

UPSC Current Affairs — 14 July 2026

73 notes · GS1 5 · GS2 33 · GS3 35 · Updated 2 Oct 2026, 2:16 am IST

Read online, daily updates and Hindi edition: satyadheesh.in/upsc/reports

Most important

1. Iran strikes UAE tankers, kills Indian sailor in Strait of Hormuz attack · GS2
2. NASA Astronaut Anil Menon Heads to ISS for Historic 8-Month Mission · GS3
3. CBSE plans three-language rule for Class IX, sparking concerns among students and parents · GS2
4. US bombs Iran again, Tehran strikes Gulf, tankers: What's the latest? | US-Israel war on Iran News · GS2
5. India's Jaishankar pitches SHANTI vision to Guterres at UN, eyes 2028-2029 UNSC seat · GS2

GS1 · History · Society · Geography · 5

History & Culture

Ancient & medieval India · Prelims + Mains

Supreme Court Refuses Interim Order, Allows Friday Namaaz in Temple-Mosque Dispute

Why in news: The Supreme Court issued notices on appeals regarding the Bhojshala temple-Kamal Maula Mosque complex and allowed interim Friday prayers in an adjacent area.

Key facts: The Supreme Court refused an interim status quo order but permitted Friday Namaaz between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. in an adjacent open area. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was directed not to alter the structure without court permission.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Archaeological Survey of India (ASI): Statutory body under the Ministry of Culture responsible for archaeological research and preservation.
- **Place:** Bhojshala complex: Located in Madhya Pradesh, currently subject to litigation regarding its status as a temple or mosque.
- **Fact:** The court permitted Friday Namaaz specifically between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. in an adjacent open area.

Mains question: Discuss the judicial challenges in balancing religious freedom with the preservation of cultural heritage in complex temple-mosque disputes in India.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83396

Heritage sites, UNESCO & GI tags · Prelims

Bihar CM launches ₹15,422-subsidized heli-tours to boost tourism sites

Why in news: Bihar CM launched the 'Chief Minister Bihar Heli-Tourism and Air Tourism Service Scheme-2026' to promote cultural heritage sites through subsidized helicopter tours.

Key facts: The scheme provides a subsidy of up to ₹15,422 per ticket for helicopter tours to sites like Rajgir and Valmikinagar. Regular operations are scheduled to commence on July 18, 2026, involving private stakeholders.

Prelims pointers

- **Scheme:** Chief Minister Bihar Heli-Tourism and Air Tourism Service Scheme-2026 provides subsidies for helicopter tours to heritage sites.
- **Fact:** The subsidy amount per ticket under the scheme is up to ₹15,422.
- **Place:** Key tourism sites included in the scheme are Patna, Rajgir, Valmikinagar, and Kaimur.

Mains question: Discuss how the promotion of cultural heritage through specialized tourism infrastructure can drive regional economic development and preserve historical identity in Bihar.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83363

Geography

Geophysical phenomena (earthquakes, cyclones, volcanoes) · Prelims

El Niño Extends Dry Spell: Monsoon Break Hits Delhi-NCR, Northern UP

Why in news: The IMD reported a 'break monsoon' in Delhi-NCR and Northern UP in July 2024 due to the northward shift of the monsoon trough and El Niño influence.

Key facts: The monsoon trough shifted towards Northern UP and East India, causing a drop in humidity and a rise in temperatures. The break was linked to El Niño, which extended the dry spell beyond typical durations.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** El Niño: A climate pattern characterized by the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
- **Place:** Monsoon Trough: A low-pressure area that typically moves across the plains of India, bringing rainfall to the northern and central regions.
- **Fact:** The monsoon break in July 2024 was predicted to conclude by July 20, 2024.

Mains question: Analyze how the increasing frequency of El Niño events poses a threat to India's agricultural stability and water security.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/83381

Geophysical phenomena (earthquakes, cyclones, volcanoes) · Prelims

Dry Spell Hits Maharashtra: Rain Deficits Up to 70% Since June 1

Why in news: Maharashtra faces a significant rainfall deficit of up to 70% since June 1, 2026, attributed to a strong El Niño phase affecting monsoon patterns.

Key facts: Rainfall in Marathwada and other regions has been 30-70% below seasonal averages since June 1, 2026. Conversely, the Konkan and central Maharashtra regions received above-average precipitation. The dry spell is linked to the El Niño climate phenomenon.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Marathwada: A region in Maharashtra facing significant moisture stress and rainfall deficits in 2026.
- **S&T:** El Niño: A climate pattern characterized by the warming of surface waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean, often suppressing Indian monsoon rainfall.
- **Fact:** Rainfall deficit: Reported at 30-70% in several Maharashtra districts since June 1, 2026.

Mains question: Analyze how the El Niño phenomenon impacts India's monsoon patterns and discuss the implications of regional rainfall variability on Maharashtra's agrarian economy.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83339

Geophysical phenomena (earthquakes, cyclones, volcanoes) · Prelims

Landslides block roads, strand travelers in North Bengal and Mizoram

Why in news: Landslides in North Bengal and Mizoram and heavy rainfall in Uttar Pradesh highlight the increasing frequency of extreme weather events and geological hazards in the Himalayan and Northeast regions.

Key facts: Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 38.6°C on Monday, exceeding normal levels. Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, recorded the highest rainfall at 85.3 mm during the same period. Telangana has initiated a three-phase plan to mitigate the impacts of El Niño.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Gorakhpur recorded 85.3 mm of rainfall during the recent weather event.
- **Place:** North Bengal and Mizoram are prone to landslides due to fragile Himalayan geology.
- **S&T:** El Niño is a climate pattern characterized by the warming of surface waters in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.

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

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/83254

Polity & Constitution

Elections, ECI & electoral reforms · Prelims + Mains

Supreme Court to Hear GBA Plea to Extend Bengaluru Election Deadline Till December 31

Why in news: The Supreme Court is hearing a plea by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to extend the election deadline for 369 wards due to logistical hurdles in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

Key facts: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) requested an extension from August 31, 2026, to December 31, 2026, for elections in 369 wards across five city corporations. The delay is attributed to the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA): The body seeking the election deadline extension.
- **Fact:** 369 wards across five city corporations are affected by the proposed extension.
- **Fact:** The original election deadline was August 31, 2026, with a proposed extension to December 31, 2026.
- **Place:** Bengaluru: The location of the municipal election proceedings.

Mains question: Discuss the logistical and administrative challenges in conducting timely municipal elections amidst ongoing electoral roll revisions in rapidly urbanizing Indian cities.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/83320](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/83320)

Panchayati Raj & urban local bodies · Prelims + Mains

Ladakh's chief secretary announces councils for 7 districts, setting 2026 as historic pivot

Why in news: Ladakh's Chief Secretary announced the creation of Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDC) for all seven districts to decentralize governance and address local demands.

Key facts: The move involves establishing councils for all seven districts, including Drass and Sham. The initiative aims to decentralize governance and is linked to the framework under Article 371 of the Constitution. The year 2026 is identified as a pivotal milestone for the region's administrative history.

Prelims pointers

- **Constitution:** Article 371 provides special provisions for various states, including Ladakh's current administrative framework.
- **Place:** Drass and Sham are newly formed districts in the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- **Fact:** The initiative covers all 7 districts of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Mains question: Examine how the decentralization of power through Autonomous Hill Development Councils can address the unique socio-political and geographical challenges of the Ladakh region.

Source: Indian Express · [satyadheesh.in/news/83232](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/83232)

Elections, ECI & electoral reforms · Prelims

9.37 lakh untraceable voters identified in Karnataka electoral roll revision

Why in news: The Election Commission of Karnataka identified over 9.37 lakh untraceable voters during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, shifting the verification burden to political parties.

Key facts: The Election Commission identified 9.37 lakh untraceable voters out of a total of 5.54 crore electors in Karnataka. The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process requires political parties to verify these cases before the final roll is updated.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Election Commission of India (ECI) is the constitutional body responsible for the preparation and maintenance of electoral rolls.
- **Fact:** 9.37 lakh untraceable voters were identified out of 5.54 crore electors in Karnataka as of July 2026.
- **Fact:** Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is a periodic process to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the voter list.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges in maintaining accurate electoral rolls in a large democracy and the implications of involving political parties in the verification process.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/83045](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/83045)

Governance

Government policies & schemes · Mains

Delhi's New Policies: Higher Density Development or Neighborhood Strain?

Why in news: Delhi is implementing new policies to increase Floor Area Ratio (FAR) and expand Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) zones to boost housing supply.

Key facts: The policy expands TOD zones to cover approximately 207 square kilometers in Delhi. It aims to facilitate higher density development by increasing FAR limits to accommodate more housing units.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** TOD zones in Delhi cover approximately 207 square kilometers.
- **S&T:** Floor Area Ratio (FAR) is a measure used in urban planning to determine the density of a building relative to the plot area.
- **Place:** Delhi is the primary urban area implementing these specific TOD and FAR policy changes.

Mains question: Critically analyze the trade-offs between high-density urban development and infrastructure capacity in rapidly expanding metropolitan areas like Delhi.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/83431

Social Justice

Education policy · Prelims + Mains

CBSE plans three-language rule for Class IX, sparking concerns among students and parents

Why in news: CBSE announced the implementation of the three-language formula for Class IX starting in the 2026-27 academic year to align with NEP 2020.

Key facts: The policy requires students to study three languages, with at least two being Indian languages. The initiative is a direct implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and NCERT curriculum guidelines.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** CBSE: A national-level board for schools in India, headquartered in Delhi.
- **Scheme:** NEP 2020: National Education Policy 2020 emphasizes multilingualism and the three-language formula.
- **Fact:** Implementation date: Academic year 2026-27.

Mains question: Discuss how the implementation of the three-language formula under NEP 2020 can promote linguistic diversity while addressing the logistical challenges faced by educational institutions.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83402

Health policy & public health · Prelims + Mains

Centre Unveils Draft Policy for Indigenous Health Research, Seeks Stakeholder Feedback

Why in news: The Department of Health Research released the draft National Health Research Policy 2026 to align India's research ecosystem with indigenous innovation and public health priorities.

Key facts: The draft policy was released on July 14, 2026, by the Department of Health Research. It proposes a three-tier governance structure and shifts the focus from publication counts to measurable health outcomes and equity.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Department of Health Research (DHR): The nodal body responsible for the draft policy.
- **Fact:** Policy Target: National Health Research Policy 2026.
- **S&T:** Governance: The policy proposes a three-tier governance structure for health research.

Mains question: Discuss how the National Health Research Policy 2026 aims to transition India's health research from academic output to measurable public health outcomes.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83676

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

On July 14, 2026, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the Supreme Court

Why in news: The Union government amended the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD) to include victims of internal acid injuries as 'acid attack victims' following a Supreme Court directive.

Key facts: The amendment to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD) became effective retroactively from May 22, 2026. It expands the scope of the 2016 law to provide legal protections and benefits to individuals suffering from internal injuries caused by acid ingestion.

Prelims pointers

- **Act / Bill:** Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD) was enacted in 2016
- **Fact:** Amendment effective retroactively from May 22, 2026
- **Post:** Solicitor General of India is the highest-ranking law officer after the Attorney General

Mains question: *Examine how the expansion of the RPwD Act to include internal acid attack victims reflects the shift towards a more inclusive social justice framework in India.*

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/83632](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/83632)

Health policy & public health · Prelims + Mains

On July 13, 2026, Rajnath Singh, India's Defence Minister, addressed the 22nd

Why in news: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted India's progress in indigenous medical manufacturing and advanced therapies like gene therapy and nanomedicine during the 22nd convocation of King George's Medical University.

Key facts: India has developed indigenous gene therapy for haemophilia and nanomedicine for breast cancer. The government has expanded medical colleges in Uttar Pradesh from 17 to 81 since 2017 and operates over 19,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Gene therapy: A technique that modifies a person's genes to treat disease.
- **Scheme:** Jan Aushadhi Kendras: Government initiative to provide affordable generic medicines to the public.
- **Fact:** Uttar Pradesh medical college expansion: Increased from 17 to 81 between 2017 and 2026.
- **S&T:** Macrolide antibiotics: A class of antibiotics used to treat various bacterial infections.

Mains question: *Examine the role of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme in achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in the medical device and pharmaceutical manufacturing sectors.*

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/83367](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/83367)

Health policy & public health · Prelims

On Tuesday, Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay launched the Tamil Nadu Health

Why in news: Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu launched 'Nalam TN' and 'Nalam AI' to digitize patient services and mobilize private donations for public healthcare.

Key facts: The Tamil Nadu Health Foundation launched Nalam TN to channel private donations into government hospitals. Nalam AI is a WhatsApp-based service designed to help patients generate OP tickets and book appointments across 22 districts.

Prelims pointers

- **Scheme:** Nalam TN: A platform by Tamil Nadu Health Foundation to channel private donations into government hospitals.
- **S&T:** Nalam AI: A WhatsApp-based AI service for digital OP ticket generation and appointment booking.
- **Fact:** The initiatives are designed to cover 22 districts in Tamil Nadu.

Mains question: *Discuss how the integration of AI and public-private partnerships can address the infrastructure and accessibility gaps in India's public healthcare delivery system.*

Source: Indian Express · [satyadheesh.in/news/83735](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/83735)

Poverty, hunger & nutrition · Prelims

Minister to Lay Foundation for 1 Lakh Indiramma Houses on July 20

Why in news: Andhra Pradesh Housing and Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy is set to lay the foundation for 1 lakh Indiramma houses in Core Urban Regions (CURE) to address urban housing needs.

Key facts: The State Cabinet approved the project on May 23, 2024, targeting Low Income Group (LIG) homes. Construction will involve multi-storey buildings across 26 constituencies with a financial commitment scheduled for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Prelims pointers

- **Scheme:** Indiramma Houses: A housing initiative by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for Low Income Group (LIG) households.
- **Fact:** Target: 1 lakh houses to be constructed in Core Urban Regions (CURE).
- **Fact:** Timeline: Foundation stone laying scheduled for July 20, 2024; financial commitment for 2026-27.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of urban housing schemes in alleviating poverty and promoting inclusive urbanization in rapidly developing Indian states.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/83695](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/83695)

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

High Court Overrules Age Limit: Lucknow Couple Can Pursue Surrogacy with Preserved Embryos

Why in news: The Allahabad High Court allowed a 50-year-old woman to pursue surrogacy using preserved embryos, ruling that strict age limits in the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act may infringe upon reproductive autonomy.

Key facts: The couple had preserved three embryos in 2015 but faced hurdles due to the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act's implementation in 2022. The Allahabad High Court bench in Lucknow directed the Chief Medical Officer to hear the application within three weeks.

Prelims pointers

- **Act / Bill:** Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021: Regulates commercial and altruistic surrogacy in India.
- **Fact:** The couple had preserved three embryos in 2015.
- **Place:** Lucknow: Location of the Allahabad High Court bench that delivered the ruling.

Mains question: To what extent does the state's regulation of reproductive rights through the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act conflict with the fundamental right to reproductive autonomy?

Source: Indian Express · [satyadheesh.in/news/83682](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/83682)

Education policy · Prelims + Mains

CAG uncovers six "ghost hostels" in Maharashtra receiving Rs 1.62 crore with no students

Why in news: The CAG's Compliance Audit Report 2024 revealed that the Maharashtra government released Rs 1.62 crore to six 'ghost hostels' between 2020 and 2024 despite no students residing there.

Key facts: The CAG audit identified six non-functional hostels in Jalna, Buldhana, and Latur districts. Significant discrepancies were noted in Modikhan Hostel (Jalna), where Rs 18 lakh was paid in honorariums despite the building being locked and dilapidated.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General) is the supreme audit institution of India.
- **Fact:** Rs 1.62 crore was misappropriated/mismanaged across six ghost hostels between 2020 and 2024.
- **Fact:** As of March 2024, Maharashtra had 443 government hostels for students.

Mains question: Critically analyze the systemic failures in the oversight of welfare schemes for socially and economically disadvantaged students as highlighted by the CAG report.

Source: NDTV · [satyadheesh.in/news/83577](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/83577)

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

Supreme Court Slams Raina, Allahbadia, Chanchlani for Non-compliance

Why in news: The Supreme Court reprimanded content creators for non-compliance with orders to include persons with disabilities (PwDs) in their shows and suggested a law against derogatory remarks.

Key facts: On July 14, 2026, the Supreme Court addressed a plea by Cure SMA India Foundation regarding insensitive remarks on Spinal Muscular Atrophy treatment costs. The court ordered the influencers to host two monthly shows highlighting PwD success stories for fundraising.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Supreme Court of India: The highest judicial body in India, exercising judicial review and original jurisdiction.
- **Fact:** Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA): A severe genetic disorder affecting motor neurons, often requiring expensive gene therapies.
- **Post:** Cure SMA India Foundation: A non-governmental organization advocating for patients with Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

Mains question: Discuss the necessity of a legal framework to penalize derogatory remarks against persons with disabilities and the role of social media influencers in fostering inclusivity.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83530

Education policy · Prelims

Telangana launches AI programme for 80,000 minority students on Independence Day

Why in news: The Telangana government launched the 'AI Readiness and Digital Safety Programme' to provide AI and digital safety training to 80,000 minority students in residential schools.

Key facts: The initiative is a collaboration between the Telangana government, Doxa Consulting Private Limited (DCPL), and MASK NextGen Inc. It targets students in 205 TMREIS residential schools and is funded entirely through CSR partnerships.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** The programme targets 80,000 minority students across 205 TMREIS residential schools.
- **Body:** TMREIS stands for Telangana Minority Residential Educational Institutions Society.
- **S&T:** The initiative utilizes a gamified platform to teach AI knowledge and digital safety skills.
- **Fact:** The programme was launched on August 15, 2024.

Mains question: Discuss how targeted digital literacy and AI training programmes can bridge the socio-economic divide for minority communities in India.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83346

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

Delhi finalizes Rs 2,500 monthly aid for women, eligibility strict

Why in news: The Delhi government finalized eligibility criteria for the 'Delhi Lakshmi Yojana', a monthly financial aid scheme for women, to ensure targeted welfare distribution.

Key facts: The scheme provides ₹2,500 monthly financial assistance to eligible women aged 21-60. Eligibility requires a 10-year Delhi residency, a family income below ₹2.5 lakh, and no ownership of a four-wheeler.

Prelims pointers

- **Scheme:** Delhi Lakshmi Yojana: A state-level welfare scheme providing ₹2,500 monthly aid to women.
- **Fact:** Eligibility criteria include a maximum annual family income of ₹2.5 lakh.
- **Fact:** Applicants must have resided in Delhi for a minimum of 10 years.
- **Fact:** The scheme excludes individuals with criminal records or those owning four-wheelers.

Mains question: Discuss the importance of stringent eligibility criteria in ensuring the effective delivery of targeted welfare schemes for women in urban local bodies.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/83256

Education policy · Prelims + Mains

Supreme Court Rejects Claims of 350 Teachers, Declares Madrasa Appointments Illegal

Why in news: The Supreme Court rejected the regularization claims of 350+ madrasa staff in West Bengal, declaring appointments made after March 14, 2016, without judicial permission as illegal.

Key facts: The Supreme Court relied on a three-member committee report from February 2023 which found zero valid appointments among the 361 petitioners. The case involved the West Bengal Madrasa Service Commission Act, 2008, which was struck down by the Calcutta High Court in 2014.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Supreme Court of India: The apex court that stayed the Calcutta High Court's 2015 verdict on March 14, 2016.
- **Fact:** 361 petitioners filed over 40 petitions seeking regularized appointments and state-funded salaries.
- **Act / Bill:** West Bengal Madrasa Service Commission Act, 2008: The specific state legislation declared unconstitutional by the High Court.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges in maintaining administrative consistency and legal validity in the appointment processes of minority-run educational institutions receiving state grants.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83146

Karnataka adopts NCERT textbooks from class I to X for better education

Why in news: Karnataka government mandated the adoption of NCERT textbooks across all State Board schools from Class I to X to standardize and enhance primary education quality.

Key facts: The initiative covers English and Maths for Classes I-V, and English and Hindi for Classes VI-VII. Science and Maths NCERT books have been utilized for Classes VIII-X since previous phases of the rollout.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** NCERT: National Council of Educational Research and Training is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Education.
- **Fact:** Karnataka State Board schools are the primary implementation site for this textbook standardization.
- **Fact:** The rollout includes English, Maths, Hindi, and Science textbooks across different grade brackets.

Mains question: Discuss the implications of standardizing state-level curricula with NCERT textbooks on the federal structure of education and the quality of primary schooling in India.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/83031](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/83031)

Karnataka launches ₹1,010 crore project for 10,000 youth clubs

Why in news: The Karnataka government launched a ₹1,010 crore project to establish 10,000 Bharat Jodo Yuva Sanghas to promote youth empowerment and cultural activities.

Key facts: The project involves setting up 10,000 youth clubs in gram panchayats and urban wards. Each club receives ₹10 lakh annually, and members must be aged between 16 and 35 years.

Prelims pointers

- **Scheme:** Bharat Jodo Yuva Sanghas: Karnataka state initiative providing ₹10 lakh annual funding per club.
- **Fact:** Total annual expenditure for the project is ₹1,010 crore.
- **Body:** Clubs must be registered under the Karnataka Societies Act.
- **Fact:** Membership requirement: Minimum 100 members aged 16 to 35 years.

Mains question: Discuss how community-based youth clubs can serve as a catalyst for rural and urban development and social cohesion in India.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/82990](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/82990)

International Relations

Iran strikes UAE tankers, kills Indian sailor in Strait of Hormuz attack

Why in news: Iran launched cruise missiles at UAE-flagged tankers in the Strait of Hormuz on July 14, 2026, resulting in the death of an Indian sailor and sparking a diplomatic protest.

Key facts: On July 14, 2026, Iran targeted two UAE-flagged tankers in the Strait of Hormuz. The attack resulted in the death of one Indian sailor and injuries to several others, leading to a formal protest by the Indian government against the Iranian Deputy Chief of Mission.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic maritime chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- **Fact:** The incident occurred on July 14, 2026, involving UAE-flagged tankers.
- **S&T:** Cruise missiles: Low-altitude, long-range missiles capable of traveling at speeds close to the speed of sound.

Mains question: Examine the significance of the Strait of Hormuz in global energy security and discuss the implications of maritime insecurity on India's energy trade routes.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/83720](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/83720)

US bombs Iran again, Tehran strikes Gulf, tankers: What's the latest? | US-Israel war on Iran News

Why in news: The US and Iran engaged in a multi-day military escalation involving strikes on military sites and maritime infrastructure, impacting global oil prices.

Key facts: The US conducted strikes against Iranian military sites for three consecutive days. Iran retaliated by striking UAE-flagged oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz and attacking US facilities in Bahrain and Kuwait.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A critical maritime chokepoint for global oil transit located between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.
- **Fact:** The conflict led to an immediate spike in global oil prices by over 9 percent.
- **Place:** Bahrain and Kuwait: Gulf nations hosting US military facilities and impacted by the retaliatory strikes.

Mains question: Analyze the impact of maritime insecurity in the Strait of Hormuz on global energy security and the geopolitical stability of the Middle East.

Source: Al Jazeera · satyadheesh.in/news/83371

India's Jaishankar pitches SHANTI vision to Guterres at UN, eyes 2028-2029 UNSC seat

Why in news: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to discuss global conflicts and formally launch India's campaign for a non-permanent UNSC seat for the 2028-2029 term.

Key facts: India launched its UNSC campaign featuring the 'SHANTI' vision (Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust and Integrity). The framework focuses on six priorities including Global South representation and multilateral reforms.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** UNSC: The United Nations Security Council is the primary international body responsible for maintaining international peace and security.
- **Fact:** India is seeking a non-permanent seat on the UNSC for the 2028-2029 term.
- **Post:** S. Jaishankar: Current Minister of External Affairs of India.
- **Body:** UN Secretary-General: The chief administrative officer of the United Nations.

Mains question: Examine the significance of India's 'SHANTI' vision in advocating for a more representative and democratic multilateral order for the Global South.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/83321

Australia, Indonesia Sign Security Treaty Amid Indo-Pacific Shift Led by India

Why in news: Australia and Indonesia signed a Treaty on Common Security in February 2026, signaling a shift toward an India-centric Indo-Pacific security architecture.

Key facts: The Australia-Indonesia Treaty on Common Security was signed in February 2026 by PM Albanese and President Subianto. The move follows defense cooperation agreements signed by India and Japan in July 2026 to enhance military interoperability and energy security.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Indonesia: Southeast Asian nation and a key partner in the ASEAN framework
- **Fact:** February 2026: Date of the Australia-Indonesia Treaty on Common Security
- **Post:** Subianto: President of Indonesia
- **Post:** Albanese: Prime Minister of Australia

Mains question: Analyze the significance of India's growing role as a security anchor in the Indo-Pacific region amidst shifting geopolitical dynamics in Southeast Asia.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/83449

What is Iran's Pickaxe Mountain, the mystery site Trump warns he'll attack? | US-Israel war on Iran News

Why in news: US President Donald Trump threatened military action against Pickaxe Mountain, a fortified Iranian nuclear site, amid escalating regional tensions.

Key facts: Pickaxe Mountain is a highly fortified nuclear site south of Tehran featuring two underground tunnel complexes beneath hundreds of meters of granite rock. US Central Command (CENTCOM) launched precision strikes on Iranian military targets following these threats.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Pickaxe Mountain: A fortified nuclear site located south of Tehran, Iran.
- **S&T:** Pickaxe Mountain: Suspected site for secret uranium-enrichment facilities.
- **Body:** US Central Command (CENTCOM): The military command responsible for overseeing US military operations in the Middle East.

Mains question: Analyze the implications of escalating military tensions in the Middle East on global energy security and the efficacy of traditional diplomatic frameworks in curbing nuclear proliferation.

Source: Al Jazeera · satyadheesh.in/news/83437

On June 17, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif signed a US-Iran ceasefire

Why in news: Pakistan acted as a mediator for a US-Iran ceasefire MoU signed on June 17, which subsequently collapsed due to renewed hostilities and disputes over the Strait of Hormuz.

Key facts: On June 17, Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the US and Iran to extend a ceasefire. The agreement collapsed within four weeks following US strikes and Iranian retaliatory missile/drone strikes on Gulf nations.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A critical maritime chokepoint in the Persian Gulf, central to global oil transit and the current US-Iran friction.
- **Fact:** Pakistan, Qatar, and Oman are identified as key mediators in the US-Iran ceasefire negotiations.
- **Post:** Shehbaz Sharif: Prime Minister of Pakistan (as of the reported period).

Mains question: Analyze the role of regional powers like Pakistan in mediating Middle Eastern conflicts and the geopolitical implications of maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz.

Source: Al Jazeera · satyadheesh.in/news/83383

Iranian attacks send Brent futures to \$80, straining India's energy imports

Why in news: Iranian attacks and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz have surged Brent crude prices to \$80 per barrel, impacting India's energy security and import costs.

Key facts: The Strait of Hormuz handles approximately 20% (one-fifth) of global oil and LNG flows. Recent Iranian actions have led to a 4% increase in Brent futures, forcing India to consider rationing measures due to high import bills.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- **Fact:** Brent Crude: A major benchmark for global oil prices, currently trading around \$80 per barrel following regional tensions.
- **Fact:** India's Energy Dependency: India relies heavily on West Asian imports for its crude oil requirements.

Mains question: Analyze the impact of maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz on India's energy security and suggest measures to diversify India's energy import corridors.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/83347

Modi's trip boosts Act East Policy, deepening India's Indo-Pacific ties

Why in news: PM Modi's visit to Indonesia, Australia, and New Zealand reinforces the Act East Policy to deepen strategic and economic ties in the Indo-Pacific region.

Key facts: The Look East Policy was initiated in 1991 and transitioned to the Act East Policy in 2014. The policy focuses on economic cooperation, cultural ties, and strategic partnerships with ASEAN and Indo-Pacific nations.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Look East Policy: Initiated in 1991 to engage with Southeast Asian economies.
- **Fact:** Act East Policy: Renamed in 2014 to reflect a more proactive and comprehensive engagement strategy.
- **Place:** ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a key pillar of India's Act East Policy.
- **Fact:** Indo-Pacific: A primary geographic focus for India's maritime security and economic connectivity.

Mains question: Examine how the Act East Policy serves as a cornerstone for India's maritime security and economic integration in the Indo-Pacific region.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/83211

India and Australia Finalise Uranium Export Arrangements

Why in news: India and Australia finalized administrative arrangements for uranium exports to India under the 2015 Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, enabling private sector commercial contracts.

Key facts: The arrangement allows private Australian mining entities to contract with Indian private sector companies. The framework is facilitated by the SHANTI Act passed in December 2025.

Prelims pointers

- **Intl. org:** 2015 Nuclear Cooperation Agreement: Framework governing civil nuclear cooperation between India and Australia.
- **Act / Bill:** SHANTI Act: Legislation passed in December 2025 to facilitate uranium export arrangements.
- **Fact:** Uranium export arrangements finalized during PM Modi's visit to Australia in July 2026.

Mains question: Examine how the expansion of nuclear cooperation with Australia strengthens India's energy security and its strategic position in the Indo-Pacific region.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83054

Ukraine and 9 Nations Form Missile Defense Coalition, Putin Vows Retaliation

Why in news: Ukraine and nine European nations formed a missile defense coalition in Paris to build a shared ballistic missile defense architecture to counter Russian threats.

Key facts: The coalition includes Ukraine, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and the UK. The initiative aims to utilize Ukraine's combat experience to create an integrated defense system against ballistic missiles, which are harder to intercept than drones or cruise missiles.

Prelims pointers

- **Intl. org:** The coalition consists of 10 nations: Ukraine, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and UK.
- **Fact:** The coalition was formally announced during talks in Paris in 2024.
- **S&T:** Ballistic missiles are identified as a higher-priority threat than cruise missiles or drones due to their trajectory and speed.

Mains question: Analyze the significance of integrated missile defense architectures in European security and the implications of collective defense mechanisms in the context of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/82995

Clashes Erupt in PoJK as JAAC Prepares for Muzaffarabad March

Why in news: Protests and clashes erupted in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) on July 14, 2026, ahead of a planned march by the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) to Muzaffarabad.

Key facts: The Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) organized a march to Muzaffarabad on July 15, 2026. Clashes occurred in the Sudhnoti and Mathiyal Mera districts of PoJK, leading to casualties and prompting a statement from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Muzaffarabad: The administrative headquarters of Azad Kashmir in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).
- **Place:** Sudhnoti and Mathiyal Mera: Districts located within the PoJK region.
- **Fact:** The protests and clashes occurred on July 14, 2026.

Mains question: Discuss the implications of internal unrest in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) on India's regional security and the broader Kashmir issue.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83770

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains

On Monday, July 13, 2026, an Indian seafarer aboard a Very Large

Why in news: An Indian seafarer reported a high-tension situation in the Strait of Hormuz where a VLCC carrying 2 million barrels of oil faced conflicting orders from the Iranian Navy and the U.S. during transit.

Key facts: On July 13, 2026, a Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) carrying over two million barrels of crude oil transited the Strait of Hormuz. The vessel faced threats from the Iranian Navy while receiving instructions from the U.S. to proceed via a southern route near the Oman coast.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- **Fact:** VLCC: Very Large Crude Carrier, a ship designed to transport massive quantities of crude oil over long distances.
- **Place:** Oman: A country bordering the Strait of Hormuz, serving as a key maritime corridor for energy exports.

Mains question: Examine the geopolitical significance of the Strait of Hormuz and the implications of maritime security threats on India's energy security and trade routes.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83734

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains

Indian minister orders 'Seafarer-First' response after attacks kill one, injure Indian crew

Why in news: Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal ordered a 'Seafarer-First' response to protect Indian merchant crew following attacks in the Strait of Hormuz.

Key facts: On July 14, 2026, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) initiated a real-time monitoring system for Indian seafarers. The initiative involves an operational dashboard to track crew welfare and threat assessments in the Strait of Hormuz.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman.
- **Body:** MoPSW: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, responsible for maritime safety and shipping policy.
- **Fact:** The 'Seafarer-First' response includes real-time monitoring and liaison officers for affected sailors.

Mains question: Examine the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz for India's maritime trade and discuss the measures required to ensure the safety of Indian seafarers in conflict zones.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83731

Policies of other countries affecting India · Prelims

Netherlands spends €2.3 billion on flood fix, cutting evacuations by giving rivers more space

Why in news: The Netherlands' 'Room for the River' programme is being highlighted as a global model for climate adaptation and flood management.

Key facts: The Netherlands invested €2.3 billion in the 'Room for the River' programme launched in 2006. The strategy shifted from building higher dikes to creating space for rivers by moving dikes, lowering floodplains, and converting farmland into temporary storage.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Waal River: A major river in the Netherlands where the Nijmegen island project was implemented.
- **Fact:** The Room for the River programme was launched in 2006 with a budget of €2.3 billion.
- **S&T:** Nature-based solutions: Using floodplains and temporary storage areas to manage high river discharge.

Mains question: Discuss how nature-based solutions like the 'Room for the River' programme can be adapted to manage increasing flood risks in the Indian subcontinent.

Source: Times of India · satyadheesh.in/news/83500

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains

India's Medical Tourism Soars, Worth \$12.32B by 2026

Why in news: India's medical tourism sector is projected to reach \$12.32 billion by 2026, driven by cost-effectiveness and the e-Medical Visa program.

Key facts: Medical tourism arrivals in India rose from 1.83 lakh in 2020 to over 6.59 lakh in 2023. The sector is projected to reach a valuation of \$22.11 billion by 2031. The e-Medical Visa program currently covers citizens of 167 countries.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Medical tourism market valuation in India is projected to reach \$12.32 billion by 2026.
- **Fact:** Medical tourism arrivals increased from 1.83 lakh in 2020 to 6.59 lakh in 2023.
- **Fact:** The e-Medical Visa program covers citizens of 167 countries.
- **Fact:** Complex medical procedures in India can cost up to 80% less than in Western countries.

Mains question: Examine the factors contributing to India's emergence as a global hub for medical tourism and suggest measures to address the challenges of fragmented healthcare experiences.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/83386

GS3 · Economy · S&T · Environment · Security · 35

Economy

Monetary policy, RBI & banking · Prelims + Mains

The RBI proposed draft amendments to ease regulatory compliance for large institutional

Why in news: The RBI proposed draft amendments to simplify regulatory compliance for large institutional investors holding at least a 5% stake in banks.

Key facts: The RBI proposed a one-time approval mechanism for large institutional investors (mutual funds, insurance companies, pension funds) to acquire up to an additional 10% stake in banks. Public comments on these draft amendments are invited until August 4, 2026.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** RBI: The central bank of India responsible for monetary policy and banking regulation
- **Fact:** Proposed threshold: Large institutional investors with at least a 5% stake in banks
- **Fact:** Proposed expansion: One-time approval to acquire up to an additional 10% stake
- **Fact:** Public comment deadline: August 4, 2026

Mains question: Discuss how easing regulatory compliance for large institutional investors can enhance the stability and capital adequacy of the Indian banking sector.

Source: Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/83652

Industry, investment & MSMEs · Prelims + Mains

India Pushes CBG Initiatives Despite Progress Hurdles

Why in news: India is accelerating Compressed Biogas (CBG) initiatives like SATAT and GOBARdhan to mitigate energy security risks caused by an 85% reliance on West Asian crude oil imports.

Key facts: India imports nearly 85% of its crude oil from West Asia. The SATAT and GOBARdhan schemes aim to promote CBG as a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels while addressing waste management.

Prelims pointers

- **Scheme:** SATAT: Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation scheme focuses on CBG production.
- **Scheme:** GOBARdhan: A government initiative for converting cattle dung and farm waste into biogas.
- **Fact:** India's crude oil import dependency from West Asia is approximately 85%.
- **S&T:** CBG: Compressed Biogas is produced by fermenting organic waste like cow dung and agricultural residue.

Mains question: *Examine the potential of Compressed Biogas (CBG) in achieving India's energy security goals while addressing the trade-offs between industrial feedstock and food security.*

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83270

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

Modi launches Rs 2,500 crore projects, Sant Ravidas Express in Punjab on July 17

Why in news: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch infrastructure and healthcare projects worth over Rs 2,500 crore in Punjab, including the Sant Ravidas Express and railway station redevelopment.

Key facts: The PM will inaugurate healthcare projects worth Rs 1,200 crore for PGIMER and a 150-bed critical care hospital. The Sant Ravidas Express will connect Amritsar and Varanasi thrice weekly. A modernization initiative includes the redevelopment of 75 railway stations, including Jalandhar Cantonment.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Total project value in Punjab: Rs 2,500 crore
- **Fact:** Healthcare project value: Rs 1,200 crore
- **Place:** Sant Ravidas Express connects Amritsar and Varanasi
- **Fact:** Number of railway stations for redevelopment: 75

Mains question: *Discuss the role of infrastructure development and specialized transport in promoting regional connectivity and cultural tourism in India.*

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/83539

Employment & inclusive growth · Prelims + Mains

Railways skips exams, hires 7,220 ex-servicemen as gatemen, sparking SRMU backlash

Why in news: Indian Railways approved the contractual appointment of 7,220 ex-servicemen as level crossing gatemen without competitive exams, sparking opposition from the Southern Railway Mazdoor Union (SRMU).

Key facts: The policy targets ex-servicemen with at least 15 years of service and retired CAPF personnel. Southern Railway is set to fill 918 posts, with selected personnel receiving a monthly salary between ₹30,537 and ₹34,963 for a contract period of up to three years.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Total ex-servicemen to be hired as gatemen: 7,220
- **Fact:** Minimum service requirement for eligibility: 15 years
- **Fact:** Contract duration for selected gatemen: Up to 3 years
- **Fact:** Southern Railway's specific quota: 918 posts

Mains question: *Discuss the implications of bypassing competitive examinations for contractual appointments in public infrastructure, balancing the need for rapid recruitment against principles of meritocracy and job security.*

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83726

Growth, inflation & macro indicators · Prelims

Indian 'accommodation and food' sector soars 35% in 2025-26

Why in news: MoSPI reported a 35% year-on-year growth in the 'accommodation and food' sub-sector for 2025-26, highlighting the expansion of India's service economy.

Key facts: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released data showing 14 out of 19 sub-sectors in the Index of Services Production (ISP) recorded double-digit growth. The 'accommodation and food' sector specifically surged by over 35% in the 2025-26 period.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** MoSPI: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is the nodal body for releasing national statistics.
- **Fact:** The 'accommodation and food' sub-sector grew by over 35% year-on-year in 2025-26.
- **Fact:** 14 out of 19 sub-sectors in the Index of Services Production (ISP) recorded double-digit growth.
- **S&T:** ISP methodology: Utilizes GST and administrative data to measure services output without additional compliance burden.

Mains question: Analyze the role of the Index of Services Production (ISP) in monitoring India's service sector growth and its implications for formulating targeted economic policies.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/83673

Growth, inflation & macro indicators · Prelims

Wholesale Inflation Soars to 9.87% as Food Prices Skyrocket

Why in news: Ministry of Commerce and Industry reported a rise in wholesale inflation to 9.87% in June due to surging food prices, signaling potential broader inflationary pressure.

Key facts: Wholesale inflation rose from 9.68% in May to 9.87% in June. Key price drivers included drumsticks (46%), capsicum (38%), tomatoes (33%), and onions (26%).

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation reached 9.87% in June
- **Fact:** Drumstick prices surged by 46% in the reported period
- **Fact:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry is the nodal body for WPI data

Mains question: Analyze the impact of volatile food prices on India's wholesale inflation and discuss measures to stabilize supply chains for perishable commodities.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/83569

Industry, investment & MSMEs · Prelims

Telangana CM to lay foundation stone for Amazon Web Services data centre in Bharat Future City on July 15

Why in news: Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy is laying the foundation stone for Amazon Web Services' (AWS) flagship data centre in Bharat Future City, signaling a major push in digital infrastructure investment.

Key facts: The project involves a ₹60,000-crore investment over a ten-year period. The Telangana government allotted 202 acres in Bharat Future City and 98 acres in Chandanvelly, providing ₹125 crore in incentives.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** AWS investment in Telangana is valued at ₹60,000 crore over a ten-year period.
- **Place:** Bharat Future City is located near Hyderabad, Telangana.
- **Scheme:** Planned Urban Expansion (PURE) initiative is the state framework for this infrastructure development.
- **Fact:** The first phase of construction is scheduled for completion within 24 months from July 2026.

Mains question: Discuss how large-scale investments in data centers contribute to India's digital economy and the challenges of managing urban expansion in emerging tech hubs.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83535

Fiscal policy, budget & taxation (GST) · Prelims

Direct tax collection surges 16.40% to over ₹6.51 lakh crore this fiscal year

Why in news: The Ministry of Finance reported a 16.40% surge in net direct tax collection to ₹6.51 lakh crore as of July 13, 2026, indicating robust corporate and non-corporate tax yields.

Key facts: Net direct tax collection reached ₹6.51 lakh crore, with corporate tax contributing ₹2.40 lakh crore (22% growth) and non-corporate tax contributing ₹3.84 lakh crore (12% growth). Gross direct tax collection stood at ₹7.73 lakh crore, with refunds issued totaling ₹1.22 lakh crore.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Net direct tax collection grew by 16.40% to ₹6.51 lakh crore as of July 13, 2026.
- **Fact:** Corporate tax collection reached ₹2.40 lakh crore, representing a 22% year-on-year increase.
- **Fact:** The government's fiscal target for direct tax collection for the current fiscal year is ₹26.97 lakh crore.

- **Fact:** Gross direct tax collection reached ₹7.73 lakh crore with refunds issued amounting to ₹1.22 lakh crore.

Mains question: Analyze the factors contributing to the rising trend in direct tax collections and discuss how this strengthens India's fiscal position for infrastructure development.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83495

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

On July 14, 2026, Suwendu Adhikari, Chief Minister of West Bengal, announced

Why in news: The West Bengal government announced a significant infrastructure and housing push following a ₹1,000 crore central allotment for rural roads and housing units.

Key facts: The Centre allotted ₹1,000 crore for 2,400 km of rural roads and 100,000 houses under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana. Additionally, ₹8,508 crore was sanctioned for the VB-G RAM G scheme for the period ending March 31, 2027.

Prelims pointers

- **Scheme:** Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY): Central government scheme for providing affordable housing to the urban and rural poor.
- **Fact:** ₹1,000 crore allotted for 2,400 km of rural roads in West Bengal as of July 14, 2026.
- **Fact:** VB-G RAM G scheme total outlay exceeds ₹12,064 crore including state contribution.
- **Post:** Shivraj Singh Chouhan: Union Minister of Agriculture (as of July 2026).

Mains question: Discuss how integrated rural infrastructure and housing schemes contribute to poverty alleviation and regional economic parity in India.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83470

Industry, investment & MSMEs · Prelims

Pune Gas Proposes India's First LPG Efficiency Policy Framework to Ministry

Why in news: Pune Gas submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for India's first LPG Efficiency Policy Framework to optimize fuel usage.

Key facts: Pune Gas submitted a formal representation to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The proposal aims to establish a national framework for LPG efficiency in India.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) is the nodal ministry for LPG policy in India
- **Fact:** Bitcoin traded near \$62,450 amid geopolitical tensions and inflation concerns
- **Fact:** Sensex and Nifty showed mixed movement with Sensex dropping 500 points and Nifty gaining 150 points

Mains question: Discuss the significance of establishing a national LPG Efficiency Policy Framework in achieving India's energy security and reducing domestic fuel wastage.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/83251

Capital markets & SEBI · Prelims

SBI to Dilute 6.3% Stake in AMC Through ₹9,813 Crore IPO Opening Tuesday

Why in news: State Bank of India (SBI) is diluting a 6.3% stake in its Asset Management Company (AMC) through a ₹9,813 crore IPO to bolster capital adequacy.

Key facts: SBI is selling 24.75 million shares in its AMC via an NSE IPO. The total IPO value is expected to reach ₹30,000 crore, making it one of India's largest listings.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** SBI is diluting a 6.3% stake in its Asset Management Company (AMC).
- **Fact:** The IPO value is approximately ₹9,813 crore with a total expected listing size of ₹30,000 crore.
- **Body:** NSE (National Stock Exchange) is the primary platform for the IPO listing.
- **Fact:** SBI intends to invest ₹7,000 crore at the lower end of the price band.

Mains question: Discuss how the infusion of capital through equity markets helps Public Sector Banks (PSBs) manage non-performing assets and maintain capital adequacy ratios.

Source: Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/83230

Agriculture

Cropping patterns & irrigation · Prelims

Punjab sees 36% surge in Direct Seeded Rice adoption, breaching 4 lakh acres

Why in news: Punjab reported a 36% surge in Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) adoption in the 2026 Kharif season, exceeding 4 lakh acres as part of water conservation efforts.

Key facts: The Punjab Agriculture Department reported that 31,478 farmers adopted DSR across 4,00,433.26 acres in 2026. The state government provided approximately Rs 61 crore in incentives to promote this water-saving technique.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** DSR adoption in Punjab reached 4,00,433.26 acres in the 2026 Kharif season.
- **Fact:** Punjab government allocated nearly Rs 61 crore in incentives for DSR adoption in 2026.
- **Place:** Fazilka district recorded the highest DSR area at 1,55,422.77 acres in 2026.
- **S&T:** Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) is a water-saving technique where seeds are sown directly into the field without transplanting.

Mains question: Discuss how the promotion of Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) contributes to sustainable agriculture and water conservation in the Punjab region.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/83666

Animal husbandry, fisheries & allied · Prelims + Mains

Gujarat launches 'Silence Zones' after lion kills 11-year-old boy on Mount Girnar

Why in news: Gujarat government announced 'Silence Zones' and thermal drone surveillance on Mount Girnar following a fatal human-wildlife conflict involving a lion and a child.

Key facts: The incident occurred on July 11 on the Datar hill (3,000 steps) in Junagadh district. The state government is recruiting 25 forest trackers and establishing permanent checkpoints to secure the pilgrim trek routes.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Mount Girnar is located in the Junagadh district of Gujarat.
- **Fact:** The Datar hill trek involves approximately 3,000 steps.
- **S&T:** Thermal drone surveillance is being deployed to monitor wildlife movement in real-time.
- **Fact:** The Gujarat government is recruiting 25 forest trackers for the Girnar region.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges of managing human-wildlife conflict in high-density pilgrimage sites and suggest measures to balance religious tourism with wildlife conservation.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/83081

Science & Technology

Space technology (ISRO, missions) · Prelims

NASA Astronaut Anil Menon Heads to ISS for Historic 8-Month Mission

Why in news: NASA astronaut Anil Menon is scheduled to launch for an 8-month ISS mission on July 14, 2026, marking a significant milestone for the Indian diaspora in space exploration.

Key facts: Anil Menon will launch from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on July 14, 2026, at 8:17 p.m. IST. The mission involves a collaboration with Russian cosmonauts to conduct experiments on microgravity effects and semiconductor crystal production.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Baikonur Cosmodrome: Located in Kazakhstan, it is the world's first and largest operational spaceport.
- **S&T:** ISS: The International Space Station is a modular space station in low Earth orbit.
- **Fact:** Mission Duration: The scheduled mission duration for Anil Menon is 8 months starting July 2026.
- **S&T:** Microgravity Research: Experiments include studying human physiology and manufacturing semiconductor crystals in space.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of India's growing participation in international space missions and the potential of space-based manufacturing for the Indian economy.

IT, AI, semiconductors & computing · Prelims + Mains

Supreme Court draft Regulations permit AI in court admin, ban solo algorithmic decisions

Why in news: The Supreme Court released draft Regulations for the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Courts, 2026, to establish a governance framework for ethical AI integration in the judiciary.

Key facts: The draft regulations permit AI for administrative and assistive functions like case management, transcription, and legal research. However, it strictly prohibits solo algorithmic decision-making and the use of AI to evaluate bail eligibility.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** AI use in courts is permitted for administrative functions: case management, transcription, translation, and legal research.
- **S&T:** Solo algorithmic decision-making is prohibited under the draft SC AI Regulations 2026.
- **S&T:** Evaluating bail eligibility using AI is prohibited in 'absolute and non-derogable' terms.
- **Fact:** Stakeholder comments on the draft regulations were sought by July 15, 2026.

Mains question: Discuss the ethical and constitutional implications of integrating Artificial Intelligence into the Indian judicial system while ensuring the preservation of judicial independence and human oversight.

Source: Indian Express · [satyadheesh.in/news/83627](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/83627)

Space technology (ISRO, missions) · Prelims

Indian-Origin Astronaut Anil Menon Launches to ISS with Pyotr Dubrov and Anna Kikina

Why in news: Indian-origin astronaut Anil Menon launched to the International Space Station (ISS) on the Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft to conduct medical research and AI-supported technology tests.

Key facts: Anil Menon, a US Space Force colonel and emergency medicine physician, launched from Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan. The mission involves an eight-month stay on the ISS to study microgravity effects on human physiology and test AI-supported ultrasound for deep space missions.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Soyuz MS-29: Russian spacecraft used to transport crew to the International Space Station (ISS).
- **Place:** Baikonur Cosmodrome: Located in Kazakhstan, it is the world's first and largest operational spaceport.
- **S&T:** AI-supported ultrasound: Technology being tested for medical procedures during long-duration deep space missions.
- **Fact:** Mission Duration: The research mission is scheduled to last approximately eight months, concluding in 2027.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of international cooperation in space exploration and the role of AI-driven medical technologies in enabling long-duration human missions to Mars and the Moon.

Source: NDTV · [satyadheesh.in/news/83733](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/83733)

Space technology (ISRO, missions) · Prelims

Early galaxies obey Kormendy relation, challenging formation theories

Why in news: Researchers from IUCAA discovered that early galaxies (400-900 million years post-Big Bang) obey the Kormendy relation, challenging existing galaxy formation models.

Key facts: The study utilized data from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) to observe spheroidal galaxies. The Kormendy relation establishes a specific correlation between a galaxy's size and its surface brightness.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** JWST: NASA's space telescope designed to observe the infrared universe and early galaxy formation.
- **Body:** IUCAA: Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, located in Pune, India.
- **Fact:** The study focused on galaxies aged between 400 and 900 million years post-Big Bang.

Mains question: How do recent observations of early galaxy organization challenge existing cosmological models of galaxy formation and evolution?

Source: Indian Express · [satyadheesh.in/news/83601](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/83601)

Airlines exempt from paying Rs 5,000-Rs 10,000 compensation for weather cancellations: Expert

Why in news: Aviation experts clarified that airlines are exempt from statutory compensation for weather-related cancellations under DGCA regulations, while still being obligated to provide care and refunds.

Key facts: Under DGCA Civil Aviation Requirements and the Passenger Charter of Rights, airlines are exempt from paying Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000 compensation for Force Majeure events like adverse weather. Passengers are entitled to refunds, re-routing, and care (meals/hotels) during such delays.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** DGCA: Directorate General of Civil Aviation is the regulatory body for civil aviation in India
- **Act / Bill:** Consumer Protection Act, 2019: Provides the legal framework for seeking redressal against airline service deficiencies
- **Scheme:** AirSewa: A government-backed platform for grievance redressal in the aviation sector
- **Fact:** Statutory compensation for cancellations ranges from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000 depending on the delay/cancellation severity

Mains question: *Critically analyze the adequacy of the current DGCA Passenger Charter of Rights in balancing airline operational viability with passenger rights during Force Majeure events.*

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/83422

Karnataka launches first AI University, aiming for global AI leadership

Why in news: Karnataka announced India's first government-driven AI University and an AI Hub to foster responsible AI leadership and industry-academia collaboration.

Key facts: The announcement was made by CM D.K. Shivakumar during the 'Google I/O Connect India 2026' event in Bengaluru. The initiative includes a dedicated AI University and an AI Hub designed as an incubation center for talent and research.

Prelims pointers

- **Post:** D.K. Shivakumar: Chief Minister of Karnataka
- **Fact:** Karnataka is launching India's first government-driven AI University
- **Place:** Bengaluru: Host city for the Google I/O Connect India 2026 event

Mains question: *Discuss how the establishment of specialized AI universities can bridge the skill gap and foster responsible AI innovation in India's burgeoning tech ecosystem.*

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83316

On Monday, Shubhanshu Shukla, an Indian Air Force Group Captain and Axiom-4

Why in news: Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, an Axiom-4 mission member, addressed IIT-Hyderabad regarding India's roadmap for the Bharatiya Antariksh Station and the 2040 lunar mission.

Key facts: Shubhanshu Shukla is an Indian Air Force Group Captain selected for the Axiom-4 mission. The session highlighted India's strategic goal to establish a space station and send an Indian astronaut to the moon by 2040.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Axiom-4: A private space mission involving the Axiom Space company and NASA.
- **Fact:** India's target year for sending an astronaut to the moon is 2040.
- **S&T:** Bharatiya Antariksh Station: India's planned space station to be established in low Earth orbit.

Mains question: *Discuss the strategic and technological imperatives for India's Gaganyaan and Bharatiya Antariksh Station missions in achieving self-reliance in space exploration.*

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83118

Dhruva Space Secures ₹60 Crore from AVCF for Satellite Manufacturing Expansion

Why in news: Dhruva Space secured ₹60 crore from the Antariksh Venture Capital Fund (AVCF) to expand satellite manufacturing and space infrastructure development.

Key facts: Dhruva Space is a space engineering solutions provider that has raised ₹275 crore to date for its pre-Series B round. The Antariksh Venture Capital Fund (AVCF) is managed by SIDBI Venture Capital and anchored by IN-SPACe.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** IN-SPACe: Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre, the nodal agency for private sector space activities.
- **Body:** SIDBI Venture Capital: The venture capital arm of the Small Industries Development Bank of India.
- **Fact:** Dhruva Space order book exceeds ₹500 crore as of the current reporting period.
- **Fact:** AVCF investment in Dhruva Space: ₹60 crore.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of the Antariksh Venture Capital Fund in fostering a vibrant private space ecosystem and achieving India's goals in the global space economy.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83116

Environment & Ecology

Species, protected areas & wetlands · Prelims

12 bikers fined Rs 1.2 lakh for off-roading in Ladakh's wildlife sanctuary

Why in news: Authorities fined 12 bikers Rs 1.2 lakh for illegal off-roading in the Tso Moriri wetland, highlighting the enforcement of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, in ecologically sensitive zones.

Key facts: The incident occurred in the Tso Moriri wetland, which is part of the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary in Ladakh. The bikers were penalized under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, with each individual receiving a fine of Rs 10,000.

Prelims pointers

- **Act / Bill:** Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Primary legislation for the protection of wild animals and plants in India.
- **Place:** Tso Moriri: A high-altitude wetland and lake located in the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary, Ladakh.
- **Fact:** Total fine imposed: Rs 1.2 lakh on 12 bikers from WanderOn Experiences Pvt Ltd on July 4, 2024.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges in balancing adventure tourism with the conservation of ecologically sensitive zones like the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary in Ladakh.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/83736

Environmental laws, EIA & institutions · Prelims + Mains

Bombay High Court Criticizes Far-off Compensatory Afforestation Practice

Why in news: The Bombay High Court criticized the practice of compensatory afforestation far from the site of mangrove felling for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project.

Key facts: MahaTransco sought permission to cut 847 mangrove trees in Palghar district for the bullet train project. The Bombay High Court suggested that plantations should ideally be established closer to the affected site and initiated before tree cutting occurs.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Palghar district: Location of the proposed mangrove tree felling for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project.
- **Fact:** 847: Number of mangrove trees MahaTransco sought permission to cut.
- **Body:** MahaTransco: Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Limited, the body seeking the clearance.

Mains question: Critically analyze the ecological implications of remote compensatory afforestation versus in-situ restoration in coastal ecosystems like mangroves.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/83661

Species, protected areas & wetlands · Prelims

Two pairs of beavers return to Britain after 400-year absence

Why in news: The Beaver Trust released two pairs of beavers into Little Sea Lake, Dorset, on 28 February 2025, marking the first wild release in Britain in 400 years.

Key facts: Two pairs of beavers were released into Little Sea Lake, Studland, Dorset. The animals were transported from the Tay catchment in Scotland by the Beaver Trust to restore wetlands and natural waterways.

Prelims pointers

- **Environment:** Beavers are classified as 'ecosystem engineers' due to their ability to build dams and alter waterways.
- **Place:** Little Sea Lake is located in Studland, Isle of Purbeck, Dorset, UK.
- **Fact:** Beavers were absent from Britain for approximately 400 years due to historical hunting for fur, meat, and castoreum.
- **Body:** The Beaver Trust is the conservation organisation responsible for the reintroduction project.

Mains question: Discuss the role of 'ecosystem engineers' like beavers in wetland restoration and the ecological trade-offs involved in reintroducing extirpated species in modern landscapes.

Source: Times of India · satyadheesh.in/news/83545

Species, protected areas & wetlands · Prelims

On July 14, 2026, Lt

Why in news: Lt. Governor V.K. Saxena imposed heavy fines on vehicles for illegal off-roading in Ladakh's protected wildlife areas to preserve the fragile ecosystem.

Key facts: On July 14, 2026, the Ladakh Environment Protection Force (EPF) enforced penalties including ₹10,000 fines for bikers and ₹50,000 for an SUV owner. The enforcement targeted illegal driving near Lake Moriri and Pangong Lake in Ladakh.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Lake Moriri and Pangong Lake are high-altitude lakes located in the Ladakh Union Territory.
- **Body:** Ladakh Environment Protection Force (EPF) is the designated body for monitoring and enforcing environmental penalties in Ladakh.
- **Fact:** Fines imposed on July 14, 2026, ranged from ₹10,000 to ₹50,000 for illegal off-roading in protected zones.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges in balancing high-altitude tourism with the preservation of fragile ecosystems in ecologically sensitive zones like Ladakh.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83453

Climate change & international agreements · Prelims

The monsoon floods, after hitting Western India's Maharashtra and Gujarat, have caused

Why in news: Heavy monsoon rainfall in July 2026 caused widespread flooding across Maharashtra, Gujarat, and the Northeastern states, prompting IMD flash flood warnings.

Key facts: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued flash flood risks for several Northeastern states including Assam, Meghalaya, and Sikkim. Flooding in Assam specifically inundated areas like Ghunsuti, causing significant property damage.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** IMD: India's primary agency for monitoring and forecasting rainfall and tropical cyclones.
- **Place:** Northeastern states affected: Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, and Sikkim.
- **Fact:** Flood events occurred in July 2026 across Western and Northeastern India.

Mains question: Analyze the geographical and climatic factors contributing to the increasing frequency of flash floods in Northeast India and suggest mitigation strategies.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/83304

Species, protected areas & wetlands · Prelims

Yogi Adityanath Launches 'Ek Pedh Maa Ke Naam' to Plant 35 crore Saplings

Why in news: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the 'Ek Pedh Maa Ke Naam' campaign in Gorakhpur to plant 35 crore saplings to combat environmental degradation.

Key facts: The campaign was launched on July 12, 2026, in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. It targets the plantation of 35 crore saplings to mitigate erratic weather patterns and carbon emissions.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Target of 'Ek Pedh Maa Ke Naam' campaign: 35 crore saplings
- **Place:** Launch location: Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh
- **Fact:** Campaign launch date: July 12, 2026

Mains question: Discuss how large-scale afforestation initiatives like 'Ek Pedh Maa Ke Naam' can mitigate the impact of climate change on Indian agriculture.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83239

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

Analysis finds 20 coal plants near Delhi exceed sulfur dioxide limits

Why in news: The Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air reported that 20 coal plants near Delhi-NCR exceed sulfur dioxide limits due to exemptions from Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) systems.

Key facts: The study identified 20 out of 37 coal plant units within 300 km of Delhi-NCR exceeding emission limits. Category C plants, which were fully exempted from FGD installation in July 2023, emit over six million tonnes of sulfur dioxide annually.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** FGD (Flue Gas Desulphurisation): A technology used to remove sulfur dioxide (SO₂) from the exhaust gases of coal-fired power plants.
- **Fact:** 20 out of 37 coal plant units within 300 km of Delhi-NCR were found to exceed sulfur dioxide limits.
- **Body:** Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA): An independent research organization tracking energy and emissions.

Mains question: Critically analyze the trade-off between energy security and air quality standards in India's coal-dependent power sector.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/83179

Pollution (air, water, plastic) · Prelims

Delhi's Transport Minister Announces ₹9,585 Crore Plan for Cleaner Vehicles

Why in news: Delhi's Transport Minister announced the 'Naya Safar Yojana' to phase out old trucks and buses in Delhi-NCR to reduce vehicular pollution.

Key facts: The 'Naya Safar Yojana' involves a total outlay of ₹9,585 crore, with a Central government contribution of ₹5,041 crore. The scheme targets approximately 2.07 lakh vehicle owners in the Delhi-NCR region over a two-year implementation period.

Prelims pointers

- **Scheme:** Naya Safar Yojana: A scheme to phase out old trucks and buses in Delhi-NCR by promoting BS VI compliant or electric vehicles.
- **Fact:** Total funding for Naya Safar Yojana: ₹9,585 crore (including ₹5,041 crore from the Central government).
- **Fact:** Target beneficiaries: Approximately 2.07 lakh vehicle owners in Delhi-NCR.
- **S&T:** BS VI: The current emission standard for vehicles in India, requiring cleaner fuels and advanced emission control systems.

Mains question: Discuss the effectiveness of fiscal incentives and technological mandates in transitioning to a green transport ecosystem in high-density urban corridors like Delhi-NCR.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/83159

Internal Security

Border management · Prelims + Mains

Shah tackles illegal migrants, border misuse at historic police conference

Why in news: Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the first Land Border Districts' Superintendents of Police Conference 2026 to address illegal migration, border misuse by radical elements, and technological challenges in border security.

Key facts: The conference was held on July 9, 2026, involving SPs from 119 border districts. Key discussions included the use of drones and encrypted apps (WhatsApp) for smuggling and the demographic impact of

illegal migration on electoral rolls in Assam.

Prelims pointers

- **Post:** Amit Shah: Union Minister of Home Affairs
- **Body:** Chief Election Commissioner: Gyanesh Kumar (attended the conference)
- **Scheme:** Vibrant Villages Programme: Initiative to develop and secure border villages
- **Fact:** 119 border districts were represented at the conference
- **Fact:** States must submit suggestions by December 2026 for a quadrangular security grid

Mains question: Discuss the challenges posed by technological advancements and illegal migration on India's border security and suggest measures to strengthen the quadrangular security grid.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/83150](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/83150)

Left-wing extremism · Prelims + Mains

Since May 2023, Manipur has seen infrastructure projects like the Khulmi bridge

Why in news: Infrastructure projects like the Khulmi bridge and 'German Road' in Manipur have become flashpoints for ethnic conflict between Meitei and Kuki groups.

Key facts: The Khulmi bridge is a 270-foot Bailey bridge completed on July 10, 2023, at a cost of Rs 3.5 crore via crowdfunding. In December 2025, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered a halt to an unauthorized 'ring road' connecting Kuki settlements.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Khulmi bridge and 'German Road' are located in Manipur
- **Body:** National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a quasi-judicial body for environmental protection
- **Fact:** Khulmi bridge is a 270-foot Bailey bridge completed in July 2023

Mains question: Discuss how infrastructure development in conflict-prone regions can exacerbate ethnic tensions and territorial disputes. Suggest measures to ensure transparent project execution.

Source: NDTV · [satyadheesh.in/news/83721](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/83721)

Border management · Prelims + Mains

Assam CM says 193 foreigners repatriated to Bangladesh under 1950 Act

Why in news: Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma reported the repatriation of 1,679 illegal immigrants to Bangladesh between July 2022 and June 2024 under the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950.

Key facts: Between July 2022 and June 2024, 193 individuals declared foreigners by Foreigners Tribunals were repatriated. A total of 1,679 illegal immigrants were pushed back to Bangladesh during this period. The state currently has 91,385 'D-voters' (doubtful voters) on its electoral rolls.

Prelims pointers

- **Act / Bill:** Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950: Legal framework for the expulsion of illegal immigrants from Assam.
- **Body:** Foreigners Tribunals: Quasi-judicial bodies established to determine the citizenship status of individuals in Assam.
- **Fact:** 91,385 'D-voters' are currently listed in Assam's electoral rolls as of the 2024 reporting period.
- **Fact:** 1,679 total illegal immigrants were repatriated between July 2022 and June 2024.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges in balancing national security concerns regarding illegal migration with the protection of human rights and constitutional safeguards in border states.

Source: NDTV · [satyadheesh.in/news/83317](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/83317)

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

On August 25, 2017, an armed mob attacked and set the Uttar

Why in news: The Punjab and Haryana High Court upheld the acquittal of individuals accused of sedition and arson during a 2017 protest, clarifying the legal boundaries of anti-government slogans.

Key facts: On August 25, 2017, an armed mob attacked the Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam office in Kalayat, causing damage to public property. The Punjab and Haryana High Court dismissed the state's appeal on July 2, 2024, ruling that slogans against the government do not constitute sedition.

Prelims pointers

- **Act / Bill:** Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) defines the offense of sedition.

- **Body:** Punjab and Haryana High Court is the principal judicial body for the states of Punjab and Haryana.
- **Fact:** The incident occurred on August 25, 2017, following the conviction of Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh.

Mains question: *Critically examine the judicial interpretation of 'sedition' in a democracy, balancing the protection of national security with the right to dissent.*

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/83313

Left-wing extremism · Mains

Kuki leaders travel to Aizawl as civil groups demand justice from Amit Shah

Why in news: Kuki civil society groups and church leaders are seeking a political solution and humanitarian intervention amidst escalating ethnic strife between Kuki and Naga communities in Northeast India.

Key facts: Kuki leaders and civil society groups submitted a memorandum to Union Home Minister Amit Shah regarding village burnings and killings. The delegation also met with the Director of the Intelligence Bureau and Northeast interlocutors to demand protection and restored supplies.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Aizawl is the capital city of Mizoram state.
- **Post:** The Union Home Minister oversees internal security and border management in India.
- **Fact:** The Intelligence Bureau (IB) is India's internal intelligence agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Mains question: *Analyze the challenges in resolving ethnic conflicts in Northeast India and discuss the role of civil society and community leaders in fostering peace.*

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/83201

Left-wing extremism · Mains

Kuki-Zo Council Seeks Central Intervention in Manipur Crisis

Why in news: The Kuki-Zo Council sought central intervention from the Intelligence Bureau and Home Ministry regarding the escalating ethnic conflict and supply blockades in Manipur's Kangpokpi district.

Key facts: The Kuki-Zo Council reported 15 deaths and 14 villages burnt since February 4, 2026. The group is demanding a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo community due to the perceived inability of the state government to manage the crisis.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Kangpokpi: A district in Manipur currently experiencing ethnic conflict and supply blockades.
- **Post:** Mahesh Dixit: Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) as of July 2026.
- **Fact:** The crisis escalated significantly following the end of President's Rule in Manipur in early 2026.

Mains question: *Discuss the challenges in maintaining internal security and communal harmony in Manipur, and evaluate the role of central intervention in resolving ethnic-based administrative demands.*

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/83034

Practice — Mains questions

1. Examine the significance of the Strait of Hormuz in global energy security and discuss the implications of maritime insecurity on India's energy trade routes. · GS2
2. Discuss the significance of India's growing participation in international space missions and the potential of space-based manufacturing for the Indian economy. · GS3
3. Discuss how the implementation of the three-language formula under NEP 2020 can promote linguistic diversity while addressing the logistical challenges faced by educational institutions. · GS2
4. Analyze the impact of maritime insecurity in the Strait of Hormuz on global energy security and the geopolitical stability of the Middle East. · GS2
5. Examine the significance of India's 'SHANTI' vision in advocating for a more representative and democratic multilateral order for the Global South. · GS2
6. Discuss how the National Health Research Policy 2026 aims to transition India's health research from academic output to measurable public health outcomes. · GS2
7. Discuss how easing regulatory compliance for large institutional investors can enhance the stability and capital adequacy of the Indian banking sector. · GS3
8. Examine how the expansion of the RPwD Act to include internal acid attack victims reflects the shift towards a more inclusive social justice framework in India. · GS2

Prelims quick revision

- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic maritime chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- **Fact:** The incident occurred on July 14, 2026, involving UAE-flagged tankers.
- **S&T:** Cruise missiles: Low-altitude, long-range missiles capable of traveling at speeds close to the speed of sound.
- **Place:** Baikonur Cosmodrome: Located in Kazakhstan, it is the world's first and largest operational spaceport.
- **S&T:** ISS: The International Space Station is a modular space station in low Earth orbit.
- **Fact:** Mission Duration: The scheduled mission duration for Anil Menon is 8 months starting July 2026.
- **Body:** CBSE: A national-level board for schools in India, headquartered in Delhi.
- **Scheme:** NEP 2020: National Education Policy 2020 emphasizes multilingualism and the three-language formula.
- **Fact:** Implementation date: Academic year 2026-27.
- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A critical maritime chokepoint for global oil transit located between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.
- **Fact:** The conflict led to an immediate spike in global oil prices by over 9 percent.
- **Place:** Bahrain and Kuwait: Gulf nations hosting US military facilities and impacted by the retaliatory strikes.
- **Body:** UNSC: The United Nations Security Council is the primary international body responsible for maintaining international peace and security.
- **Fact:** India is seeking a non-permanent seat on the UNSC for the 2028-2029 term.
- **Post:** S. Jaishankar: Current Minister of External Affairs of India.
- **Body:** Department of Health Research (DHR): The nodal body responsible for the draft policy.
- **Fact:** Policy Target: National Health Research Policy 2026.

- **S&T:** Governance: The policy proposes a three-tier governance structure for health research.
- **Body:** RBI: The central bank of India responsible for monetary policy and banking regulation
- **Fact:** Proposed threshold: Large institutional investors with at least a 5% stake in banks
- **Fact:** Proposed expansion: One-time approval to acquire up to an additional 10% stake
- **Act / Bill:** Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD) was enacted in 2016
- **Fact:** Amendment effective retroactively from May 22, 2026
- **Post:** Solicitor General of India is the highest-ranking law officer after the Attorney General
- **S&T:** AI use in courts is permitted for administrative functions: case management, transcription, translation, and legal research.
- **S&T:** Solo algorithmic decision-making is prohibited under the draft SC AI Regulations 2026.
- **S&T:** Evaluating bail eligibility using AI is prohibited in 'absolute and non-derogable' terms.
- **Place:** Indonesia: Southeast Asian nation and a key partner in the ASEAN framework
- **Fact:** February 2026: Date of the Australia-Indonesia Treaty on Common Security
- **Post:** Subianto: President of Indonesia
- **Place:** Pickaxe Mountain: A fortified nuclear site located south of Tehran, Iran.
- **S&T:** Pickaxe Mountain: Suspected site for secret uranium-enrichment facilities.
- **Body:** US Central Command (CENTCOM): The military command responsible for overseeing US military operations in the Middle East.
- **Body:** Archaeological Survey of India (ASI): Statutory body under the Ministry of Culture responsible for archaeological research and preservation.
- **Place:** Bhojshala complex: Located in Madhya Pradesh, currently subject to litigation regarding its status as a temple or mosque.
- **Fact:** The court permitted Friday Namaaz specifically between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. in an adjacent open area.
- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A critical maritime chokepoint in the Persian Gulf, central to global oil transit and the current US-Iran friction.
- **Fact:** Pakistan, Qatar, and Oman are identified as key mediators in the US-Iran ceasefire negotiations.
- **Post:** Shehbaz Sharif: Prime Minister of Pakistan (as of the reported period).
- **S&T:** Gene therapy: A technique that modifies a person's genes to treat disease.

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.

SatyaDheesh · satyadheesh.in/upsc