

UPSC Current Affairs — 10 July 2026

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Indian Society

Urbanisation · Prelims + Mains

Best of Both Sides: Beyond childcare, four barriers to female participation in cities

Why in news: The National Statistics Office reported a rise in female labor force participation in Indian cities, highlighting persistent structural barriers to gender parity in urban workforces.

Key facts: Female labor force participation in India's million-plus cities rose from 19.8% in 2017-18 to 27.2% in 2025. Despite this growth, a significant gender gap persists compared to male participation rates.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Female labor force participation in million-plus cities: 27.2% as of 2025
- **Fact:** Female labor force participation in million-plus cities: 19.8% in 2017-18
- **Body:** National Statistics Office (NSO) is the body responsible for reporting these labor statistics

Mains question: Analyze the structural and socio-economic barriers that hinder full female participation in urban labor markets despite rising participation trends in India.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/80839

Geography

Geophysical phenomena (earthquakes, cyclones, volcanoes) · Prelims

Monsoon Showers Cause Over Ten Fatalities, Widespread Destruction in India

Why in news: Torrential monsoon rains on July 9, 2026, caused over ten fatalities and significant infrastructure damage across Delhi, Arunachal Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh.

Key facts: Heavy rainfall led to floods and landslides in Himachal Pradesh, including the submergence of a 100-foot iron bridge in Kinnaur. The event caused widespread destruction of property and uprooted trees in urban and hilly regions.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Kinnaur: A district in Himachal Pradesh prone to landslides and flash floods.
- **Fact:** July 9, 2026: Date of the heavy monsoon rainfall causing widespread destruction.
- **Environment:** Monsoon: The seasonal wind system in India characterized by heavy rainfall and high humidity.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges in disaster-resilient infrastructure development in the Himalayan region amidst increasing frequency of extreme weather events.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/80923

Kerala HC to hear suo motu proceedings on July 2024 landslide in Wayanad

Why in news: The Kerala High Court initiated suo motu proceedings to examine the causes and regulatory failures leading to the July 2024 Wayanad landslides.

Key facts: The Kerala High Court took suo motu cognizance in August 2024 following litigation on quarrying and construction. The court has scheduled a hearing for July 10, 2026, to review the state's developmental policies.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Wayanad: A district in the Western Ghats of Kerala prone to landslides.
- **Body:** Kerala High Court: The judicial body overseeing the suo motu proceedings.
- **Fact:** The court hearing is scheduled for July 10, 2026.

Mains question: Discuss the conflict between developmental activities and ecological preservation in the Western Ghats, highlighting the need for a robust environmental impact assessment framework.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/80860](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/80860)

GS2 · Polity · Governance · IR · 11

Polity & Constitution

Elections, ECI & electoral reforms · Prelims

ECI officials review SIR process in Visakhapatnam

Why in news: Election Commission of India (ECI) officials conducted a field visit to Visakhapatnam to review the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to ensure accuracy in voter data.

Key facts: The ECI officials, including Principal Secretary Avinash Kumar and Under Secretary Sanjay Kumar, inspected polling stations and mapped voter lists in Visakhapatnam. The review involved interaction with voters and coordination with the GVMC Commissioner and Electoral Registration Officers (EROs).

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Election Commission of India (ECI) is the constitutional body responsible for administering elections to Parliament and State Legislatures.
- **Post:** Principal Secretary and Under Secretary are administrative ranks within the ECI secretariat.
- **Fact:** Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is a process to update and verify the accuracy of electoral rolls.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of periodic electoral roll revisions in ensuring the integrity of the democratic process in India.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/80706](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/80706)

Governance

Transparency, accountability & RTI · Prelims + Mains

Supreme Court cites blazes in Delhi, Lucknow; questions civic bodies on unauthorised buildings

Why in news: The Supreme Court questioned the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and other civic bodies for failing to regulate unauthorized constructions following fatal fires in Delhi and Lucknow.

Key facts: The Supreme Court warned top officials of personal liability for non-compliance with fire safety directives. The court ordered an investigation into the MCD's failure to act on previous orders regarding overcrowded, unauthorized buildings.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** MCD: Municipal Corporation of Delhi is the primary local government body responsible for civic administration in Delhi.
- **Post:** The Supreme Court has the power of judicial review to oversee the implementation of safety regulations by civic bodies.
- **Fact:** The court's intervention was triggered by fatal fires linked to overcrowded buildings lacking fire safety measures.

Mains question: Critically examine the challenges in enforcing building bylaws and fire safety norms in rapidly urbanizing Indian cities. Suggest measures to ensure accountability of civic bodies.

Social Justice

Education policy · Prelims

2,000 new Karnataka Public Schools in State

Why in news: The Karnataka government announced a plan to establish 2,000 Karnataka Public Schools to improve rural education access through a CSR-funded model.

Key facts: The Karnataka government plans to build 2,000 schools, with each school serving three gram panchayats. The first phase involves 800 schools at a cost of ₹10 crore to ₹15 crore each, funded via Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** The first phase of the Karnataka Public Schools project involves the construction of 800 schools.
- **Fact:** The estimated cost per school for the new Karnataka Public Schools is between ₹10 crore and ₹15 crore.
- **Body:** CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funds are the primary funding mechanism for the initial phase of this initiative.
- **Place:** The initiative targets rural areas where each school will serve three gram panchayats.

Mains question: Discuss how the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model and CSR funding can bridge the infrastructure gap in rural public education in India.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/80838](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/80838)

Vulnerable sections (SC/ST, minorities, disabled, elderly, children) · Prelims

Panchayat in Kannur launches volunteer disaster response force

Why in news: Chengalayi grama panchayat in Kerala launched 'Sajjam', a volunteer disaster response force to enhance community-led disaster preparedness.

Key facts: The initiative aims to equip over 90% of residents with life-saving skills. A 100-member volunteer force was established and trained by the Fire and Rescue Services. The project targets becoming Kerala's first 'fully safety-literate panchayat' by December 31, 2026.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Sajjam: A volunteer disaster response force launched by Chengalayi grama panchayat, Kerala.
- **Fact:** Target: Equip over 90% of residents with life-saving skills and disaster preparedness knowledge.
- **Fact:** Timeline: Goal to become a 'fully safety-literate panchayat' by December 31, 2026.
- **Post:** Training provided by the Fire and Rescue Services to volunteers, students, and autorickshaw drivers.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of community-led disaster management models in enhancing grassroots resilience against climate-induced disasters in India.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/80658](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/80658)

Education policy · Prelims + Mains

90 government higher educational institutions closed in Karnataka in 2023-24: AISHE report

Why in news: The AISHE report for 2023-24 revealed a significant decline in the number of government colleges in Karnataka, highlighting concerns over infrastructure and funding.

Key facts: The All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) reported a drop from 701 government colleges in 2022-23 to 611 in 2023-24 in Karnataka. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) reached 39.6% in 2023-24, showing a 2.3% increase from the previous year.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** AISHE: All India Survey on Higher Education is the primary source for higher education statistics in India.
- **Fact:** Karnataka GER: The Gross Enrolment Ratio in Karnataka reached 39.6% in 2023-24.
- **Fact:** College count: Karnataka saw a decrease from 701 government colleges in 2022-23 to 611 in 2023-24.

Mains question: Analyze the factors leading to the closure of government higher educational institutions and discuss their impact on equitable access to education in India.

International Relations

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains

India, Australia strike deal on uranium exports, deepen ties across nuclear and maritime sectors

Why in news: India and Australia signed a landmark agreement on July 9, 2026, to facilitate the commercial supply of uranium from Australia to India for nuclear power projects.

Key facts: The pact was signed by PM Narendra Modi and PM Anthony Albanese on July 9, 2026. It covers three key sectors: civil nuclear energy, maritime security, and critical minerals. This follows the historic civil nuclear cooperation pact signed nearly 12 years prior.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Uranium supply agreement signed on July 9, 2026
- **Body:** Australia is a key supplier of uranium for India's civil nuclear power projects
- **Place:** The agreement aims to ensure peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region
- **Fact:** The pact covers three specific sectors: civil nuclear energy, maritime security, and critical minerals

Mains question: Examine how the deepening of India-Australia ties in the nuclear and maritime sectors contributes to the strategic stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/80794

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains

Iran-US tensions boil over as Washington hits Tehran with two nights of strikes

Why in news: The US conducted airstrikes on Iranian targets in retaliation for attacks on shipping vessels, leading to a significant escalation of regional tensions.

Key facts: President Donald Trump ordered airstrikes on Iranian targets following attacks on US-owned shipping vessels. Iran retaliated by striking targets linked to US allies Kuwait and Qatar, alleging US strikes near its civilian nuclear plant.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Kuwait and Qatar: Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states and key US allies in the Middle East
- **Fact:** Iran's civilian nuclear plant: A primary site of international monitoring regarding Iran's nuclear program
- **Post:** Donald Trump: Served as the 45th President of the United States

Mains question: Analyze the impact of escalating US-Iran tensions on the maritime security of the Persian Gulf and the stability of global energy supply chains.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/80833

India's bilateral relations · Prelims

Iran's Khamenei buried in Mashhad four months after US-Israeli strikes killed him

Why in news: The burial of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Mashhad follows his death in US-Israeli airstrikes, marking a significant shift in Middle Eastern leadership.

Key facts: Ayatollah Ali Khamenei ruled Iran for nearly 37 years before his death in airstrikes on February 28th. He was buried at the Imam Reza Shrine in Mashhad, a primary holy site for Shia Islam.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Mashhad: A city in northeastern Iran and a major center for Shia Islam.
- **Post:** Supreme Leader: The highest-ranking political and religious authority in the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- **Fact:** Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's tenure: Approximately 37 years of rule.

Mains question: Analyze the implications of the leadership transition in Iran on the geopolitical stability of the Middle East and India's energy security.

Source: Times of India · satyadheesh.in/news/80823

Rainfall in eastern river basins down 20% since 1951: Study on water availability in Indus river system

Why in news: A study by Vimal Mishra and Urmin Vegad highlights a 20% decline in rainfall in eastern Indus basin rivers since 1951, providing a scientific basis for India to renegotiate the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan.

Key facts: The study compares precipitation trends between 1951 and 2024, noting a 20% decline in eastern rivers versus a 6% decline in western rivers. It identifies significant groundwater depletion in the Sutlej and Ravi sub-basins while noting better availability in the Chenab, Jhelum, and Indus basins.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Rainfall in eastern Indus basin rivers declined by 20% between 1951 and 2024.
- **Fact:** Western rivers of the Indus basin saw a 6% reduction in precipitation during the same period.
- **Place:** Sutlej and Ravi sub-basins are identified as areas with significant groundwater depletion.
- **Body:** Indus Waters Treaty (1960) governs the distribution of three perennial rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) and three tributaries (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej).

Mains question: Discuss how climate-induced hydrological changes in the Indus Basin necessitate a review of the Indus Waters Treaty to ensure equitable water sharing.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/80765

A global crackdown and a chance for India

Why in news: The Royal Canadian Mounted Police launched 'Operation Hard Ball' to dismantle transnational crime syndicates, notably finding no evidence of Indian involvement in the Nijjar assassination.

Key facts: Operation Hard Ball is a collaborative effort between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and multiple international agencies. The investigation focused on transnational criminal networks and their reach into the Indian diaspora.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP): The national police service of Canada.
- **Fact:** Operation Hard Ball: A multi-agency international crackdown on transnational crime syndicates.
- **Post:** Hardeep Singh Nijjar: Identified as a Khalistani separatist involved in the assassination investigation.

Mains question: Examine how international cooperation in dismantling transnational crime syndicates can enhance India's internal security and bilateral relations with Western nations.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/80850

Power ministry mulls advisory amid El Niño uncertainty

Why in news: The Power Ministry is drafting an advisory to mitigate the impact of El Niño on India's power generation and water availability following PMO directives.

Key facts: The Power Ministry is preparing an advisory to ensure fuel and water availability for power generation. The initiative aims to prevent outages, safeguard critical assets, and manage agricultural demand by shifting it to solar hours during El Niño-induced monsoon fluctuations.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** El Niño: A climate pattern characterized by the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
- **Fact:** Power Ministry: Responsible for the planning and development of the power sector in India.
- **S&T:** Solar hours: Periods during the day when solar radiation is sufficient for photovoltaic power generation.

Mains question: Analyze the impact of climate phenomena like El Niño on India's energy security and suggest measures to ensure grid stability during monsoon fluctuations.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/80631

Economy

Industry, investment & MSMEs · Prelims

Government waives import duty on inputs for manufacturing batteries, display assemblies

Why in news: The Union Finance Ministry exempted customs duty on 85 capital goods and specific inputs for lithium-ion cells and mobile phone components to boost domestic electronics manufacturing.

Key facts: The exemption applies to 85 capital goods for lithium-ion cell manufacturing and inputs for display assemblies and inductor-coil modules. The duty waiver is valid until March 2029 to lower production costs and encourage domestic value addition.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Exemption covers 85 specific capital goods for lithium-ion cell manufacturing.
- **Fact:** Duty waiver is valid until March 2029.
- **Fact:** Inputs exempted include display assemblies and inductor-coil modules for wireless charging.

Mains question: Discuss how fiscal incentives like import duty waivers contribute to India's goal of becoming a global electronics manufacturing hub.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/80648

Capital markets & SEBI · Prelims

Sebi Approves Mutual Funds to Borrow Intraday for Unitholder Payouts

Why in news: SEBI approved new rules allowing Asset Management Companies (AMCs) to use intraday borrowing to facilitate unitholder payouts and manage liquidity.

Key facts: SEBI's new framework allows mutual funds to borrow against both guaranteed receivables (e.g., RBI inflows, subscription money) and non-guaranteed receivables expected by the end of the day. AMCs are mandated to maintain detailed records of liquidity mismatches and repayment sources.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** SEBI: The primary regulator for the securities and capital markets in India.
- **Fact:** Intraday borrowing: Short-term borrowing used to manage liquidity for unitholder payouts and operational needs.
- **Fact:** Guaranteed receivables: Includes inflows from the Reserve Bank of India and subscription money.

Mains question: Discuss how SEBI's move to allow intraday borrowing by mutual funds balances the need for operational liquidity with the necessity of protecting investor interests from systemic risks.

Source: Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/80946

Capital markets & SEBI · Prelims

NARCL Buys Mumbai Metro One Debt, Ends Insolvency Proceedings

Why in news: NARCL purchased the debt of Mumbai Metro One Pvt Ltd (MMOPL) to end its insolvency proceedings and facilitate infrastructure continuity.

Key facts: NARCL acquired MMOPL's debt of Rs 2,771.32 crore, restructuring the liability to approximately Rs 1,600 crore. The deal includes a NARCL director nomination on the board and the formation of a joint monitoring committee.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** NARCL: National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd is a NCLT-mandated body to resolve stressed assets.
- **Fact:** MMOPL debt restructured from Rs 2,771.32 crore to Rs 1,600 crore.
- **Body:** NCLT: National Company Law Tribunal handles insolvency and bankruptcy cases in India.

Mains question: Discuss the role of Asset Reconstruction Companies in ensuring the continuity of critical infrastructure projects facing financial distress in India.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/80937

Assam's 2026-27 Budget Pledges Rs 77,000 Crore for Power Projects

Why in news: The Assam government announced a ₹77,000 crore investment in power projects in its 2026-27 budget to drive industrial and infrastructure growth.

Key facts: The Assam 2026-27 budget allocates ₹77,000 crore for power projects including thermal, hydropower, solar, and battery storage. Key infrastructure projects include an aerotropolis near Guwahati airport and major road connectivity projects.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Assam's 2026-27 budget allocates ₹77,000 crore specifically for power projects.
- **Place:** The aerotropolis project is planned near the Guwahati airport in Assam.
- **Fact:** The budget includes investments in thermal, hydropower, solar, and battery storage technologies.

Mains question: Analyze how large-scale investment in energy infrastructure and connectivity can catalyze industrial growth and rural development in Northeast India.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/80906

23% Karnataka Youth Neither Working, Nor Studying. Bengaluru Bears The Load

Why in news: A report by the Future of India Foundation revealed that 23% of Karnataka's youth under 35 are neither working nor studying, highlighting a significant regional disparity in job distribution.

Key facts: The report indicates Karnataka's youth unemployment rate has declined to 8.6%. However, a significant portion of the youth population remains outside the formal workforce or education system, with Bengaluru showing higher opportunity levels compared to underdeveloped districts.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** 23% of Karnataka youth under 35 are neither working, studying, nor training.
- **Fact:** Karnataka's youth unemployment rate is reported at 8.6%.
- **Body:** Future of India Foundation: The body responsible for the report on regional economic disparities.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges of regional economic disparity in India and suggest measures to ensure equitable job distribution across underdeveloped districts.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/80884

India Inc embraces unlisted bonds for faster, flexible fundraising

Why in news: Large Indian corporations like Vedanta and Bajaj Finance are increasingly opting for unlisted bonds to secure faster, more flexible fundraising with fewer disclosure requirements.

Key facts: Unlisted bonds accounted for 40% of total corporate bond issuances in May 2026. Major players including Vedanta and Bajaj Finance are utilizing these instruments to secure favorable rates from select investors.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Unlisted bonds accounted for 40% of total corporate bond issuances in May 2026
- **Fact:** Major corporate borrowers opting for unlisted bonds include Vedanta and Bajaj Finance

Mains question: Discuss the implications of the rising trend of unlisted corporate bond issuances on market transparency and the ease of doing business in India.

Source: Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/80859

Irda digs into life insurers' costs beyond commissions

Why in news: IRDAI is seeking separate disclosure of operating expenses (net of commissions) from life insurers to ensure that distribution cost reductions are not offset by high overheads.

Key facts: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is analyzing the cost structure of life insurers. The regulator intends to release a discussion paper on distribution reforms by the end of July 2024.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** IRDAI: The statutory body responsible for regulating and promoting the insurance and re-insurance industries in India.
- **Fact:** IRDAI's focus: Disclosure of operating expenses as a percentage of premium, separate from commission rates.
- **Post:** IRDAI: Operates under the Ministry of Finance.

Mains question: *Examine how the transparency of operating expenses in the insurance sector can contribute to lowering the overall cost of insurance for the end consumer.*

Source: Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/80853

Industry, investment & MSMEs · Prelims + Mains

Government clears Dixon (India)-Vivo (China) joint venture for manufacturing smartphones

Why in news: The Government of India approved a joint venture between Dixon Technologies (India) and Vivo Mobile India to manufacture smartphones, navigating the restrictions of Press Note 3 of 2020.

Key facts: Dixon Technologies (India) Limited will hold a 51% stake, while Vivo Mobile India Limited will hold 49% in the new joint venture. The approval is subject to Press Note 3 of 2020, which regulates investments from countries sharing a land border with India.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Dixon Technologies (India) Limited is a major Indian electronics manufacturing company.
- **Act / Bill:** Press Note 3 of 2020: Requires prior government approval for foreign direct investment (FDI) from countries sharing a land border with India.
- **Fact:** The joint venture ownership structure is 51% (Dixon) and 49% (Vivo).
- **Fact:** The venture focuses on manufacturing electronic devices and smartphones in India.

Mains question: *Examine the dilemma of balancing 'Make in India' manufacturing goals with national security concerns regarding FDI from countries sharing a land border with India.*

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/80771

Agriculture

Cropping patterns & irrigation · Prelims

Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel announces Rs 500 crore for creek project in Surat

Why in news: Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel announced a Rs 500 crore project to deepen Surat's creek network to mitigate monsoon flooding and urban drainage issues.

Key facts: Surat received 358 mm of rainfall within a 24-hour period in July. The state government allocated Rs 500 crore for creek development, and over 4,100 people were displaced to relief centers during the flood event.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Surat received 358 mm of rainfall in a 24-hour period during the July flood event.
- **Fact:** The Gujarat government allocated Rs 500 crore specifically for the development and deepening of Surat's creek network.
- **Post:** C R Patil serves as the Union Minister of Jal Shakti.

Mains question: *Discuss the challenges of urban flood management in rapidly expanding coastal cities and the role of integrated water management in ensuring climate resilience.*

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/80761

Science & Technology

IT, AI, semiconductors & computing · Prelims

Truecaller CEO: TRAI's whitelist decision backfired, spammers misuse 140 and 1600 number series

Why in news: Truecaller CEO Rishit Jhunjhunwala criticized TRAI's whitelisting of 140 and 1600 series, alleging that the move has inadvertently facilitated spam calls rather than securing trusted business channels.

Key facts: TRAI mandated the whitelisting of 140 and 1600 number series for commercial use. Truecaller, a major caller ID platform, reports that these series are being exploited by spammers, undermining the intended goal of creating a trusted communication channel.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** TRAI: Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, a statutory body regulating the telecommunications sector.
- **Fact:** 140 and 1600: Specific number series whitelisted by TRAI for commercial and business communications.
- **S&T:** Caller ID platforms: Use crowdsourced user reports and databases to identify and flag spam calls.

Mains question: *Critically analyze the regulatory challenges in balancing the promotion of commercial telecommunications with the protection of consumers against unsolicited spam calls in India.*

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/80941

IT, AI, semiconductors & computing · Prelims + Mains

Telegram and WhatsApp Face Government Scrutiny Over 'Username' Feature Amid Fraud Fears

Why in news: The IT Ministry is scrutinizing the 'username' feature on WhatsApp and Telegram due to risks of phishing, digital arrest scams, and impersonation.

Key facts: The 'username' feature allows users to communicate without sharing their mobile numbers. The IT Ministry issued notices to WhatsApp, Telegram, and Signal to address fraud risks and Telegram's role in pirated content dissemination.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** WhatsApp has approximately 50 crore users in India.
- **Body:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is the nodal ministry for regulating messaging platforms in India.
- **S&T:** Digital arrest scams and phishing are primary cyber-fraud categories identified by the government in this context.

Mains question: *Discuss the challenges in regulating end-to-end encrypted messaging platforms while balancing user privacy and the need to curb cyber-fraud and impersonation.*

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/80930

Space technology (ISRO, missions) · Prelims

China successfully lands reusable rocket, state media says

Why in news: China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation successfully landed a reusable Long March 10B rocket booster on a floating platform, advancing its space exploration capabilities.

Key facts: The Long March 10B rocket was launched from Hainan, southern China. The booster successfully returned to Earth and landed on a floating platform, a milestone for reusable rocket technology.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Long March 10B: A Chinese reusable rocket designed for space exploration.
- **Place:** Hainan: The launch site for the Long March 10B rocket in southern China.
- **Fact:** China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation: The state-owned enterprise responsible for the launch.
- **S&T:** Reusable Rockets: Technology allowing rocket boosters to land and be reused, significantly reducing launch costs.

Mains question: *Discuss how the development of reusable rocket technology impacts the global space economy and the geopolitical dynamics of space exploration.*

Source: BBC · satyadheesh.in/news/80876

Nuclear & new energy technology · Prelims

World's first hydrogen aircraft engine: Airbus and MTU begin developing next-generation clean aviation technology

Why in news: Airbus and MTU Aero Engines announced a joint venture to develop the world's first hydrogen fuel cell propulsion systems for aircraft to decarbonize aviation.

Key facts: Airbus and MTU Aero Engines are partnering to engineer, test, and certify hydrogen fuel cell propulsion systems. The venture aims to establish a dedicated business unit for market introduction of these technologies by 2027.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Hydrogen fuel cells: Generate electricity through a chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen, emitting only water vapor.
- **Fact:** Target year for market introduction of hydrogen propulsion technologies: 2027.
- **S&T:** Airbus and MTU Aero Engines: Key European aerospace entities involved in hydrogen aviation research.

Mains question: Discuss the potential of hydrogen fuel cell technology in achieving net-zero emissions in the aviation sector while addressing current technical and infrastructural limitations.

Source: Times of India · satyadheesh.in/news/80674

IT, AI, semiconductors & computing · Prelims + Mains

OpenAI Launches GPT-5.6 After US Scrutiny, CEO Says "Made Many Changes"

Why in news: OpenAI launched its GPT-5.6 model following a security review and feedback from the US government regarding potential code exploitation risks.

Key facts: OpenAI released three tiers of models: Sol (flagship), Terra (mid-range), and Luna (low-cost). The launch followed technical testing and meetings with US government officials to address security concerns.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** GPT-5.6: The latest flagship AI model released by OpenAI.
- **S&T:** OpenAI Model Tiers: Sol (flagship), Terra (mid-range), and Luna (low-cost).
- **Fact:** OpenAI and Anthropic are among the major global entities developing large language models (LLMs).

Mains question: Discuss the necessity of government oversight in the development of Large Language Models (LLMs) to mitigate risks of cyber exploitation and ensure ethical AI deployment.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/80651

Environment & Ecology

Species, protected areas & wetlands · Prelims + Mains

NBWL rejects ₹10,000 crore Sharavathi project over habitat harm, sustainability doubts

Why in news: The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) expert committee rejected the ₹10,000 crore Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project in Karnataka due to ecological risks.

Key facts: The project is a ₹10,000 crore pumped storage initiative located in Karnataka. The NBWL expert committee recommended rejection based on habitat fragmentation, wildlife disturbance, and lack of technical/environmental sustainability.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** NBWL: National Board for Wildlife is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- **Fact:** Project Cost: The Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project is valued at ₹10,000 crore.
- **Place:** Location: The project is situated in the state of Karnataka.

Mains question: Analyze the conflict between large-scale renewable energy infrastructure and biodiversity conservation in India's ecologically sensitive zones.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/80940

Species, protected areas & wetlands · Prelims

Minister chairs key wildlife body meetings, reviews over 100 projects for clearance

Why in news: Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav chaired meetings of key wildlife bodies to review over 100 projects and conservation strategies for the Great Indian Bustard and Greater One-horned Rhinoceros.

Key facts: The meetings included the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Central Zoo Authority (CZA), and Wildlife Institute of India Society. A second Great Indian Bustard chick survived the critical period using the 'jumpstart' method.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** National Board for Wildlife (NBWL): Statutory body established under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

- **Environment:** Great Indian Bustard: Critically endangered bird species found in grasslands of Rajasthan and Gujarat
- **Environment:** Greater One-horned Rhinoceros: Primarily found in the Kaziranga National Park and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary
- **S&T:** Jumpstart method: A conservation technique used to assist the hatching and survival of endangered species

Mains question: Discuss the institutional framework for wildlife conservation in India and the role of scientific interventions in preserving critically endangered species like the Great Indian Bustard.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/80781

Internal Security

Border management · Prelims + Mains

Report abnormal population growth in border areas: Shah to SPs

Why in news: Union Home Minister Amit Shah directed Superintendents of Police (SPs) to report abnormal population growth in border areas caused by illegal migration to curb demographic changes.

Key facts: The government plans to fence 1,610 km of the India-Myanmar border at an estimated cost of ₹31,000 crore. A quadrangular security grid and a demography mission are being proposed to study and counter infiltration and radicalization patterns.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** India-Myanmar border length to be fenced: 1,610 km
- **Fact:** Estimated cost for India-Myanmar border fencing: ₹31,000 crore
- **Post:** Amit Shah: Union Home Minister of India
- **Place:** India-Myanmar border: Shared by India and Myanmar

Mains question: Discuss the security and demographic implications of illegal migration along India's porous borders and evaluate the effectiveness of physical fencing as a primary deterrent.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/80699

Practice — Mains questions

1. Examine how the deepening of India-Australia ties in the nuclear and maritime sectors contributes to the strategic stability of the Indo-Pacific region. · GS2
2. Discuss how fiscal incentives like import duty waivers contribute to India's goal of becoming a global electronics manufacturing hub. · GS3
3. Analyze the impact of escalating US-Iran tensions on the maritime security of the Persian Gulf and the stability of global energy supply chains. · GS2
4. Analyze the implications of the leadership transition in Iran on the geopolitical stability of the Middle East and India's energy security. · GS2
5. Discuss how climate-induced hydrological changes in the Indus Basin necessitate a review of the Indus Waters Treaty to ensure equitable water sharing. · GS2
6. Discuss the security and demographic implications of illegal migration along India's porous borders and evaluate the effectiveness of physical fencing as a primary deterrent. · GS3
7. Analyze the conflict between large-scale renewable energy infrastructure and biodiversity conservation in India's ecologically sensitive zones. · GS3
8. Analyze the structural and socio-economic barriers that hinder full female participation in urban labor markets despite rising participation trends in India. · GS1

Prelims quick revision

- **Fact:** Uranium supply agreement signed on July 9, 2026
- **Body:** Australia is a key supplier of uranium for India's civil nuclear power projects
- **Place:** The agreement aims to ensure peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region
- **Fact:** Exemption covers 85 specific capital goods for lithium-ion cell manufacturing.
- **Fact:** Duty waiver is valid until March 2029.
- **Fact:** Inputs exempted include display assemblies and inductor-coil modules for wireless charging.
- **Place:** Kuwait and Qatar: Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states and key US allies in the Middle East
- **Fact:** Iran's civilian nuclear plant: A primary site of international monitoring regarding Iran's nuclear program
- **Post:** Donald Trump: Served as the 45th President of the United States
- **Place:** Mashhad: A city in northeastern Iran and a major center for Shia Islam.
- **Post:** Supreme Leader: The highest-ranking political and religious authority in the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- **Fact:** Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's tenure: Approximately 37 years of rule.
- **Fact:** Rainfall in eastern Indus basin rivers declined by 20% between 1951 and 2024.
- **Fact:** Western rivers of the Indus basin saw a 6% reduction in precipitation during the same period.
- **Place:** Sutlej and Ravi sub-basins are identified as areas with significant groundwater depletion.
- **Fact:** India-Myanmar border length to be fenced: 1,610 km
- **Fact:** Estimated cost for India-Myanmar border fencing: ₹31,000 crore
- **Post:** Amit Shah: Union Home Minister of India
- **Body:** NBWL: National Board for Wildlife is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- **Fact:** Project Cost: The Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project is valued at ₹10,000 crore.
- **Place:** Location: The project is situated in the state of Karnataka.

- **Fact:** Female labor force participation in million-plus cities: 27.2% as of 2025
- **Fact:** Female labor force participation in million-plus cities: 19.8% in 2017-18
- **Body:** National Statistics Office (NSO) is the body responsible for reporting these labor statistics
- **Body:** SEBI: The primary regulator for the securities and capital markets in India.
- **Fact:** Intraday borrowing: Short-term borrowing used to manage liquidity for unitholder payouts and operational needs.
- **Fact:** Guaranteed receivables: Includes inflows from the Reserve Bank of India and subscription money.
- **Body:** TRAI: Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, a statutory body regulating the telecommunications sector.
- **Fact:** 140 and 1600: Specific number series whitelisted by TRAI for commercial and business communications.
- **S&T:** Caller ID platforms: Use crowdsourced user reports and databases to identify and flag spam calls.
- **Body:** NARCL: National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd is a NCLT-mandated body to resolve stressed assets.
- **Fact:** MMOPPL debt restructured from Rs 2,771.32 crore to Rs 1,600 crore.
- **Body:** NCLT: National Company Law Tribunal handles insolvency and bankruptcy cases in India.
- **Fact:** WhatsApp has approximately 50 crore users in India.
- **Body:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is the nodal ministry for regulating messaging platforms in India.
- **S&T:** Digital arrest scams and phishing are primary cyber-fraud categories identified by the government in this context.
- **Place:** Kinnaur: A district in Himachal Pradesh prone to landslides and flash floods.
- **Fact:** July 9, 2026: Date of the heavy monsoon rainfall causing widespread destruction.
- **Environment:** Monsoon: The seasonal wind system in India characterized by heavy rainfall and high humidity.
- **Fact:** Assam's 2026-27 budget allocates ₹77,000 crore specifically for power projects.

Notes are generated automatically from SatyaDheesh's news feed and mapped to the UPSC CSE syllabus. Check facts against the original report or PIB before using them in an answer.

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