

UPSC Current Affairs — 11 July 2026

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Geography

Geophysical phenomena (earthquakes, cyclones, volcanoes) · Prelims

India rains cause landslides in Uttarakhand Himachal Pradesh floods in Mizoram Tripura

Why in news: Heavy rainfall triggered landslides in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and flooding in Mizoram and Tripura, highlighting the vulnerability of the Himalayan and Northeast regions to extreme weather.

Key facts: Heavy rains caused landslides in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, leading to highway closures and school shutdowns. Flooding in Mizoram and Tripura necessitated evacuations, while a landslide threat was identified at the Sangla bridge in Kinnaur district.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Kinnaur district is located in the state of Himachal Pradesh
- **Place:** Mizoram and Tripura are states in the Northeastern region of India
- **Fact:** Landslides and flooding are common geological hazards in the Himalayan belt due to steep slopes and high rainfall

Mains question: Discuss the geological and climatic factors contributing to the increasing frequency of landslides and floods in the Himalayan region and suggest mitigation strategies.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/81264

GS2 · Polity · Governance · IR · 18

Polity & Constitution

Parliament & state legislatures · Prelims + Mains

On Friday, P.P

Why in news: The Joint Committee of Parliament met with Goa's Cabinet to discuss the operationalization of 'One Nation, One Election' by 2029 to mitigate economic losses.

Key facts: The Joint Committee of Parliament is examining Bills on simultaneous elections. The committee reported an estimated ₹7 lakh crore economic loss due to frequent elections and noted 99% support from consulted civil society stakeholders.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Estimated economic loss due to frequent elections: ₹7 lakh crore
- **Fact:** Target year for operationalizing 'One Nation, One Election': 2029
- **Body:** Joint Committee of Parliament: Body tasked with examining Bills on simultaneous elections

Mains question: Examine the constitutional and logistical challenges in implementing 'One Nation, One Election' in India. How does frequent electioneering impact the nation's fiscal health?

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/81106

Constitution, amendments & basic structure · Prelims + Mains

West Bengal forms high-level panel to examine draft Uniform Civil Code

Why in news: The West Bengal government formed a high-level committee headed by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai to examine a draft Uniform Civil Code (UCC) bill.

Key facts: The committee was formed on July 2 to review a draft UCC covering marriage, divorce, succession, and adoption. West Bengal aims to become the fourth state to adopt a UCC since 2014.

Prelims pointers

- **Constitution:** Article 44 of the Indian Constitution directs the State to secure a Uniform Civil Code for all citizens.
- **Fact:** As of 2024, three Indian states have officially adopted a Uniform Civil Code.
- **Post:** Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai is a former Supreme Court Judge heading the West Bengal UCC committee.

Mains question: Discuss the constitutional and social implications of implementing a Uniform Civil Code in a pluralistic society like India.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/81344

Elections, ECI & electoral reforms · Prelims + Mains

Madras High Court Restrains ECI From Notifying Byelections Until July 31

Why in news: The Madras High Court restrained the Election Commission of India (ECI) from notifying byelections in five Tamil Nadu constituencies until July 31, 2026, to prevent potential dual representation.

Key facts: The Madras High Court issued the stay on July 10, 2026, following a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by K. Venkatachalapathy. The stay applies to five specific constituencies in Tamil Nadu where election petitions are currently pending.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** ECI: Constitutional body responsible for administering elections to Parliament and State Legislatures.
- **Place:** Madras High Court: Highest judicial authority in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- **Fact:** The court set a deadline of July 31, 2026, for the notification of byelections.

Mains question: Discuss the constitutional significance of the Election Commission's autonomy in scheduling elections and the role of the judiciary in ensuring electoral integrity.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/81214

Governance

Transparency, accountability & RTI · Prelims + Mains

The Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG) State Finances Audit Report for 2024-25

Why in news: The CAG's State Finances Audit Report for 2024-25 highlighted significant financial irregularities and budgetary indiscipline in Maharashtra's Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana.

Key facts: The CAG identified an unjustified excess expenditure of Rs 3,541 crore and Rs 15,586 crore parked in Virtual Personal Deposit Accounts. The scheme, launched on June 28, 2024, provides Rs 1,500 monthly to eligible women aged 21-65 with an annual family income below Rs 2.5 lakh.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** CAG: Constitutional body established under Article 148 to audit all expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India and State Governments.
- **Fact:** Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana: Launched on June 28, 2024, targeting women with family income < Rs 2.5 lakh.
- **Fact:** Audit finding: Rs 15,586 crore was found parked in Virtual Personal Deposit Accounts without immediate utilization requirements.

Mains question: Examine the role of the CAG in ensuring fiscal discipline and transparency in the implementation of large-scale Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes at the state level.

Social Justice

Education policy · Prelims + Mains

GER in higher education rises to 30%, female GER exceeds male GER

Why in news: The AISHE 2023-24 report reveals a record Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 30% in higher education, with female GER (31.2%) surpassing male GER (28.9%) for the first time.

Key facts: The All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2023-24 shows total enrolment reached 4.5 crore students, a 31.5% increase. Arts is the most popular undergraduate stream at 34%, while distance education accounts for 8% of total enrolment.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education reached 30% in 2023-24.
- **Fact:** Female GER (31.2%) exceeded male GER (28.9%) in the 2023-24 survey.
- **Fact:** Gender Parity Index (GPI) in higher education stands at 1.08 as of 2023-24.
- **Fact:** Arts constitutes 34% of total undergraduate enrolment, followed by Science at 15%.
- **Fact:** Distance education accounts for approximately 8% of total higher education enrolment.

Mains question: Analyze the factors contributing to the rising female Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education and its implications for India's demographic dividend.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/81000

Health policy & public health · Prelims + Mains

Food Safety Authority Serves Nine Notices to Swiggy Instamart Over Food Quality Issues

Why in news: FSSAI served nine notices to Swiggy Instamart following consumer complaints regarding the delivery of expired, contaminated, and improperly stored food products.

Key facts: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued notices over specific items including expired whey protein, rotten eggs, and deteriorated infant formula. The regulator flagged a lack of corrective action by the quick-commerce platform despite consumer escalations and discrepancies in product naming versus FSSAI licenses.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** FSSAI: The apex regulatory body in India responsible for the safety and standards of food products.
- **Fact:** The notices were issued specifically regarding the delivery of expired and contaminated items via the Swiggy Instamart platform.
- **Fact:** Complaints included specific products like 'Healthify 100% Whey Protein' and 'Akshayakalpa Organic Eggs' found to be unfit for consumption.

Mains question: Examine the challenges in regulating food safety standards within the rapidly expanding quick-commerce and e-commerce sectors in India.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/81417

Health policy & public health · Prelims + Mains

A patient died at a sub-divisional hospital in Haryana due to lack

Why in news: Haryana launched a Tele-ECG service to provide rapid cardiac diagnosis in government hospitals following a patient death due to equipment unavailability.

Key facts: The Tele-ECG service was launched by CM Nayab Singh Saini on May 29, 2024, across 600 government healthcare institutions. It provides cardiac diagnosis within 10 minutes at a cost of Rs 89 per test, supported by a Central grant of Rs 2.92 crore under the NP-NCD scheme.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Tele-ECG service operates at 600 government healthcare institutions in Haryana.
- **Fact:** The cost per Tele-ECG test is Rs 89.
- **Scheme:** NP-NCD (National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases) provides financial backing for the initiative.
- **Fact:** The service aims to provide cardiac diagnosis within a 10-minute timeframe.

Mains question: Discuss how tele-medicine and digital health interventions can bridge the infrastructure gap in rural healthcare delivery in India.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/81199

International Relations

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains

Modi, Luxon elevate India-New Zealand ties to strategic partnership

Why in news: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and New Zealand PM Christopher Luxon elevated India-New Zealand relations to a strategic partnership with a roadmap to 2030.

Key facts: The leaders endorsed the 'India-New Zealand Strategic Partnership: Roadmap to 2030' and signed pacts on maritime cooperation, counter-terrorism, and Antarctic research. They committed to doubling bilateral trade to NZ\$7 billion (approx. Rs 35,000 crore) by 2030.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Target bilateral trade volume: NZ\$7 billion (Rs 35,000 crore) by 2030
- **Body:** Strategic Partnership: A formal diplomatic status elevating bilateral cooperation beyond standard trade ties
- **Place:** Auckland: The location of the high-level meeting between the Indian and New Zealand leadership

Mains question: Discuss the significance of India's deepening strategic partnerships with middle powers like New Zealand in diversifying its global economic and security architecture.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/81259

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains

UPSC Key:11th July, 2026-PM Modi in New Zealand, Kerala birth rate,E20

Why in news: PM Modi's visit to New Zealand marks the first by an Indian PM in 40 years, focusing on the newly signed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and high-tech cooperation.

Key facts: The India-New Zealand FTA was signed in April 2026 after negotiations began in March 2025. Current bilateral trade stands at US\$2.25 billion, with a mutual target to double trade in goods and services by 2030.

Prelims pointers

- **Intl. org:** India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed in April 2026
- **Fact:** Current bilateral trade between India and New Zealand is US\$2.25 billion
- **Fact:** Target to double trade in goods and services by 2030
- **Place:** New Zealand is located in the Southwestern Pacific Ocean

Mains question: Discuss the significance of the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement in strengthening India's economic ties and its strategic outreach in the Indo-Pacific region.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/81519

Policies of other countries affecting India · Prelims + Mains

Modi's trip challenges China's "String of Pearls" in Indo-Pacific

Why in news: PM Modi's visit to Indonesia, Australia, and New Zealand signals India's proactive strategy to counter China's 'String of Pearls' and establish a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific.

Key facts: The visit focused on maritime security and economic partnerships across three key Indo-Pacific nations. India's strategy emphasizes the SAGAR initiative and the Quad framework to promote a rules-based maritime order.

Prelims pointers

- **Intl. org:** SAGAR: Security and Growth for All in the Region; an Indian maritime initiative.
- **Intl. org:** Quad: A strategic security dialogue between India, USA, Japan, and Australia.
- **Fact:** String of Pearls: A Chinese maritime strategy involving strategic infrastructure investments in ports across the Indian Ocean.

Mains question: Examine how India's maritime diplomacy and the SAGAR initiative serve as a counter-strategy to China's 'String of Pearls' in the Indo-Pacific region.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/81368

Iran's move stirs crude prices, risking global inflation and Gulf stability

Why in news: Escalating tensions between Iran and regional actors have caused volatility in global crude oil prices, threatening global inflation and the stability of the Strait of Hormuz.

Key facts: Iran is seeking to expand strategic influence over the Strait of Hormuz, a critical maritime chokepoint. The breakdown of the Washington-Tehran understanding has led to increased risk of regional conflict and potential supply disruptions in the Gulf region.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- **Fact:** India is highly vulnerable to crude price volatility due to its high reliance on crude oil imports.
- **S&T:** Crude oil price volatility directly impacts global inflation and trade deficits.

Mains question: Analyze the impact of geopolitical tensions in the Middle East on India's energy security and the global inflationary landscape.

Source: Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/81363

Andrew Charlton, Australia's Assistant Minister, highlighted the significance of Prime Minister Narendra

Why in news: Australia's Assistant Minister Andrew Charlton highlighted the outcomes of PM Modi's third visit to Australia, which established a framework for trade, defence, and critical minerals.

Key facts: The visit concluded with a framework agreement at the Melbourne Cricket Ground focusing on supply chain resilience and technology sharing. Key areas of cooperation include cyber security, quantum computing, AI, and space, including support for India's Gaganyaan programme.

Prelims pointers

- **Intl. org:** Gaganyaan: India's first human spaceflight mission to send an astronaut into orbit.
- **Fact:** The PACTS framework focuses on supply chain resilience and technology sharing between India and Australia.
- **Place:** Melbourne Cricket Ground: Venue for the trade and defence framework agreement in Australia.

Mains question: Discuss how the deepening India-Australia partnership in critical minerals and space technology serves as a strategic counterweight to shifting dynamics in the Indo-Pacific region.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/81299

China captures first orbital rocket at sea, challenging US tech lead

Why in news: China successfully captured a Long March-10B booster at sea, marking a significant milestone in reusable rocket technology and challenging US dominance in space infrastructure.

Key facts: China utilized a net system to capture the Long March-10B orbital rocket booster over the South China Sea. This event signifies a shift toward industrial execution and scalable space technology to create a parallel ecosystem to Western space dominance.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Long March-10B: A Chinese orbital rocket booster designed for reusable technology.
- **Fact:** China's space strategy focuses on industrial execution and deployment scalability over pure scientific discovery.
- **Place:** South China Sea: The location where the first sea-based rocket capture occurred.

Mains question: Discuss how the emergence of parallel global technology ecosystems, particularly in space and AI, impacts the strategic autonomy of developing nations.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/81242

UN Rapporteurs Warn India Over Alleged Discrimination in Bengal Election Cleanup

Why in news: UN Special Rapporteurs expressed concern over alleged discrimination against minorities during the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in West Bengal.

Key facts: Three UN Special Rapporteurs (Nicolas Levrat, Irene Khan, and Nazila Ghanea) sent a formal communication to the Ministry of External Affairs and the Election Commission of India. The letter focuses on the potential wrongful exclusion of Bengali and Muslim electors due to administrative inconsistencies and biased AI systems.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** UN Special Rapporteurs are independent experts appointed by the UN Human Rights Council to monitor and report on human rights.
- **Fact:** The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is a process conducted by the Election Commission of India to clean up electoral rolls.
- **Post:** Nicolas Levrat, Irene Khan, and Nazila Ghanea are the specific Rapporteurs involved in the communication.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges of ensuring inclusive electoral processes in India while addressing the complexities of identifying and managing illegal migration.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/81555

Policies of other countries affecting India · Mains

Funding Cuts Leave 1 Million Women Without Aid, Groups Warn

Why in news: UN Women reported that funding cuts since January 2025 have deprived over one million women and girls of humanitarian aid across 52 countries.

Key facts: A UN Women report surveyed 855 organizations across 52 countries. It revealed that 84% of these organizations faced rising demand while cutting services like healthcare and legal aid, with 41% of organizations fearing closure within a year.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** UN Women: A United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- **Fact:** 855 organizations across 52 countries were surveyed for the humanitarian funding report.
- **Fact:** 41% of surveyed organizations reported a risk of closure within one year due to funding shortages.

Mains question: Discuss the implications of shrinking international humanitarian funding on gender-based protections and the socio-economic vulnerability of women in conflict-affected regions.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/81497

India's bilateral relations · Mains

Justice Mohammed Shaffiq of the Madras High Court has entertained a writ

Why in news: The Madras High Court stayed a passport surrender notice issued by the Indian Embassy to a Sri Lankan-born individual, highlighting the legal complexities of citizenship and statelessness.

Key facts: The petitioner, Vivek Saravanamuthu, was born in Colombo in 1982 and migrated to Tamil Nadu in 1983. He obtained an Indian passport in March 2004 and has resided in the US since 2014. The court directed the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to file a counter-affidavit by July 22, 2026.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** MEA (Ministry of External Affairs) is the nodal ministry for passport issuance and consular services.
- **Fact:** The petitioner was born in Sri Lanka in 1982 and migrated to India in 1983.
- **Place:** The writ petition was entertained by the Madras High Court.

Mains question: Discuss the legal and diplomatic challenges India faces in determining citizenship for individuals born abroad who migrate to India, ensuring the prevention of statelessness.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/81359

India & neighbourhood · Prelims

During a seminar titled "Rebuilding Trust, Renewing Regional Integration: Pathways for Revitalising

Why in news: Indian diplomat Pooja Kumari Jha objected to an incorrect map of India depicting Jammu and Kashmir as a separate entity during a SAARC-focused seminar in Bangladesh.

Key facts: The seminar was held at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS). Bangladesh's State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Shama Obaed, proposed reviving SAARC through senior officials' meetings and wider diplomatic outreach.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India as per the Instrument of Accession, 1947
- **Body:** SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) was established in 1985
- **Post:** Pooja Kumari Jha serves as Second Secretary at the Indian High Commission in Dhaka

Mains question: Discuss the geopolitical challenges hindering the revitalization of SAARC and the significance of regional integration for India's 'Neighborhood First' policy.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/80981

India's bilateral relations · Prelims

Chinese state-linked hackers target Pakistan police with malware

Why in news: SentinelLabs reported that Chinese state-linked hackers targeted Pakistan's police forces to gather security data, highlighting the intersection of cyber warfare and infrastructure protection in the CPEC region.

Key facts: Chinese state-linked hackers utilized PlugX and ShadowPad malware to target police forces in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad, and Punjab Safe Cities Authority. The activity is linked to securing Chinese workers under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) following the deaths of at least 20 Chinese workers since 2021.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** PlugX and ShadowPad: Specific malware families used in state-linked cyber espionage.
- **Fact:** CPEC: A flagship project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor involving infrastructure and energy.
- **Place:** Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad, and Punjab: Regions in Pakistan targeted by cyber-attacks.

Mains question: Discuss the growing significance of cyber-espionage in safeguarding critical infrastructure and the security of foreign investments in trans-border economic corridors.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/80970

GS3 · Economy · S&T · Environment · Security · 19

Economy

Infrastructure (energy, ports, roads, railways) · Prelims

Telangana set for high-speed rail boom: ₹5,454 crore allocation announced

Why in news: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced a ₹5,454 crore railway allocation for Telangana for the 2026–27 period to develop high-speed rail corridors.

Key facts: The allocation of ₹5,454 crore for 2026–27 is a significant increase from the ₹880 crore allocated during the UPA era. The plan includes three high-speed rail corridors connecting Hyderabad to Chennai, Bengaluru, and Pune.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Telangana railway allocation for 2026–27: ₹5,454 crore
- **Fact:** Historical UPA-era railway allocation for Telangana: ₹880 crore
- **Place:** High-speed rail corridors: Hyderabad to Chennai, Bengaluru, and Pune
- **Post:** Ashwini Vaishnaw: Union Minister for Railways

Mains question: Discuss how the expansion of high-speed rail corridors can act as a catalyst for regional economic integration and industrial growth in Southern India.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/81492

Capital markets & SEBI · Prelims

India-Focused Funds See USD 9 Billion Withdrawn in 2026, Elara Capital Says

Why in news: Elara Capital reported a significant withdrawal of USD 9 billion from India-focused funds in 2026, highlighting a shift in investor sentiment toward AI-centric assets.

Key facts: India-focused funds attracted nearly USD 20 billion between March 2023 and October 2024. However, by January 2026, approximately USD 12 billion had been redeemed, with USD 9 billion of that occurring specifically in 2026.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** USD 9 billion was withdrawn from India-focused funds in 2026.
- **Fact:** Luxembourg accounted for the largest share of redemptions at USD 3.5 billion in 2026.
- **Fact:** India-focused funds attracted nearly USD 20 billion between March 2023 and October 2024.

Mains question: *Analyze the factors contributing to the volatility of Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) in Indian capital markets and its implications for long-term infrastructure financing.*

Source: Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/81410

Infrastructure (energy, ports, roads, railways) · Prelims + Mains

The CAG audit found serious shortcomings in Maharashtra's implementation of the Jal

Why in news: The CAG audit exposed significant discrepancies in Maharashtra's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) progress, revealing that the state inflated its tap water coverage figures by including private connections.

Key facts: The CAG report found that Maharashtra's actual JJM-provided household tap water coverage was 69% as of December 2024, contrary to the state's claim of over 85%. The audit identified flaws in baseline surveys, district action plans, and the inclusion of private source connections in official achievement data.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** CAG: Comptroller and Auditor General of India, an independent constitutional body under Article 148.
- **Scheme:** Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM): A central government initiative to provide functional tap connections to every rural household.
- **Fact:** Maharashtra's actual JJM-provided tap water coverage was 69% as of December 2024.

Mains question: *Critically analyze the challenges in achieving universal rural water coverage under the Jal Jeevan Mission, focusing on data integrity and decentralized planning.*

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/81191

Industry, investment & MSMEs · Prelims

Chhattisgarh Cabinet Approves Bill to Simplify Business Rules, Aimed at Attracting More Investment

Why in news: The Chhattisgarh Cabinet approved the Ease of Doing Business (Exemption and Facilitation) Bill, 2026, to streamline regulatory procedures and attract industrial investment.

Key facts: The Chhattisgarh Cabinet, chaired by CM Vishnu Deo Sai, approved the draft bill to introduce 'deemed permission' for pending applications. It aims to be the first state in India to have dedicated legislation for simplifying business rules through third-party verification.

Prelims pointers

- **Act / Bill:** Chhattisgarh Ease of Doing Business (Exemption and Facilitation) Bill, 2026
- **Fact:** Chhattisgarh is the first state to propose dedicated legislation for business rule simplification.
- **Body:** The bill introduces third-party verification to ensure transparency in business approvals.

Mains question: *Discuss how simplifying regulatory frameworks and introducing 'deemed permissions' can enhance the ease of doing business and foster industrial growth in developing states.*

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/81150

Infrastructure (energy, ports, roads, railways) · Prelims

The Assam government has allocated Rs 2,100 crore in the 2026-27 state

Why in news: The Assam government allocated Rs 2,100 crore in the 2026-27 state budget to develop an 'Airport City' near Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport.

Key facts: The project follows the Aerotropolis model to integrate commercial, industrial, and residential zones with aviation infrastructure. The Guwahati Satellite City Development Authority is the designated body for planning and execution, including a proposed bridge over the Brahmaputra River.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Assam government allocated Rs 2,100 crore for the Airport City project in the 2026-27 state budget
- **Place:** Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport is located in Guwahati, Assam
- **Body:** Guwahati Satellite City Development Authority is the body overseeing the project's planning and execution

- **Fact:** The project utilizes the Aerotropolis model to integrate urban growth with aviation hubs

Mains question: Discuss how the development of Aerotropolis models can serve as a catalyst for regional economic integration and urban decongestion in Northeast India.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/81049

Science & Technology

Defence technology · Prelims + Mains

Rajnath Singh commissions INS Mahendragiri, India's sixth indigenous stealth frigate with 75% local content

Why in news: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned INS Mahendragiri, the sixth Project 17A indigenous stealth frigate, into the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet to bolster maritime security and Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Key facts: INS Mahendragiri is a multi-mission stealth frigate with a full-load displacement of approximately 6,670 tonnes and a top speed of 28 knots. It features over 75% indigenous content and is equipped with BrahMos missiles and advanced electronic warfare suites.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** INS Mahendragiri is the sixth frigate commissioned under Project 17A.
- **Fact:** The warship has a full-load displacement of approximately 6,670 tonnes and a top speed of 28 knots.
- **Fact:** The vessel features over 75% indigenous content and is capable of being fitted with BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles.
- **Body:** Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) is the primary shipbuilder for this project.
- **Place:** The commissioning took place at the naval dockyard in Visakhapatnam.

Mains question: Discuss how the shift towards indigenous defense manufacturing under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative enhances India's maritime security and strategic autonomy.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/81398

Space technology (ISRO, missions) · Prelims

China's Tianwen-2 Probe Reaches Asteroid Kamo'oalewa After 1 Billion Kilometer Journey

Why in news: China's Tianwen-2 probe successfully reached and imaged the asteroid Kamo'oalewa on July 2, 2026, marking a significant milestone in deep-space exploration.

Key facts: The Tianwen-2 probe, operated by the China National Space Administration, traveled approximately 1 billion kilometers over 400 days. It is scheduled to release collected samples during an Earth flyby in November 2027.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Tianwen-2: China's asteroid probe mission launched to study and sample celestial bodies.
- **Fact:** Kamo'oalewa: A small, fast-spinning asteroid reached by the Tianwen-2 probe in July 2026.
- **Fact:** Mission Timeline: The probe is scheduled to release samples during an Earth flyby in November 2027.

Mains question: Discuss how deep-space exploration and asteroid sampling missions contribute to understanding the primordial evolution of the solar system and the origins of terrestrial planets.

Source: Wired · satyadheesh.in/news/81428

Biotechnology & health research · Prelims

New parasitic wasp *Doryctes (Udamolcus) xylotrechi* discovered in Kashmir

Why in news: Researchers discovered a new parasitic wasp species, *Doryctes (Udamolcus) xylotrechi*, in Jammu and Kashmir, offering a potential biological control mechanism against wood-boring beetles.

Key facts: The species was discovered by the Himalayan Biodiversity Exploration Lab and published in the journal *Zootaxa*. It specifically targets the wood-boring beetle *Xylotrechus stebbingi*, which can damage timber and forest ecosystems.

Prelims pointers

- **Environment:** *Doryctes (Udamolcus) xylotrechi*: A newly discovered parasitic wasp species in Jammu and Kashmir.

- **S&T:** Biological control: The use of natural enemies (like parasitic wasps) to manage pest populations without chemical pesticides.
- **Fact:** *Xylotrechus stebbingi*: The specific wood-boring beetle species targeted by the new wasp.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of biological control agents in sustainable pest management and their role in preserving forest biodiversity in the Himalayan region.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/81240

Environment & Ecology

Environmental laws, EIA & institutions · Prelims + Mains

NGT orders fire safety audit of hazardous waste treatment facilities across Tamil Nadu

Why in news: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered a mandatory fire safety audit of industrial waste facilities in Tamil Nadu following a major fire at a hazardous waste facility in May 2024.

Key facts: The NGT Southern Bench directed the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Fire and Rescue Services Department to audit all industrial waste facilities. The order follows a significant fire incident at a Common Hazardous Waste Facility in Gummidipoondi in May 2024.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** National Green Tribunal (NGT): A specialized body for adjudication of environmental disputes and cases related to all issues under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- **Body:** Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB): A state-level body responsible for implementing pollution control measures and monitoring industrial waste.
- **Fact:** The NGT ordered the implementation of independent audit recommendations within a three-month timeframe from the order date in July 2026.

Mains question: Examine the institutional challenges in regulating hazardous waste management in India and suggest measures to ensure industrial safety and environmental compliance.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/81155

Species, protected areas & wetlands · Prelims + Mains

Invasive Catfish in Periyar Turned into Pet Chewers to Save Ecosystem

Why in news: A conservation initiative in Periyar Tiger Reserve launched a circular economy model to convert invasive African catfish into pet chewers and fish jerky to protect biodiversity and boost local livelihoods.

Key facts: The project targets the African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*), a highly predatory invasive species in the Periyar freshwater ecosystem. The initiative involves converting harvested fish into high-value products like fish jerky and pickles to create a sustainable conservation-livelihood model.

Prelims pointers

- **Environment:** African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) is an invasive predatory species in Indian freshwater ecosystems.
- **Place:** Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) is located in the state of Kerala.
- **Fact:** The initiative was launched on July 11, 2026, focusing on a circular conservation model.

Mains question: Discuss how the integration of circular economy principles can effectively manage invasive species while ensuring the socio-economic upliftment of local communities in protected areas.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/81547

Pollution (air, water, plastic) · Prelims + Mains

Mumbai's Kanjurmarg Landfill Odour Complaints Plunge to None After High Court Directive

Why in news: The BMC reported a total cessation of odour complaints at Mumbai's Kanjurmarg landfill following a Bombay High Court directive to establish a monitoring committee and implement waste management measures.

Key facts: The Kanjurmarg landfill receives approximately 6,100 metric tonnes of waste daily and has accumulated nearly 189 lakh metric tonnes since 2011. UCLA identified it as one of the world's top 25 methane hotspots.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Kanjurmarg landfill: Located in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- **Fact:** Kanjurmarg landfill: Accumulated nearly 189 lakh metric tonnes of waste since 2011.
- **S&T:** Methane: A potent greenhouse gas produced by the anaerobic decomposition of organic waste in landfills.
- **Body:** BMC: Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation is the local governing body for Mumbai.

Mains question: Discuss the environmental and public health implications of landfill-based waste management in rapidly urbanizing Indian cities. Suggest sustainable alternatives to mitigate methane emissions.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/81536

Climate change & international agreements · Prelims

Global Fisheries Disrupted: Peru Halts Anchovy Fishing as California Sees More Tuna

Why in news: A 'super' El Niño event is disrupting global fisheries, causing a collapse in Peruvian anchovy yields while increasing tuna catches in California.

Key facts: El Niño is a Pacific weather pattern occurring every 2-7 years characterized by warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures. It disrupts 'upwelling'—the process where trade winds bring nutrient-dense cold water to the surface—leading to reduced algae growth and migration of fish species.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** El Niño: Characterized by the weakening of trade winds and the warming of sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean.
- **Environment:** Upwelling: The process of cold, nutrient-dense water rising from the depths to the surface, essential for supporting primary productivity like algae.
- **Fact:** Anchovies: A primary source of fish oil and animal feed globally, heavily impacted by El Niño-induced migration.

Mains question: Discuss how climate-induced shifts in marine ecosystems, such as El Niño, pose a threat to global food security and the livelihoods of coastal communities.

Source: Wired · satyadheesh.in/news/81431

Species, protected areas & wetlands · Prelims + Mains

Pygmy Hog Numbers Rise to Over 500, But Habitat Destruction Remains Threat

Why in news: The population of the Pygmy Hog, the world's smallest wild pig, has increased to over 500 through captive breeding and recent releases into Manas National Park.

Key facts: The Pygmy Hog was rediscovered in Assam in the 1970s and was previously thought to be extinct. The Pygmy Hog Conservation Breeding Program, initiated in 1995, successfully increased the population from 6 to over 500 by 2024.

Prelims pointers

- **Environment:** Pygmy Hog: The world's smallest wild pig species, native to the grasslands of Assam.
- **Place:** Manas National Park: A Tiger Reserve and UNESCO World Heritage site in Assam where Pygmy Hogs are being released.
- **Fact:** Population Growth: The captive breeding program increased the Pygmy Hog population from 6 to over 500 by 2024.
- **Post:** Gerald Durrell: Conservationist who initiated the initial conservation efforts for the Pygmy Hog.

Mains question: Discuss the role of ex-situ conservation measures in preventing the extinction of endangered species in India's grassland ecosystems.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/81378

Environmental laws, EIA & institutions · Prelims

Assam Finance Minister Jayanta Mallabaruah Proposes Green Cess for Environmental Protection

Why in news: Assam Finance Minister Jayanta Mallabaruah proposed a 'Green Cess' in the 2026-27 budget to fund environmental conservation and sustainable infrastructure.

Key facts: The proposed Green Cess targets four specific sectors: stone crushers, brick kilns, commercial groundwater extraction, and second-hand vehicle transfers. The revenue is earmarked for afforestation, pollution control, biodiversity conservation, and climate adaptation in Assam.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Green Cess proposed for the Assam State Budget for the fiscal year 2026-27
- **Fact:** Targeted sectors for cess: stone crushers, brick kilns, commercial groundwater extraction, and second-hand vehicle transfers
- **Fact:** Primary objectives: afforestation, pollution control, biodiversity conservation, and climate adaptation

Mains question: Discuss the efficacy of 'Green Cess' as a fiscal tool for environmental conservation in ecologically sensitive states like Assam.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/81055

Disaster Management

Natural disasters & response · Prelims

Flash floods in Tripura displace 11,000, kill one

Why in news: Flash floods in Tripura triggered by heavy rainfall displaced over 11,000 people and caused significant infrastructure damage, highlighting the vulnerability of the Northeast to extreme weather.

Key facts: The State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) reported inundation in Unakoti, Dhalai, and Khowai districts. Over 4,000 houses and agricultural lands were damaged, and 10,977 people were relocated to relief camps.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Tripura: A North-Eastern state of India affected by flash floods in July 2024
- **Body:** State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA): State-level body responsible for disaster response and relief
- **Fact:** 10,977 people displaced and 4,000 houses damaged in Tripura floods
- **S&T:** India Meteorological Department (IMD): National agency responsible for forecasting and warning of heavy rainfall and landslides

Mains question: Analyze the geographical and climatic factors contributing to the increasing frequency of flash floods in Northeast India and suggest measures for enhancing disaster resilience.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/80995

Internal Security

Cyber security · Prelims + Mains

Telegram loses court battle, government can block entire app overnight

Why in news: The Delhi High Court upheld the Government of India's authority to block the entire Telegram app to prevent exam-related cheating and illegal content leaks.

Key facts: The Delhi High Court ruled that the government can block entire applications if their architecture is susceptible to abuse. This decision shifts the burden onto tech companies to proactively design platforms that prevent illegal activities rather than just reacting to individual posts.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Telegram is a cloud-based instant messaging service known for its end-to-end encryption and large group capabilities.
- **Fact:** The Delhi High Court confirmed the government's power to block entire apps overnight based on architectural vulnerabilities.
- **Post:** The Government of India exercises blocking powers under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules.

Mains question: Discuss the legal and technical challenges in balancing the right to freedom of speech with the state's necessity to regulate encrypted messaging platforms to prevent cyber-crimes.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/81396

Terrorism & insurgency (J&K, North-East) · Prelims

SIA Secures Interpol Red Corner Notice for Kandoo in Hygam Attack

Why in news: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) of J&K secured an Interpol Red Corner Notice against Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Imtiyaz Ahmad Kandoo for his role in the 2013 Hygam terror attack.

Key facts: The SIA secured the notice on July 11, 2026, against Imtiyaz Ahmad Kandoo. Kandoo is wanted for the 2013 Hygam attack and ten other cases involving arms smuggling and narco-terror financing.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Interpol Red Corner Notice: A request issued by one country to another to locate and apprehend a person wanted for extradition or prosecution.
- **Body:** State Investigation Agency (SIA): The primary investigative body for crimes in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Fact:** Imtiyaz Ahmad Kandoo is a designated terrorist associated with the Hizbul Mujahideen.
- **Fact:** The Hygam terror attack occurred in 2013, resulting in the death of four police personnel.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of international cooperation and Interpol notices in dismantling the global infrastructure of narco-terrorism and cross-border militancy.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/81604

Terrorism & insurgency (J&K, North-East) · Prelims + Mains

Centre committee justifies 'Satluj' ban, citing threat to sovereignty under IT Act

Why in news: A Central committee justified the ban on the film 'Satluj' under Section 69A of the IT Act, citing threats to India's sovereignty and integrity.

Key facts: The film 'Satluj', starring Diljit Dosanjh, was removed from the ZEE5 platform following its release. The committee's justification for the ban is based on the film's depiction of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra and an 'unbalanced' narrative.

Prelims pointers

- **Act / Bill:** Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000: Empowers the government to issue directions to block public access to information online.
- **Body:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY): The nodal ministry responsible for implementing IT Act regulations.
- **Fact:** The ban was specifically justified based on concerns regarding national sovereignty and integrity.

Mains question: Critically examine the balance between the state's power to regulate online content under Section 69A of the IT Act and the fundamental right to freedom of speech.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/81354

Terrorism & insurgency (J&K, North-East) · Prelims + Mains

Government panel wants ban on Satluj to stay, says film whitewashes terror

Why in news: The Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC) invoked Section 69A of the IT Act to order the removal of a film and ZEE5 content to prevent the promotion of separatism.

Key facts: The IDC recommended the takedown of pirated versions of the film 'Satluj' and ZEE5 content citing threats to sovereignty and integrity. The action was taken due to the film's biased portrayal of Punjab's militancy period and its potential to fuel separatist campaigns.

Prelims pointers

- **Act / Bill:** Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000: Empowers the government to issue directions to block public access to information in the interest of national security.
- **Body:** Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC): A body tasked with reviewing content for potential threats to national integrity.
- **Fact:** The I&B Ministry issued an interim order for the removal of the film 'Satluj' from online platforms.

Mains question: Discuss the balance between the right to freedom of expression and the state's power to regulate digital content in the interest of national security.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/81187

Practice — Mains questions

1. Discuss the significance of India's deepening strategic partnerships with middle powers like New Zealand in diversifying its global economic and security architecture. · GS2
2. Discuss the significance of the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement in strengthening India's economic ties and its strategic outreach in the Indo-Pacific region. · GS2
3. Discuss how the shift towards indigenous defense manufacturing under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative enhances India's maritime security and strategic autonomy. · GS3
4. Discuss the legal and technical challenges in balancing the right to freedom of speech with the state's necessity to regulate encrypted messaging platforms to prevent cyber-crimes. · GS3
5. Examine how India's maritime diplomacy and the SAGAR initiative serve as a counter-strategy to China's 'String of Pearls' in the Indo-Pacific region. · GS2
6. Analyze the impact of geopolitical tensions in the Middle East on India's energy security and the global inflationary landscape. · GS2
7. Discuss how the deepening India-Australia partnership in critical minerals and space technology serves as a strategic counterweight to shifting dynamics in the Indo-Pacific region. · GS2
8. Discuss how the emergence of parallel global technology ecosystems, particularly in space and AI, impacts the strategic autonomy of developing nations. · GS2

Prelims quick revision

- **Fact:** Target bilateral trade volume: NZ\$7 billion (Rs 35,000 crore) by 2030
- **Body:** Strategic Partnership: A formal diplomatic status elevating bilateral cooperation beyond standard trade ties
- **Place:** Auckland: The location of the high-level meeting between the Indian and New Zealand leadership
- **Intl. org:** India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed in April 2026
- **Fact:** Current bilateral trade between India and New Zealand is US\$2.25 billion
- **Fact:** Target to double trade in goods and services by 2030
- **Fact:** INS Mahendragiri is the sixth frigate commissioned under Project 17A.
- **Fact:** The warship has a full-load displacement of approximately 6,670 tonnes and a top speed of 28 knots.
- **Fact:** The vessel features over 75% indigenous content and is capable of being fitted with BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles.
- **Body:** Telegram is a cloud-based instant messaging service known for its end-to-end encryption and large group capabilities.
- **Fact:** The Delhi High Court confirmed the government's power to block entire apps overnight based on architectural vulnerabilities.
- **Post:** The Government of India exercises blocking powers under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules.
- **Intl. org:** SAGAR: Security and Growth for All in the Region; an Indian maritime initiative.
- **Intl. org:** Quad: A strategic security dialogue between India, USA, Japan, and Australia.
- **Fact:** String of Pearls: A Chinese maritime strategy involving strategic infrastructure investments in ports across the Indian Ocean.
- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- **Fact:** India is highly vulnerable to crude price volatility due to its high reliance on crude oil imports.

- **S&T:** Crude oil price volatility directly impacts global inflation and trade deficits.
- **Intl. org:** Gaganyaan: India's first human spaceflight mission to send an astronaut into orbit.
- **Fact:** The PACTS framework focuses on supply chain resilience and technology sharing between India and Australia.
- **Place:** Melbourne Cricket Ground: Venue for the trade and defence framework agreement in Australia.
- **S&T:** Long March-10B: A Chinese orbital rocket booster designed for reusable technology.
- **Fact:** China's space strategy focuses on industrial execution and deployment scalability over pure scientific discovery.
- **Place:** South China Sea: The location where the first sea-based rocket capture occurred.
- **Fact:** Estimated economic loss due to frequent elections: ₹7 lakh crore
- **Fact:** Target year for operationalizing 'One Nation, One Election': 2029
- **Body:** Joint Committee of Parliament: Body tasked with examining Bills on simultaneous elections
- **Fact:** Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education reached 30% in 2023-24.
- **Fact:** Female GER (31.2%) exceeded male GER (28.9%) in the 2023-24 survey.
- **Fact:** Gender Parity Index (GPI) in higher education stands at 1.08 as of 2023-24.
- **Body:** UN Special Rapporteurs are independent experts appointed by the UN Human Rights Council to monitor and report on human rights.
- **Fact:** The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is a process conducted by the Election Commission of India to clean up electoral rolls.
- **Post:** Nicolas Levrat, Irene Khan, and Nazila Ghanea are the specific Rapporteurs involved in the communication.
- **Body:** National Green Tribunal (NGT): A specialized body for adjudication of environmental disputes and cases related to all issues under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- **Body:** Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB): A state-level body responsible for implementing pollution control measures and monitoring industrial waste.
- **Fact:** The NGT ordered the implementation of independent audit recommendations within a three-month timeframe from the order date in July 2026.
- **Body:** Interpol Red Corner Notice: A request issued by one country to another to locate and apprehend a person wanted for extradition or prosecution.
- **Body:** State Investigation Agency (SIA): The primary investigative body for crimes in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Fact:** Imtiyaz Ahmad Kandoo is a designated terrorist associated with the Hizbul Mujahideen.
- **Environment:** African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) is an invasive predatory species in Indian freshwater ecosystems.

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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