

UPSC Current Affairs — 16 July 2026

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Polity & Constitution

Elections, ECI & electoral reforms · Prelims

Election Commission extends Delhi voter list updates to October 19 due to slow digitization

Why in news: The Election Commission of India (ECI) extended the deadline for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Delhi's electoral rolls to October 19, 2024, due to slow digitization of enumeration forms.

Key facts: The ECI is conducting a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll for over 1.45 crore voters in Delhi. As of the announcement, only 15% of enumeration forms have been digitized, with specific districts like Old Delhi and East Delhi lagging below 10%.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Election Commission of India (ECI) is the constitutional body responsible for administering elections to Parliament and State Legislatures.
- **Fact:** Only 15% of enumeration forms for Delhi's 1.45 crore voters were digitized as of the revision update.
- **Fact:** Draft rolls for the Delhi electoral revision are scheduled for publication on August 17, 2024.
- **Fact:** The final publication of the revised electoral roll is now set for October 19, 2024.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges in achieving a digitized electoral roll in India and suggest measures to ensure inclusive and accurate voter registration.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/84705

Governance

Transparency, accountability & RTI · Prelims + Mains

CAG audit finds Rs 13,101 crore PMKKKY implementation flawed in Chhattisgarh

Why in news: The CAG identified systemic flaws and fund diversion of ₹13,101 crore in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) in Chhattisgarh between 2015-16 and 2023-24.

Key facts: The CAG audit revealed that out of ₹13,101 crore allocated for PMKKKY in Chhattisgarh, only ₹10,253 crore was spent. Significant funds were diverted to non-priority projects like office renovations and beautification, while key monitoring posts remained vacant.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** CAG: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is the supreme audit institution of the country.
- **Scheme:** PMKKKY: Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana aims to improve the socio-economic conditions of people living in mining-affected areas.
- **Fact:** Audit Period: The CAG audit covered the implementation period from 2015-16 to 2023-24.
- **Fact:** Unfruitful Expenditure: ₹41.80 crore was spent on non-priority areas due to poor planning and vacant monitoring posts.

Mains question: Critically analyze the role of the CAG in ensuring fiscal discipline and transparency in the implementation of large-scale central sector schemes in mining-affected regions.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/84847

Social Justice

Education policy · Prelims

On July 16, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced NEET UG 2026

Why in news: The National Testing Agency (NTA) declared the NEET UG 2026 results, highlighting a significant qualification rate and gender-based performance trends in medical admissions.

Key facts: Out of nearly 20 lakh candidates, 11.21 lakh qualified for medical admissions in the NEET UG 2026 cycle. The Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) is responsible for conducting counseling for All India Quota seats.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** NTA: National Testing Agency is the autonomous body responsible for conducting major entrance exams like NEET and JEE.
- **Body:** MCC: Medical Counselling Committee handles the allocation of seats under the All India Quota.
- **Fact:** NEET UG 2026: 11.21 lakh candidates qualified out of a total pool of nearly 20 lakh.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges in ensuring equitable access to high-quality medical education in India and the role of standardized testing in identifying merit.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85281

Education policy · Prelims + Mains

Supreme Court alarmed by CBSE's on-screen marking system irregularities

Why in news: The Supreme Court expressed concern over systemic irregularities and student frustration regarding the CBSE's On-Screen Marking (OSM) system for Class 12 examinations.

Key facts: The OSM system involves teachers assessing scanned copies of physical answer sheets on computers rather than manual marking. A PIL filed by Rakesh Binjola seeks a high-powered committee to oversee reforms and regulations for the digital evaluation process.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** CBSE: Central Board of Secondary Education, an autonomous national-level board of education in India
- **S&T:** OSM (On-Screen Marking): A digital evaluation process where scanned answer scripts are graded via computer interfaces
- **Post:** Chief Justice of India: Currently held by Justice Surya Kant (as per the provided text context)

Mains question: Critically analyze the challenges associated with transitioning from manual to digital evaluation systems in national-level examinations and suggest measures to ensure transparency and accuracy.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85086

Education policy · Prelims

Bihar CM Launches 'Bihar School Live Classes' and Free Coaching for JEE, NEET

Why in news: Bihar CM launched 'Bihar School Live Classes' and free coaching for JEE/NEET to democratize access to competitive exam preparation for rural and underprivileged students.

Key facts: The initiative launched in 10 model schools in Patna with plans to expand to all 155 model schools across Bihar. It provides expert teachers, digital materials, and smart classrooms for JEE and NEET preparation.

Prelims pointers

- **Scheme:** Bihar School Live Classes: State initiative providing digital learning and coaching for competitive exams.
- **Fact:** Initial enrollment: 266 students for JEE and 252 students for NEET in the pilot phase.
- **Fact:** Target expansion: Coverage to be extended to all 155 model schools in Bihar.

Mains question: Discuss how state-led initiatives in providing free coaching for competitive exams can bridge the educational divide between urban and rural students in India.

Health policy & public health · Mains

Ration Disruption Hits 8.5 Million in Madhya Pradesh Amid Rising Malnutrition

Why in news: Madhya Pradesh's Take-Home Ration (THR) distribution for 8.5 million beneficiaries faced disruptions of up to three months, highlighting systemic failures in the nutrition delivery model.

Key facts: The Madhya Pradesh government is transferring THR production and distribution responsibility from the State Rural Livelihood Mission back to the Department of Women and Child Development. The nutrition system is valued at approximately Rs 1,200 crore, yet 31.4% of children in the state are stunted and 39.7% are underweight.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** 31.4% of children in Madhya Pradesh are stunted as of the current reporting period.
- **Fact:** 39.7% of children in Madhya Pradesh are underweight.
- **Body:** Anganwadi centres are the primary delivery points for supplementary nutrition under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) framework.
- **Fact:** The THR distribution system in Madhya Pradesh is estimated to be worth nearly Rs 1,200 crore.

Mains question: Critically analyze the administrative bottlenecks in the delivery of supplementary nutrition to vulnerable sections in India and suggest measures to ensure last-mile connectivity.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/84946

Health policy & public health · Prelims

Yadav Unveils ₹414 Crore Plan for 5 New AYUSH Colleges and 6 Hospitals

Why in news: Andhra Pradesh Health Minister announced a ₹414 crore investment to establish 5 new AYUSH colleges and 6 integrated hospitals to bolster traditional medicine infrastructure.

Key facts: The state plan includes 4 Ayurveda colleges and 1 Unani medical college at ₹70 crore each. Six integrated AYUSH hospitals will be established with a total investment of ₹90 crore. The initiative also targets value addition for medicinal plants like moringa and aloe vera across 30,000-35,000 acres.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Total investment for AYUSH infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh: ₹414 crore
- **Fact:** Cost per new AYUSH college (Ayurveda/Unani): ₹70 crore
- **Fact:** Number of integrated AYUSH hospitals to be established: 6
- **Fact:** Medicinal plants targeted for value addition: Moringa and Aloe Vera

Mains question: Discuss the significance of integrating AYUSH systems into the mainstream healthcare delivery framework to achieve universal health coverage in India.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/84767

Education policy · Prelims

Telangana DGP Plans Anti-Drug Committees in All Educational Institutions

Why in news: Telangana DGP C.V. Anand announced a proposal to mandate anti-drug and safety committees in all educational institutions to combat substance abuse and ensure student safety.

Key facts: The proposal requires every institution to appoint a campus safety coordinator to oversee awareness and counseling. It includes mandatory drug awareness during admissions and the deployment of psychologists. Non-compliance or facilitating drug activity may lead to the cancellation of institutional recognition.

Prelims pointers

- **Post:** C.V. Anand: Director General of Police (DGP) of Telangana
- **Fact:** Mandatory requirement: Appointment of a campus safety coordinator in all educational institutions
- **Fact:** Proposed action: Cancellation of institutional recognition for facilitating drug activity

Mains question: Discuss the role of institutional frameworks and community policing in curbing the menace of drug abuse among students in India.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/84667

Kerala High Court Orders Reports on Ribociclib-Palbociclib Substitution by August 21

Why in news: The Kerala High Court sought expert reports from national cancer institutes and the DCGI on the interchangeability of Ribociclib and Palbociclib to address high costs of life-saving cancer drugs.

Key facts: The Kerala High Court directed the National Cancer Institute (Jhajjar), Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute (Kolkata), Regional Cancer Centre (Thiruvananthapuram), and the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) to submit reports by August 21. The legal action arose from a petition regarding the high cost of breast cancer medications.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** DCGI: Drug Controller General of India is the national regulatory authority for pharmaceuticals in India.
- **Place:** Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute is located in Kolkata.
- **Fact:** Ribociclib and Palbociclib are drugs used in the treatment of specific types of breast cancer.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges in ensuring the affordability of life-saving drugs in India and the role of judicial intervention in balancing patent rights with the right to health.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/84646

Delhi Proposes 56 Women-Only Electric Buses with Free Travel and Security

Why in news: The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) proposed 56 women-only electric buses to enhance safety and inclusivity for female commuters in the capital.

Key facts: The initiative includes 30 buses for office-goers and 26 for students across 28 routes. Buses will be equipped with CCTV cameras, panic buttons, and security personnel, integrated with the Pink Smart Card system for free travel.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** DTC proposes 56 women-only electric buses across 28 routes in Delhi.
- **Scheme:** Pink Smart Card: A dedicated smart card system for women's free travel in Delhi's public transport.
- **S&T:** Electric buses are utilized to align with the 'Green Delhi' initiative for carbon footprint reduction.

Mains question: Discuss how gender-specific public transport initiatives can enhance urban mobility and safety for women in rapidly expanding metropolitan cities like Delhi.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/84638

International Relations

Australia to supply uranium to India marking policy shift

Why in news: Australia agreed to supply uranium to India during the 3rd India-Australia Annual Summit in July 2024, signaling a shift in its export policy towards non-NPT members.

Key facts: The agreement was finalized during the 3rd India-Australia Annual Summit on July 9, 2024, in Melbourne. It aims to support India's nuclear energy expansion goal of reaching 100 GW capacity by 2047.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** India's nuclear energy expansion target: 100 GW capacity by 2047
- **Body:** NPT: Non-Proliferation Treaty, which Australia previously used as a criterion for uranium exports
- **Place:** Melbourne: Venue of the 3rd India-Australia Annual Summit in July 2024
- **S&T:** Uranium: Primary fuel source for nuclear fission in power generation

Mains question: Discuss how the expansion of nuclear energy cooperation between India and Australia strengthens the 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' and addresses India's energy security needs.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/84826

US Central Command Strikes Iranian Sites; Iran Hits US Bases, Iraq Intercepts Drones

Why in news: Escalation of direct military strikes between the US and Iran in the Middle East, involving strikes on military sites and oil infrastructure in the Strait of Hormuz.

Key facts: US Central Command (CENTCOM) targeted Iranian sites including Bandar Abbas and Greater Tunb Island. Iran retaliated against US bases in Kuwait, Bahrain, and Jordan, while Iraq intercepted drones near Erbil.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic maritime chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman.
- **Place:** Bandar Abbas: A major port city in Iran's Hormozgan Province.
- **Place:** Greater Tunb Island: One of the three islands in the Tunbs archipelago, located in the Persian Gulf.
- **Fact:** Casualties: At least 35 deaths and over 300 injuries reported since the start of attacks in late 2024.

Mains question: Analyze the implications of escalating military tensions in the Strait of Hormuz on global energy security and maritime trade routes.

Source: Al Jazeera · satyadheesh.in/news/85002

On July 15, the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) came

Why in news: The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) came into force on July 15, enabling zero-duty imports for Indian jewellery and coffee to the UK.

Key facts: The CETA covers approximately 99% of all tariff lines for Indian exports to the UK. The agreement aims to increase bilateral trade from \$65 billion to \$100 billion by 2030.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** India-UK trade target: \$100 billion by 2030
- **Fact:** CETA covers 99% of tariff lines for Indian exports to the UK
- **Place:** Kruti Coffee (Odisha) and Nysa Creations (London) are early beneficiaries of the pact
- **Body:** UK Department for Business and Trade (DBT) is the UK counterpart for the agreement

Mains question: Examine how bilateral trade agreements like the India-UK CETA can serve as catalysts for industrial growth and employment generation in developing economies.

Source: Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/85282

Developed nations cut climate funding as poor countries need at least \$2 trillion annually

Why in news: The widening climate finance gap is a critical issue as developed nations reduce funding despite developing nations requiring \$2 trillion annually for climate adaptation.

Key facts: Developing nations require a minimum of \$2 trillion annually to adapt to extreme weather conditions. The World Bank has recently lowered its climate finance targets amidst a reduction in contributions from major donor nations.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Minimum annual climate adaptation funding required by developing nations: \$2 trillion
- **Body:** World Bank: Multilateral development bank that recently adjusted its climate finance targets
- **Fact:** Report Date: July 16, 2026

Mains question: Discuss the ethical and economic implications of the widening climate finance gap between developed and developing nations in the context of global climate justice.

Source: Al Jazeera · satyadheesh.in/news/85052

On Tuesday, Iran launched fresh attacks on US military bases in Jordan

Why in news: Iran launched fresh attacks on US military bases in Jordan, Kuwait, and Bahrain, leading to a cycle of retaliatory strikes by the US.

Key facts: The US targeted Iranian command centers, air defense sites, and coastal surveillance facilities in Bandar Abbas and Greater Tunb Island. The escalation follows six days of renewed hostilities between the two nations.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Bandar Abbas: A major port city in the Hormoz Strait, Iran
- **Place:** Greater Tunb Island: An island in the Gulf of Aden, historically significant in maritime security
- **Fact:** The conflict involved strikes on military bases in Jordan, Kuwait, and Bahrain

Mains question: *Analyze the implications of escalating military tensions in the Persian Gulf on global energy security and regional maritime stability.*

Source: BBC · satyadheesh.in/news/84915

India's bilateral relations · Prelims

According to the BBC and Reuters, US President Donald Trump ordered fresh

Why in news: US President Donald Trump ordered fresh strikes against Iran in the Strait of Hormuz, escalating regional hostilities and impacting global oil prices.

Key facts: The US targeted Iranian military capabilities in the Strait of Hormuz, Bandar Abbas, and Greater Tunb Island. The strikes resulted in at least 35 deaths and over 300 injuries, leading to Iranian retaliatory strikes in Kuwait and Jordan.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic maritime chokepoint in the Middle East connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman.
- **Fact:** The conflict entered its fifth day of active hostilities as of the reported strikes.
- **Place:** Bandar Abbas and Greater Tunb Island: Key Iranian coastal and maritime locations targeted in the strikes.
- **Fact:** Global oil prices saw an upward trend following the escalation of hostilities in the region.

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

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/84884

India's bilateral relations · Prelims

Russian missiles hit Kyiv hours after EU drone deal, killing 2

Why in news: The European Commission President announced a drone production deal with Ukraine to leverage EU industrial capacity and Ukrainian battlefield expertise amidst escalating Russian missile strikes.

Key facts: The EU-Ukraine drone deal aims to combine Ukrainian battlefield ingenuity with European industrial scale to rapidly scale up production. The agreement was announced during the visit of Ursula von der Leyen to Kyiv on Ukraine's Statehood Day.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** European Commission: The executive branch of the European Union responsible for proposing legislation and implementing EU policies.
- **Post:** Ursula von der Leyen: Serves as the President of the European Commission.
- **Fact:** The drone deal focuses on combining Ukrainian battlefield expertise with EU industrial capacity for rapid production scaling.

Mains question: *Analyze the significance of the European Union's industrial and technological integration with Ukraine in the context of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.*

Source: Al Jazeera · satyadheesh.in/news/84864

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains

UK-India FTA Takes Effect: Karnataka Exporters Flag Off Consignments for 99% Duty-Free Access

Why in news: The UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has officially taken effect, providing 99% duty-free market access for Indian exporters to the United Kingdom.

Key facts: The FTA provides duty-free access for 99% of Indian exports to the UK. Key beneficiary sectors include biotech, pharmaceuticals, textiles, marine products, engineering goods, and coffee. The agreement includes a phased reduction of tariffs over a period of five to six years.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** The UK-India FTA provides duty-free access for 99% of Indian exports.

- **Place:** Karnataka (specifically Bengaluru) is a primary hub for the IT and MSME sectors benefiting from the deal.
- **Fact:** Tariff reductions under the FTA are scheduled to be phased in over a 5-6 year period.

Mains question: Analyze how the UK-India Free Trade Agreement can bolster India's manufacturing ambitions while addressing the challenges faced by MSMEs in global competition.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/84836](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/84836)

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains

India-EU FTA: Piyush Goyal hails 2026 as "historical year" for relations

Why in news: Union Minister Piyush Goyal hailed 2026 as a 'historical year' for India-EU relations following the third India-EU Trade and Technology Council meeting in Brussels.

Key facts: The India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) aims to expedite investment flows and reduce dependencies on single sources. A forward-looking action plan for 2026-27 focuses on strategic technologies and tangible benefits for citizens.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** India-EU Trade and Technology Council: A bilateral forum to coordinate on trade and technology cooperation.
- **Fact:** The India-EU FTA is expected to be signed in late 2024.
- **Fact:** The action plan for strategic technologies covers the period 2026-2027.

Mains question: Discuss how the India-EU Free Trade Agreement can help India achieve its goal of diversifying supply chains and reducing import dependencies on single sources.

Source: NDTV · [satyadheesh.in/news/84617](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/84617)

India's bilateral relations · Prelims

IAF to participate in Exercise Pitch Black 2026 in Australia from July 20 to August 7

Why in news: The Indian Air Force (IAF) is scheduled to participate in Exercise Pitch Black 2026, a multilateral air exercise aimed at enhancing regional interoperability.

Key facts: Exercise Pitch Black 2026 will take place from July 20 to August 7, 2026, at Darwin, Tindal, and Amberley bases. It involves up to 100 aircraft and over 2,500 personnel from 20 nations, including the debut of Japan's F-35 Lightning II and Indonesia's T-50I Golden Eagle.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Exercise Pitch Black 2026 involves up to 100 aircraft and over 2,500 personnel.
- **Place:** Exercise locations include Darwin, Tindal, and Amberley bases in Australia.
- **S&T:** Japan's F-35 Lightning II and Indonesia's T-50I Golden Eagle aircraft will debut in the 2026 edition.
- **Body:** The exercise is hosted/led by the Royal Australian Air Force.

Mains question: Discuss how multilateral military exercises like Pitch Black contribute to regional security architecture and India's 'Act East' policy objectives.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/85251](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/85251)

India & neighbourhood · Prelims + Mains

Over 500, mostly Rohingya passengers, feared dead as boat capsizes off Myanmar's coast: UN

Why in news: The UN reported a spike in maritime fatalities and disappearances of Rohingya refugees in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal in 2025-2026.

Key facts: In late June 2026, two boats carrying over 500 people from Myanmar's Rakhine State capsized off the coast. By 2025, nearly 900 Rohingya refugees were reported missing or dead in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Nearly 900 Rohingya refugees missing or dead in Andaman Sea/Bay of Bengal in 2025.
- **Fact:** Over 500 passengers feared dead in two boat capsizings off Myanmar's coast in June 2026.
- **Fact:** At least 730,000 Rohingya sought shelter in Bangladesh following the 2017 Myanmar military offensive.
- **Body:** UNHCR (UN Refugee Agency) and IOM (International Organization for Migration) are the primary bodies monitoring the crisis.

Mains question: Discuss the humanitarian and security implications of the Rohingya refugee crisis on the maritime security of the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85032

India's bilateral relations · Prelims

Russia Faces Worst Gasoline Crisis as Indian Refiners Supply Cargos

Why in news: Russia is facing a severe gasoline shortage due to Ukraine-led strikes on refining infrastructure, leading to an unusual trade reversal where Indian refiners are supplying gasoline to Russia.

Key facts: Russia's refining capacity is estimated to be down by nearly 40% due to Ukrainian strikes. Major Russian firms involved include Rosneft, Gazprom Neft, and Lukoil. India currently serves as Russia's largest buyer of seaborne crude.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Russia's refining capacity loss: nearly 40% due to infrastructure damage.
- **Post:** Rosneft, Gazprom Neft, and Lukoil: Major Russian state-controlled energy corporations.
- **Fact:** India's role: Russia's largest buyer of seaborne crude as of the current period.

Mains question: Analyze how the disruption of global energy supply chains and infrastructure damage in conflict zones impact the energy security and trade dynamics of major emerging economies like India.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/84931

Policies of other countries affecting India · Prelims

Raghuram Rajan joins Fed task force as US reshapes monetary policy

Why in news: Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan was appointed to a US Federal Reserve task force to assess the institutional implications of the Fed's asset holdings.

Key facts: The newly appointed US Federal Reserve Chairman, Kevin Warsh, formed five task forces to reshape monetary policymaking. Raghuram Rajan joins a balance sheet policy task force alongside Harvard economist Karen Dynan and Jeremy Stein.

Prelims pointers

- **Post:** Kevin Warsh: Chairman of the US Federal Reserve
- **Post:** Raghuram Rajan: Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- **Body:** Federal Reserve: The central banking system of the United States
- **Fact:** The task force will specifically assess the costs, benefits, and institutional implications of the Fed's asset holdings

Mains question: Discuss how the monetary policy shifts of the US Federal Reserve influence global financial stability and the economic policies of emerging economies like India.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/84877

India's bilateral relations · Prelims

PM Modi's Rs 25,000 Crore Bet: Ganga, Varuna Corridors To Transform Kashi

Why in news: The Union Cabinet approved the Ganga and Varuna Corridor projects to alleviate traffic congestion and boost tourism in Varanasi.

Key facts: The Union Cabinet approved two elevated road projects: the 46-km Ganga Corridor and the 43.2-km Varuna Corridor. The total estimated cost for these infrastructure projects is Rs 25,000 crore.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Ganga Corridor length: 46 km
- **Fact:** Varuna Corridor length: 43.2 km
- **Fact:** Total project cost: Rs 25,000 crore
- **Place:** Varanasi: Located in Uttar Pradesh, home to the Kashi Vishwanath Temple

Mains question: Discuss how integrated infrastructure projects like the Ganga and Varuna Corridors can balance urban mobility with heritage preservation in ancient Indian cities.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/84862

Supreme Court clears UP's Kukrail night safari project after CZA, CEC approvals

Why in news: The Supreme Court cleared the Uttar Pradesh government's Kukrail night safari and zoological park project following approvals from the Central Zoo Authority and Central Empowered Committee.

Key facts: The project is located in the Kukrail Reserve Forest, Uttar Pradesh. The Supreme Court mandated that the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) must conduct periodic visits to ensure compliance with environmental conditions.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Central Zoo Authority (CZA): Statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to regulate zoos and safari parks.
- **Body:** Central Empowered Committee (CEC): Body established to oversee environmental clearances and compliance in sensitive zones.
- **Place:** Kukrail Reserve Forest: Located in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Mains question: Discuss the balance between promoting eco-tourism and ensuring the conservation of biodiversity in protected forest areas in India.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/84662

GS3 · Economy · S&T · Environment · Security · 28

Economy

Industry, investment & MSMEs · Prelims + Mains

Union Cabinet OKs Rs 62,500 crore mobile phone scheme to boost local production

Why in news: The Union Cabinet approved a ₹62,500 crore mobile phone manufacturing scheme to enhance domestic value addition and R&D in the electronics sector.

Key facts: The scheme is approved for a duration of five years with a total outlay of ₹62,500 crore. It builds upon the existing Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme which successfully raised local value addition to 24%.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Total outlay for the new mobile phone manufacturing scheme is ₹62,500 crore.
- **Fact:** Current local value addition in the mobile phone sector stands at 24%.
- **Scheme:** The scheme provides an additional incentive of up to 1.5% for domestic sourcing of key components.
- **Scheme:** An additional incentive of 3% on eligible sales is provided for design and R&D by Indian brands.
- **Fact:** The scheme is scheduled to be in force for a period of five years.

Mains question: Discuss how production-linked incentive schemes contribute to India's goal of becoming a global electronics manufacturing hub and reducing import dependency.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85233

Industry, investment & MSMEs · Prelims + Mains

Modi orders ministries to identify goods for local production, aims to reduce import dependence

Why in news: PM Modi directed ministries to identify and substitute high-import-dependence goods with domestic alternatives to reduce trade deficits and foreign exchange reliance.

Key facts: The Ministry of Commerce is compiling a list of over 100 products, including electronics and chemicals, for domestic production. The Cabinet approved \$19.7 billion in financial support specifically for chip and smartphone manufacturing.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Cabinet approved \$19.7 billion in financial support for chip and smartphone production.
- **Fact:** Ministry of Commerce is identifying over 100 products for domestic production substitution.
- **S&T:** Semiconductor (chip) manufacturing is a key focus area for reducing import dependence.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in mitigating geopolitical risks and reducing trade deficits in the context of India's manufacturing sector.

Monetary policy, RBI & banking · Prelims + Mains

RBI tightens bank oversight with new governance framework revisions

Why in news: The RBI revised its governance framework to strengthen strategic oversight and risk management for banks to ensure financial stability.

Key facts: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) updated its governance framework to enhance oversight of banking institutions. The update focuses on risk management and strategic alignment to maintain systemic stability.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** RBI: The central bank of India responsible for monetary policy and banking regulation
- **Fact:** Mobile phone manufacturing scheme: A 5-year duration follow-on of the PLI scheme
- **S&T:** ANEEL: A thorium-based fuel deployable in Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) without design changes
- **Fact:** ISM 2.0: Offers lower subsidies than ISM 1.0 but includes R&D support for semiconductors

Mains question: Discuss how the RBI's governance framework revisions contribute to maintaining systemic stability and mitigating risks in the Indian banking sector.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85214

Industry, investment & MSMEs · Prelims + Mains

NPCIL Assures Safety as Cabinet Allocates ₹1.27 Lakh Crore for ISM 2.0 Semiconductor Subsidies

Why in news: The Union Cabinet approved ₹1.27 lakh crore for the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0 while NPCIL clarified that a data breach at Kudankulam affected only conventional facilities, not nuclear safety.

Key facts: The Union Cabinet allocated ₹1.27 lakh crore for ISM 2.0 to subsidize semiconductor supply chains, specifically targeting gases and chemicals. NPCIL confirmed on July 16, 2026, that the Kudankulam data breach was confined to Balance of Plant (BoP) facilities.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** ISM 2.0 budget allocation: ₹1.27 lakh crore
- **Body:** NPCIL: Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, a public sector undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy
- **S&T:** Balance of Plant (BoP): Conventional facilities like cooling systems and water treatment, distinct from the nuclear reactor core
- **S&T:** Semiconductors: Essential components for modern electronics, requiring specialized gases and chemicals for fabrication

Mains question: Discuss the significance of the India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 in achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and reducing global supply chain dependencies in the electronics sector.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85179

Fiscal policy, budget & taxation (GST) · Prelims

India has raised windfall taxes on exports of diesel and aviation turbine

Why in news: The Government of India increased windfall taxes on diesel and aviation turbine fuel exports while lowering petrol export duties to manage domestic price stability amidst rising global oil prices.

Key facts: The windfall tax on diesel exports was raised to ₹15.5 per litre and aviation turbine fuel to ₹14.5 per litre effective July 16. The petrol export duty was simultaneously reduced from ₹4 to ₹2.5 per litre.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Windfall tax on diesel exports: ₹15.5 per litre as of July 16
- **Fact:** Windfall tax on aviation turbine fuel: ₹14.5 per litre as of July 16
- **Fact:** Petrol export duty: Reduced to ₹2.5 per litre
- **Fact:** Context: Global oil price surge linked to U.S.-Iran conflict escalation

Mains question: Discuss the role of windfall taxes as a fiscal tool for balancing domestic energy security with international trade obligations during global commodity price volatility.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/84816

SEBI Imposes Stricter Rules: No New Equity Investments, Gifts Over ₹50,000 Prohibited

Why in news: SEBI approved a new code of conduct on June 19, 2026, to enhance transparency and accountability following allegations against its former chief.

Key facts: The new code applies to both Whole-Time Members (WTMs) and Part-Time Members (PTMs) of SEBI. Key restrictions include a ban on new equity investments during tenure and a cap on gifts at ₹50,000.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** SEBI: Securities and Exchange Board of India, a statutory body established under the SEBI Act, 1992
- **Fact:** Gift limit: SEBI members are prohibited from accepting gifts exceeding ₹50,000
- **Fact:** Investment restriction: Whole-Time Members (WTMs) are barred from making new equity investments during their tenure
- **Fact:** Recusal: Members must recuse themselves from discussions involving entities where they have significant financial interests

Mains question: Discuss the importance of robust ethical frameworks and conflict-of-interest regulations in maintaining the integrity of capital market regulators like SEBI.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/84708

Modi unveils 75 redeveloped stations Friday, including Baramati upgraded at ₹11.40 crore

Why in news: Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled 75 redeveloped railway stations under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) to modernize rail infrastructure.

Key facts: The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) aims to redevelop 1,337 railway stations across India. In Maharashtra, 132 stations are targeted for redevelopment, including the Baramati station upgraded at a cost of ₹11.40 crore.

Prelims pointers

- **Scheme:** Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) aims to redevelop 1,337 railway stations across India
- **Fact:** Baramati railway station in Pune was upgraded at a cost of ₹11.40 crore
- **Fact:** Maharashtra has 132 stations targeted for redevelopment under the scheme

Mains question: Discuss how the modernization of railway infrastructure under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme can enhance regional connectivity and foster inclusive economic growth in rural India.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85292

Banks Scrap Rate Hike Forecasts as Inflation Falls Below 4%

Why in news: Major global banks (AnZ, CitiBank, Standard Chartered) withdrew interest rate hike forecasts as India's CPI inflation fell below 4% in the April-June quarter.

Key facts: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) maintained the policy rate at 5.25% as consumer inflation averaged 3.9% during the April-June quarter. Financial institutions now project the rate to remain unchanged through FY2027 due to moderating crude prices.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** RBI Policy Rate: 5.25% as of the current reporting period.
- **Fact:** Consumer Inflation: Averaged 3.9% during the April-June quarter.
- **Body:** RBI: The central bank of India responsible for monetary policy and inflation targeting.
- **Fact:** Forecast Period: Financial institutions project stable rates through FY2027.

Mains question: Analyze the challenges faced by the RBI in balancing inflation targeting with the need for credit expansion in a moderating price environment.

Source: Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/84839

Surat Jewellers Export First \$10 Million Shipment to UK Under CETA Deal

Why in news: Surat-based jewellers exported their first \$10 million shipment to the UK under the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) providing zero-duty access.

Key facts: Four firms (Gaurav Jewellers, Roy Diamonds, Shish Jewels, and Parvati Jewels LLP) exported gold, diamond, silver, and platinum jewellery. The CETA aims to increase jewellery exports from US\$754 million to US\$2.5 billion over a three-year period.

Prelims pointers

- **Intl. org:** CETA: India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement providing zero-duty access for specific goods.
- **Fact:** Export target: Increase jewellery exports from US\$754 million to US\$2.5 billion over a three-year period.
- **Place:** Surat: Major hub for India's diamond and jewellery manufacturing and export.

Mains question: Discuss how bilateral trade agreements like CETA can enhance India's manufacturing competitiveness and address structural bottlenecks in the export sector.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/84791

Monetary policy, RBI & banking · Prelims

RBI picks ex-Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar as new HDFC Bank Chairman post-Chakraborty resignation

Why in news: The RBI approved the appointment of former Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar as the Part-Time Chairman of HDFC Bank following Atanu Chakraborty's resignation.

Key facts: The RBI approved Rajiv Kumar's appointment as Part-Time Chairman of HDFC Bank for a three-year tenure starting July 15, 2026. The appointment is governed by Section 10B(1A)(i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** RBI: The regulatory body responsible for approving the appointment of chairpersons in private sector banks.
- **Act / Bill:** Banking Regulation Act, 1949: The primary legislation governing the operation and management of banking institutions in India.
- **Fact:** Rajiv Kumar's tenure as HDFC Bank Part-Time Chairman is scheduled to begin on July 15, 2026, for a duration of three years.
- **Post:** Rajiv Kumar: Former Finance Secretary and former Chief Election Commissioner of India.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of the RBI's oversight in the appointment of leadership in private sector banks to ensure financial stability and ethical governance.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/84746

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

Cabinet OKs Rs 25,446 crore highway corridors along Varuna, Ganga in Varanasi

Why in news: The Union Cabinet approved Rs 25,446 crore for elevated highway corridors along the Varuna and Ganga rivers in Varanasi to alleviate urban congestion.

Key facts: The project includes a 43-km link corridor (NH-31 to Varanasi ring road) and a 46-km link corridor (NH-19 to Varanasi ring road). The projects are being executed under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) to facilitate rapid infrastructure development.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Total approved outlay for Varanasi highway corridors: Rs 25,446 crore
- **Fact:** Length of Varuna river corridor: 43 km
- **Fact:** Length of Ganga river corridor: 46 km
- **S&T:** Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM): A public-private partnership model where the government pays a fixed base amount and the rest is linked to project milestones.
- **Place:** Varanasi: Located in Uttar Pradesh along the Ganga river

Mains question: Discuss how integrated infrastructure projects like elevated corridors can balance urban decongestion with the preservation of heritage and ecological integrity in pilgrimage cities.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/84706

Agriculture

Animal husbandry, fisheries & allied · Prelims

Assam's Monkey Menace, Human-Elephant Conflict Trigger SOP To Handle Them

Why in news: The Assam government announced the preparation of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to mitigate human-elephant conflict and monkey menace to protect farmers and biodiversity.

Key facts: The Assam government plans to implement a multi-pronged strategy involving compensation, farmer assistance, and habitat restoration. Key technical interventions include the installation of solar fencing and bio-fencing to prevent wildlife incursions.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Assam: A state in Northeast India frequently experiencing human-wildlife conflict.
- **Fact:** The SOP for human-elephant conflict and monkey menace is slated for preparation by July 2024.
- **S&T:** Solar fencing: A method using solar-powered electricity to deter wildlife from agricultural lands.
- **S&T:** Bio-fencing: Using natural barriers like thick vegetation or thorny plants to create wildlife boundaries.

Mains question: Discuss the ecological and socio-economic challenges posed by human-wildlife conflict in Northeast India and evaluate the effectiveness of physical and biological barriers.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/85188

MSP, procurement, PDS & food security · Prelims

On July 15, 2026, Vinai Kumar Saxena, Ladakh Lieutenant Governor, flagged off

Why in news: Ladakh Lieutenant Governor flagged off the first export of organic apricots to the UAE, signaling a shift toward high-value organic exports.

Key facts: Ladakh produces 80 varieties of apricots across 2,000+ hectares. Kargil district leads production with 10,656 metric tonnes. An MoU with Lulu Group aims to scale exports to over 1,000 metric tonnes this season.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Ladakh produces 80 varieties of apricots across more than 2,000 hectares.
- **Fact:** Kargil district leads apricot production with 10,656 metric tonnes.
- **Place:** Kargil is a prominent apricot-producing region in the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- **Fact:** Export target for the current season is over 1,000 metric tonnes via Lulu Group MoU.

Mains question: Discuss how the promotion of high-value organic horticulture and Geographical Indication (GI) tags can enhance the rural economy of Himalayan regions like Ladakh.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/84856

Animal husbandry, fisheries & allied · Prelims + Mains

Fishers Warn State-Wide Protest Over ₹25,000 Access Fee for Large Vessels

Why in news: The All India Deep Sea Fishers' Association warned of a state-wide protest against the proposed ₹25,000 access fee for large deep-sea vessels, alleging discrimination against small-scale fishers.

Key facts: The protest stems from an amendment to the Merchant Shipping Act aimed at permitting large vessels in deep seas. The association opposes these changes based on the Meenakumari Committee report and demands a halt to the move without prior consultation with local fishing communities.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** All India Deep Sea Fishers' Association: A representative body for deep-sea fishing interests in India
- **Act / Bill:** Merchant Shipping Act: The primary legislation governing shipping and maritime activities in India
- **Fact:** Access Fee: ₹25,000 proposed for large vessels to enter deep-sea zones
- **Report / Index:** Meenakumari Committee: A committee report cited by fishers regarding deep-sea fishing regulations

Mains question: Discuss the socio-economic implications of industrializing deep-sea fishing on the livelihoods of small-scale artisanal fishers in India.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/84639

MGNREGS Workers Drop to 26.33 Crore After VB-G RAM G Transition

Why in news: A significant drop in registered MGNREGS workers was reported following the transition to the VB-G RAM G system, sparking a debate on data integrity and rural employment tracking.

Key facts: The number of registered MGNREGS workers fell from 27 crore to 26.33 crore (a decline of 67.6 lakh) within a fortnight. The largest declines were observed in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana according to LibTech India analysis.

Prelims pointers

- **Scheme:** MGNREGS: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme provides 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to rural households.
- **Fact:** Registered workers dropped by 67.6 lakh following the VB-G RAM G transition as of July 2026.
- **Body:** Ministry of Rural Development: The nodal ministry responsible for the implementation of MGNREGS.

Mains question: Analyze the challenges in maintaining data integrity and ensuring inclusive employment delivery under the MGNREGS framework amidst technological transitions.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/84634

Science & Technology

Modi launches India's first hydrogen train and Rs 19,400 crore projects

Why in news: Prime Minister Modi flagged off India's first hydrogen-powered train between Jind and Sonipat, marking a shift toward zero-emission railway mobility.

Key facts: The train operates on an 89-km stretch between Jind and Sonipat using indigenous zero-emission fuel cell technology. It converts hydrogen into electricity onboard, producing only water vapor as a byproduct and eliminating the need for continuous overhead electrification.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Hydrogen fuel cell technology: Converts hydrogen into electricity to propel vehicles, emitting only water vapor.
- **Fact:** The first hydrogen-powered train in India operates on an 89-km stretch between Jind and Sonipat.
- **S&T:** Hydrogen trains do not require continuous overhead electrification as electricity is generated onboard.
- **Fact:** Development projects worth Rs 14,700 crore were launched in Jind and Rs 4,700 crore in Chandigarh.

Mains question: Examine the potential of hydrogen fuel cell technology in decarbonizing the Indian railway sector and the logistical challenges associated with its large-scale adoption.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/85079

Cosmoserve targets space junk with soft robotics on Skyroot rocket launch

Why in news: Cosmoserve Space plans to demonstrate the world's first soft robotic capture system to remove space debris during a Skyroot Aerospace Vikram-1 rocket launch.

Key facts: Cosmoserve Space is a Hyderabad-based startup launching 'Mission Embrace' to target defunct satellites and debris. The mission will utilize soft robotic technology to capture orbital junk, aiming to mitigate collision hazards in Earth's orbit.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Soft robotics: A subfield of robotics involving robots constructed from compliant materials to mimic biological movements.
- **Place:** Sriharikota: The primary spaceport for ISRO and private launches in Andhra Pradesh, India.
- **Fact:** Space debris: Earth's orbit contains tens of thousands of large objects and millions of small fragments.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of orbital debris management in ensuring the long-term sustainability of space exploration and the role of private startups in this domain.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/85026

India's IndiaAI Mission Aims Big with Rs 10,372 Crore for Practical AI Applications

Why in news: The Government of India launched the IndiaAI Mission with a budget of over Rs 10,372 crore to foster practical AI applications and infrastructure.

Key facts: The IndiaAI Mission focuses on leveraging India's diverse datasets and talent pool to develop cost-effective AI solutions. It has onboarded nearly 38,000 GPUs to support the development of AI for sectors like banking, healthcare, and governance.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** IndiaAI Mission budget: Over Rs 10,372 crore
- **Fact:** GPU infrastructure: Nearly 38,000 GPUs onboarded under the mission
- **S&T:** IndiaAI Mission focus: Practical AI applications in banking, healthcare, and governance
- **S&T:** Strategic focus: Cost-effective AI solutions for local languages over frontier large language models

Mains question: Discuss how the IndiaAI Mission can bridge the digital divide and foster inclusive growth by leveraging localized AI solutions for governance and healthcare.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/84925

Air Filters Reveal 180 Species, Raising Privacy Fears in Wildlife Tracking

Why in news: Scientists developed a method to detect wildlife and pathogens using environmental DNA (eDNA) from air filters, raising significant privacy concerns regarding human genetic data.

Key facts: In 2023, studies revealed that national pollution monitors collected eDNA from over 180 species. By 2025, shotgun sequencing technology advanced the ability to map entire ecosystems and detect pathogens from air samples.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** eDNA: Environmental DNA refers to genetic material collected from the environment (air, water, soil) rather than from a specific organism.
- **S&T:** Shotgun sequencing: A method of next-generation sequencing where all DNA fragments are sequenced simultaneously without prior knowledge of the genome.
- **Fact:** Over 180 species were identified via eDNA from national pollution monitors as of 2023.

Mains question: Discuss the potential of environmental DNA (eDNA) in biodiversity conservation and evaluate the ethical implications of human genetic data privacy in such monitoring systems.

Source: Times of India · satyadheesh.in/news/85243

Radio telescopes scan K2-18b for aliens, find only Earth noise

Why in news: Astronomers used the Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array and MeerKAT telescope to scan exoplanet K2-18b for technosignatures, finding only Earth-based interference.

Key facts: The study targeted K2-18b, a 'Hycean' world (ocean-covered with a hydrogen-rich atmosphere). The search utilized the Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (USA) and the MeerKAT radio telescope (South Africa) to detect potential extraterrestrial transmissions.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** K2-18b: An exoplanet identified as a potential Hycean world (ocean-covered with hydrogen-rich atmosphere).
- **S&T:** Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array: A major radio astronomy observatory located in New Mexico, USA.
- **S&T:** MeerKAT: A radio telescope array located in South Africa used for deep-space observations.
- **S&T:** Technosignatures: Technological indicators of advanced civilizations, such as radio signals or laser pulses.

Mains question: Discuss the technological and ethical implications of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) in the context of advancing space exploration and global scientific cooperation.

Source: Times of India · satyadheesh.in/news/85148

Space agency cracks down: ISRO key staff can't quit as 100 already left

Why in news: The Department of Space restricted the resignation of key ISRO staff involved in the Gaganyaan mission to prevent brain drain to the private space sector.

Key facts: The Department of Space issued a directive on July 14, 2024, to restrict routine resignations of Group A scientific staff. This move follows the resignation of over 100 staff members and reverses a 2020 policy that allowed center directors to approve such requests easily.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** ISRO: Indian Space Research Organisation, under the Department of Space (DoS).
- **Fact:** Space startups in India have attracted \$500 million in investments since 2020.
- **Post:** Group A staff: Refers to high-level scientific and technical personnel in government scientific organizations.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges of balancing human resource retention in public space agencies with the growing private space ecosystem in India.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/84996

Climate change costs Chennai residents five hours of sleep annually

Why in news: A Climate Central study highlights how climate change-induced high night-time temperatures cause significant sleep loss in Indian cities, specifically Chennai, while the NCP-SP signals potential support for the Centre's...

Key facts: Climate Central, a US-based advocacy group, reported that Chennai residents lose an average of 93 hours of sleep annually due to high night temperatures, with 5 hours directly attributed to climate change. Mumbai and Kolkata residents lose 84 and 80 hours of sleep respectively. Simultaneously, NCP-SP's Supriya Sule indicated a potential shift toward supporting the delimitation Bill if it ensures a 50% increase in Lok Sabha seats across all states.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Chennai residents lose an average of 93 hours of sleep annually due to high night temperatures.
- **Fact:** Climate change is directly responsible for 5 hours of sleep loss in Chennai annually.
- **Fact:** Mumbai and Kolkata residents lose 84 and 80 hours of sleep respectively per year.
- **Body:** Climate Central is a United States-based climate advocacy group.

Mains question: Discuss the impact of rising night-time temperatures on urban public health and the socio-political implications of proposed delimitation changes in India.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/84910

IIT Bombay Scientists Simplify Drug Discovery, Create Anti-Cancer Molecule

Why in news: IIT Bombay scientists developed a novel chemical synthesis method to convert straight-chain carbon compounds into ring-shaped molecules to accelerate anti-cancer drug discovery.

Key facts: The research, led by Professor Debabrata Maiti, was published in the journal Nature. The team successfully synthesized over 10 biologically relevant molecules, including the anti-cancer compound muricatacin, using this streamlined method.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Muricatacin: A bioactive compound with documented anti-cancer properties.
- **Body:** IIT Bombay: An Institute of National Importance under the Ministry of Education.
- **Fact:** The new method reduces the multi-step complexity of traditional ring-shaped molecule synthesis.

Mains question: How can advancements in synthetic chemistry and biotechnology accelerate India's goal of becoming a global hub for affordable pharmaceutical manufacturing?

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/84713

Environment & Ecology

Climate change & international agreements · Prelims

Floods and landslides in Arunachal Pradesh leave 1,03,860 stranded, 7 dead

Why in news: Heavy rainfall in Arunachal Pradesh caused severe floods and landslides, stranding over 1 lakh people and highlighting the vulnerability of Himalayan infrastructure to extreme weather.

Key facts: Floods and landslides occurred in East Kameng, Upper Subansiri, Upper Siang, Kamle, and Kra Daadi districts of Arunachal Pradesh. The disaster resulted in 7 deaths, 29 injuries, and significant damage to roads, bridges, and irrigation projects.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Arunachal Pradesh: A state in Northeast India prone to landslides and flash floods due to its Himalayan terrain.
- **Body:** IMD: India Meteorological Department, the national agency responsible for forecasting rainfall and extreme weather events.
- **Fact:** Over 1,03,860 people were reported stranded due to the floods and landslides in the affected districts.

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

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/85202

Species, protected areas & wetlands · Prelims + Mains

On Tuesday, the Bombay High Court expressed serious concern over green cover

Why in news: The Bombay High Court expressed concern over mangrove deforestation in Palghar district for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project, highlighting the ecological risk to Mumbai's green cover.

Key facts: The Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Limited (MSETCL) sought permission to cut 847 mangroves in Palghar district for a power transmission line. The Bombay High Court criticized the practice of distant compensatory afforestation and demanded local, monitored environmental models.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Palghar district is located in the state of Maharashtra.
- **Body:** MSETCL (Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Limited) is a state-owned power transmission utility.
- **Environment:** Mangroves are coastal ecosystems that act as natural barriers against storm surges and coastal erosion.

Mains question: Critically analyze the conflict between large-scale infrastructure development and the preservation of coastal ecosystems like mangroves in India's urban corridors.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/84938

Internal Security

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

NIA Court Frames Charges Against 10 in Cross-Border Narcotics-Terror Funding Case

Why in news: A Special NIA Court framed charges against 10 accused in a cross-border narco-terror case involving the funding of Pakistan-based terror outfits like Lashkar-e-Taiba.

Key facts: The case was registered by the State Investigation Agency (SIA), Kashmir, in October 2022. It involves the smuggling of narcotics into Jammu and Kashmir to fund terrorist activities, with 16 accused identified including four handlers based in Pakistan/PoK.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** NIA: National Investigation Agency, a central agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Act / Bill:** UAPA: Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, used to combat terrorism and insurgency.
- **Act / Bill:** NDPS Act: Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, governs the smuggling and trafficking of narcotics.
- **Fact:** The case involves 16 identified accused, including four proclaimed offenders based in Pakistan/PoK.

Mains question: Discuss the nexus between narcotics trafficking and terrorism funding in the context of cross-border security challenges facing India.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/85270

Cyber security · Prelims + Mains

Ransomware Group Leaks Files on Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant

Why in news: The ransomware group 'World Leaks' leaked 14.3 GB of data, including purported blueprints and supplier details of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant on the dark web.

Key facts: The breach involved nearly 19,000 files related to the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNP) in Tamil Nadu. The data, allegedly from Reliance Group, was hosted on a third-party Indian data center (Yotta) and was leaked starting June 11, 2024.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant is India's largest nuclear power plant located in Tamil Nadu.
- **Body:** CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team) is the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents.
- **Fact:** The leaked data cache totaled 14.3 gigabytes and contained files dated from 2016 to mid-2025.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges in securing critical national infrastructure (CNI) against evolving cyber threats and ransomware attacks in the era of digital transformation.

Source: Al Jazeera · satyadheesh.in/news/85194

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

Enforcement Directorate searches 13 sites in terror-funding, illegal infiltration probe

Why in news: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted searches at 13 sites to probe a network allegedly involved in terror-funding and illegal infiltration of Rohingya and Bangladeshi nationals.

Key facts: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) acted on an FIR by the Anti-Terror Squad (ATS) of Uttar Pradesh. The probe involves charitable trusts allegedly receiving funds from UK entities to facilitate illegal entry using fake documents.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Enforcement Directorate (ED): A central agency under the Ministry of Finance responsible for investigating money laundering and foreign exchange violations.
- **Body:** Anti-Terror Squad (ATS): A state-level specialized police unit formed to combat terrorism.
- **Fact:** The ED conducted searches at 13 locations across Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, West Bengal, and Maharashtra on July 16, 2026.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges faced by Indian security agencies in curbing terror-funding and illegal infiltration through non-profit organizations and foreign funding.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/84978

Practice — Mains questions

1. Discuss how production-linked incentive schemes contribute to India's goal of becoming a global electronics manufacturing hub and reducing import dependency. · GS3
2. Discuss how the expansion of nuclear energy cooperation between India and Australia strengthens the 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' and addresses India's energy security needs. · GS2
3. Analyze the implications of escalating military tensions in the Strait of Hormuz on global energy security and maritime trade routes. · GS2
4. Examine the potential of hydrogen fuel cell technology in decarbonizing the Indian railway sector and the logistical challenges associated with its large-scale adoption. · GS3
5. Discuss the significance of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in mitigating geopolitical risks and reducing trade deficits in the context of India's manufacturing sector. · GS3
6. Examine how bilateral trade agreements like the India-UK CETA can serve as catalysts for industrial growth and employment generation in developing economies. · GS2
7. Discuss how the RBI's governance framework revisions contribute to maintaining systemic stability and mitigating risks in the Indian banking sector. · GS3
8. Discuss the significance of the India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 in achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and reducing global supply chain dependencies in the electronics sector. · GS3

Prelims quick revision

- **Fact:** Total outlay for the new mobile phone manufacturing scheme is ₹62,500 crore.
- **Fact:** Current local value addition in the mobile phone sector stands at 24%.
- **Scheme:** The scheme provides an additional incentive of up to 1.5% for domestic sourcing of key components.
- **Fact:** India's nuclear energy expansion target: 100 GW capacity by 2047
- **Body:** NPT: Non-Proliferation Treaty, which Australia previously used as a criterion for uranium exports
- **Place:** Melbourne: Venue of the 3rd India-Australia Annual Summit in July 2024
- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic maritime chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman.
- **Place:** Bandar Abbas: A major port city in Iran's Hormozgan Province.
- **Place:** Greater Tunb Island: One of the three islands in the Tunbs archipelago, located in the Persian Gulf.
- **S&T:** Hydrogen fuel cell technology: Converts hydrogen into electricity to propel vehicles, emitting only water vapor.
- **Fact:** The first hydrogen-powered train in India operates on an 89-km stretch between Jind and Sonipat.
- **S&T:** Hydrogen trains do not require continuous overhead electrification as electricity is generated onboard.
- **Fact:** Cabinet approved \$19.7 billion in financial support for chip and smartphone production.
- **Fact:** Ministry of Commerce is identifying over 100 products for domestic production substitution.
- **S&T:** Semiconductor (chip) manufacturing is a key focus area for reducing import dependence.
- **Fact:** India-UK trade target: \$100 billion by 2030
- **Fact:** CETA covers 99% of tariff lines for Indian exports to the UK
- **Place:** Kruti Coffee (Odisha) and Nysa Creations (London) are early beneficiaries of the pact
- **Body:** RBI: The central bank of India responsible for monetary policy and banking regulation
- **Fact:** Mobile phone manufacturing scheme: A 5-year duration follow-on of the PLI scheme

- **S&T:** ANEEL: A thorium-based fuel deployable in Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) without design changes
- **Fact:** ISM 2.0 budget allocation: ₹1.27 lakh crore
- **Body:** NPCIL: Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, a public sector undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy
- **S&T:** Balance of Plant (BoP): Conventional facilities like cooling systems and water treatment, distinct from the nuclear reactor core
- **Fact:** Minimum annual climate adaptation funding required by developing nations: \$2 trillion
- **Body:** World Bank: Multilateral development bank that recently adjusted its climate finance targets
- **Fact:** Report Date: July 16, 2026
- **S&T:** Soft robotics: A subfield of robotics involving robots constructed from compliant materials to mimic biological movements.
- **Place:** Sriharikota: The primary spaceport for ISRO and private launches in Andhra Pradesh, India.
- **Fact:** Space debris: Earth's orbit contains tens of thousands of large objects and millions of small fragments.
- **Fact:** IndiaAI Mission budget: Over Rs 10,372 crore
- **Fact:** GPU infrastructure: Nearly 38,000 GPUs onboarded under the mission
- **S&T:** IndiaAI Mission focus: Practical AI applications in banking, healthcare, and governance
- **Place:** Bandar Abbas: A major port city in the Hormoz Strait, Iran
- **Place:** Greater Tunb Island: An island in the Gulf of Aden, historically significant in maritime security
- **Fact:** The conflict involved strikes on military bases in Jordan, Kuwait, and Bahrain
- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic maritime chokepoint in the Middle East connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman.
- **Fact:** The conflict entered its fifth day of active hostilities as of the reported strikes.
- **Place:** Bandar Abbas and Greater Tunb Island: Key Iranian coastal and maritime locations targeted in the strikes.
- **Body:** European Commission: The executive branch of the European Union responsible for proposing legislation and implementing EU policies.

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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