for Minor Irrigation announced a dashboard to track groundwater recharge projects across 224 constituencies to improve water levels.

- FACT** | Minor Irrigation Department budget allocation: ₹3,333 crore for 2026-27
- PLACE** | Shirpur model: A groundwater recharge model from Maharashtra
- FACT** | Target: Filling 925 out of 3,810 tanks under the jurisdiction
- S&T** | Groundwater recharge methods include constructing check dams and filling tanks

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of decentralized groundwater management and the role of community-led models in ensuring water security in India.

USE: groundwater recharge water security decentralized management irrigation potential sustainable agriculture

Farmers challenge Bidadi land acquisition, seek stay over Social Impact Assessment bypass

WHY IN NEWS Farmers challenged the Bidadi Integrated Township Project in Karnataka, alleging the state government bypassed mandatory Social Impact Assessment (SIA) requirements under the 2013 Land Acquisition Act.

- ACT / BILL** | Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (LARR Act)
- FACT** | Social Impact Assessment (SIA) is a mandatory requirement under the 2013 Act for land acquisition.
- BODY** | High Court of Karnataka

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of Social Impact Assessment (SIA) in ensuring equitable land acquisition and protecting the rights of rural communities in India.

USE: Social Impact Assessment LARR Act 2013 procedural transparency rehabilitation judicial review

DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

P

M

26 Aug · Al Jazeera · satyadheesh.in/news/114417

DRDO missile tech transferred to private firms, ending Bharat Dynamics' monopoly

WHY IN NEWS Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the transfer of DRDO missile technologies to private firms to break Bharat Dynamics' monopoly and boost domestic manufacturing.

BODY | DRDO: Defence Research and Development Organisation, the R&D wing of the Ministry of Defence.

FACT | The move ends the production monopoly previously held by Bharat Dynamics.

S&T | The initiative focuses on domestic production of missile technologies to reduce import dependency.

MAINS Q Discuss how the liberalization of the defence production sector and technology transfer from DRDO to private firms can enhance India's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' goals.

USE: Atmanirbhar Bharat indigenization MSME integration technological sovereignty defence manufacturing

SPACE TECHNOLOGY (ISRO, MISSIONS)

P

26 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/114128

NASA's \$4 billion Roman Space Telescope set to launch Sunday, nine months early

WHY IN NEWS NASA is launching the \$4 billion Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope nine months ahead of schedule to study dark energy and dark matter.

S&T | Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope: Designed to study dark energy, dark matter, and exoplanets.

FACT | The project cost is approximately \$4 billion.

PLACE | Lagrange Point 2: The orbital location where the telescope will operate.

S&T | Falcon Heavy: The SpaceX rocket vehicle used for the launch.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of space-based observatories in advancing our understanding of fundamental physics and the evolution of the universe.

USE: dark matter dark energy exoplanets orbital mechanics space exploration

IT, AI, SEMICONDUCTORS & COMPUTING

P

26 Aug · Times of India · satyadheesh.in/news/114186

Robot Built Without Motors Thanks to Ketchup Bottle Cap Study

WHY IN NEWS Researchers at Princeton Engineering developed a magnetically controlled robot that maintains stable shapes without motors by applying mathematical principles derived from ketchup bottle caps.

S&T | Pseudocoeloms: Structural features in curved shells that allow for multiple stable configurations.

S&T | Magnetically controlled robots: Robotics that utilize external magnetic fields for movement and shape-shifting.

FACT | The research was conducted at Princeton Engineering and published in June 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss how advancements in soft robotics and biomimetic engineering can revolutionize industrial automation and disaster management operations.

USE: soft robotics biomimicry structural stability mechanical simplification autonomous systems

Meghalaya Assembly Rejects Uranium Mining, Backing Decades of Local Protest

WHY IN NEWS The Meghalaya Legislative Assembly passed a resolution opposing uranium mining to address local concerns over health, environmental degradation, and displacement.

- PLACE | Domiasiat, Wahkyn, and Nongstoin are identified uranium-bearing regions in Meghalaya.
- FACT | The resolution was tabled by Chief Minister Conrad Sangma in the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly.

MAINS Q Discuss the conflict between national mineral extraction goals and local environmental rights in India. How can the state balance industrial development with community-led conservation?

USE:

Environmental justice

Sustainable development

Public resistance

Resource governance

Europe scorches in record heatwave while India puzzles scientists with relative coolness

WHY IN NEWS Scientists are analyzing why India experienced relatively lower temperatures compared to Europe's record-breaking heatwave, highlighting the role of irrigation and pollution.

- S&T | Albedo effect: Air pollution can reflect sunlight, potentially cooling surface temperatures.
- FACT | Irrigation systems increase evaporation, which can influence local and regional temperature profiles.
- ENVIRONMENT | Heatwaves are a primary driver of agricultural collapse and heat-related health emergencies.

MAINS Q Discuss how anthropogenic factors like irrigation and air pollution influence regional climate patterns and the long-term implications of these factors on India's climate resilience.

USE:

Albedo effect

Climate resilience

Anthropogenic factors

Evaporative cooling

Heat stress

Red panda cubs Nuba and Numa born after 7-year gap at Sikkim park

WHY IN NEWS The birth of Red Panda cubs (Nuba and Numa) at Sikkim's Himalayan Zoological Park marks a significant milestone in the conservation of an endangered species after a seven-year gap.

- ENVIRONMENT | Red pandas (*Ailurus fulgens*) are primarily herbivores and use their bushy tails for balance and warmth.
- FACT | The global population of red pandas is estimated to be fewer than 10,000 individuals.
- PLACE | The Himalayan Zoological Park is located near Gangtok, Sikkim.
- FACT | Approximately 50% of the red panda's habitat is located in the Eastern Himalayas.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced in ex-situ conservation of endangered species in India and suggest measures to ensure the long-term viability of captive breeding programmes.

USE:

ex-situ conservation

biodiversity loss

captive breeding

biosecurity

endangered species

Black-necked Storks Thrive in Gujarat Sanctuary, Producing Eight Fledglings

WHY IN NEWS A GEER Foundation study confirmed Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary as a critical breeding site for Black-necked Storks, highlighting successful reproduction due to stable hydrology.

ENVIRONMENT	Black-necked Storks are a significant avian species in Gujarat's wetlands.
PLACE	Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary is located in the Jamnagar district of Gujarat.
ENVIRONMENT	Neltuma juliflora is an invasive plant species used by storks for nesting.
FACT	The study recorded zero nest abandonment or chick mortality during the observation period.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of hydrological stability and habitat management in the conservation of migratory and resident avian species in India's wetlands.

USE: [habitat restoration](#) [invasive species](#) [biodiversity conservation](#) [hydrological stability](#)

Disaster Management

1

Shah Alerts Bihar, UP: Floodwaters Loom as NDRF Prepares

WHY IN NEWS Union Home Minister Amit Shah alerted Bihar and UP regarding potential flash flood impacts from Nepal's Trishuli river via the Gandak river system.

BODY	NDRF: National Disaster Response Force is the specialized force for disaster management in India.
BODY	CWC: Central Water Commission is the apex body for water resources and flood forecasting in India.
PLACE	Trishuli River: A major river in Nepal whose floodwaters can impact the Gandak river system.
FACT	The flash flood originated in Nepal and posed a risk to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of transboundary water management and early warning systems in mitigating flood disasters in the Indo-Gangetic plains.

USE: [disaster mitigation](#) [transboundary water](#) [early warning](#) [inter-state coordination](#)

Internal Security

2

India MHA Developing Tech-Driven Border System, Pilot Starts Soon on Pakistan Border

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is launching a pilot project for a tech-driven 'smart border' command-and-control system on the Pakistan border to enhance surveillance and counter drone threats.

BODY	Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is the nodal ministry for internal security and border management.
S&T	The 'smart border' architecture utilizes Artificial Intelligence (AI) and sensor-based surveillance.
FACT	India's land border with China spans approximately 3,488 km.
POST	The Union Home Minister oversees the implementation of the four-pronged border strategy.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of integrating advanced technologies like AI and sensors in managing India's diverse and challenging border terrains.

USE: [smart border](#) [command-and-control](#) [asymmetric warfare](#) [surveillance architecture](#) [technological integration](#)

Iridium signal detected in J&K forest; SOG, Army launch massive search operation

WHY IN NEWS Security forces launched a massive search operation in Samba, J&K, after detecting an Iridium satellite communication signal near the International Border with Pakistan.

- PLACE** | Samba district is located in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- S&T** | Iridium is a commercial satellite constellation providing global mobile voice and data services.
- FACT** | The operation involved the use of drones for surveillance in forested terrain.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges posed by advanced satellite communication technologies in maintaining border security and counter-terrorism operations in the Jammu and Kashmir region.

USE : asymmetric warfare signal intelligence border management surveillance technology



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