

UPSC Current Affairs — 17 July 2026

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History & Culture

Art, architecture & culture · Prelims + Mains

On July 17, 2026, the Supreme Court allowed the animated film 'Mahaprabhu

Why in news: The Supreme Court allowed the release of the animated film 'Mahaprabhu Jagannath' after the Odisha government and temple trustees objected to its deviation from religious texts.

Key facts: The Supreme Court permitted the film's release on or after July 28, 2026, following a stay by the Odisha High Court. The film was cleared by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) but faced opposition for not strictly adhering to the Skanda Purana and Brahma Purana.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** CBFC: Central Board of Film Certification is the statutory body responsible for certifying films for public exhibition in India.
- **Place:** Lord Jagannath Temple: Located in Puri, Odisha; famous for the annual Rath Yatra festival.
- **Fact:** The film was scheduled for release in 300 theatres across India.
- **Place:** Skanda Purana and Brahma Purana: Ancient Hindu scriptures used as the basis for religious narratives in the film.

Mains question: Discuss the balance between the freedom of artistic expression and the protection of religious sentiments in the context of cinematic representations of deities.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/85741

Heritage sites, UNESCO & GI tags · Prelims

Andhra Pradesh Tourism Minister unveils plan for ₹19,693 crore investments and 3 lakh jobs

Why in news: Andhra Pradesh Tourism Minister unveiled 'Swarna Andhra Tourism Vision 2047' at the FAITH Tourism Conclave 2026 to boost spiritual, heritage, and eco-tourism.

Key facts: The 'Swarna Andhra Tourism Vision 2047' aims to attract ₹19,693 crore in investments and create 3 lakh jobs over a five-year period. Tourist arrivals in the state rose from 28.58 crore in 2023–24 to 36.42 crore in 2025–26, with a 49% increase in foreign tourist arrivals.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Tourist arrivals in Andhra Pradesh increased from 28.58 crore (2023–24) to 36.42 crore (2025–26).
- **Fact:** Foreign tourist arrivals in Andhra Pradesh saw a nearly 49% increase in the 2023–26 period.
- **Fact:** The Swarna Andhra Tourism Vision 2047 targets ₹19,693 crore in investments and 3 lakh jobs.
- **Place:** FAITH Tourism Conclave 2026 was held in New Delhi.

Mains question: Discuss how the promotion of heritage and spiritual tourism can serve as a catalyst for regional economic development and infrastructure modernization in India.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/85471

Indian Society

Population, demography & migration · Prelims

Census self-enumeration in Tamil Nadu: CM Vijay, Governor Arlekar appeal for active public participation

Why in news: Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and CM C. Joseph Vijay launched the self-enumeration phase of the 2027 Census, introducing a digital registration mechanism.

Key facts: The self-enumeration phase of the 2027 Census is active until July 31, 2026. For the first time, citizens can register via an online portal or mobile app to ensure secure and accurate data collection.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** The self-enumeration phase of the 2027 Census is scheduled to conclude on July 31, 2026.
- **S&T:** The 2027 Census introduces a dedicated online portal and mobile app for secure citizen registration.
- **Post:** Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar serves as the Governor of the state during the launch.

Mains question: Discuss how the transition to digital self-enumeration in the Census can enhance data accuracy while addressing concerns regarding data privacy and digital divide.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/85905](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/85905)

Communalism, regionalism & secularism · Mains

Calcutta High Court: Land Records Alone Not Proof of Citizenship

Why in news: The Calcutta High Court ruled that land records alone do not constitute proof of Indian citizenship, clarifying the legal status of property ownership versus nationality.

Key facts: The Calcutta High Court dismissed the claim that foreign nationals automatically acquire citizenship by purchasing property in India. The ruling occurred during a petition regarding the detention of Nasir Mollah, an alleged Bangladeshi intruder.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Land ownership in India does not confer automatic citizenship rights to non-citizens.
- **Place:** Calcutta High Court: A High Court in the state of West Bengal.

Mains question: Discuss the legal and security implications of distinguishing between property ownership and citizenship rights in the context of managing cross-border migration.

Source: NDTV · [satyadheesh.in/news/85844](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/85844)

GS2 · Polity · Governance · IR · 35

Polity & Constitution

Constitution, amendments & basic structure · Prelims + Mains

Supreme Court Clarifies: Deletion from Electoral Roll Doesn't Mean Loss of Citizenship

Why in news: The Supreme Court clarified that deletion from the electoral roll during Special Intensive Revision (SIR) does not equate to a loss of Indian citizenship.

Key facts: The Supreme Court observed that citizenship status can only be determined by a final adjudication by the concerned authority. Currently, approximately 33.5 lakh appeals regarding electoral roll deletions are pending, with 70% of disposed cases resulting in the restoration of names.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Supreme Court of India: The highest judicial body in India, exercising judicial review.
- **Fact:** 33.5 lakh: Total number of pending appeals regarding electoral roll deletions as of the court's observation.
- **Fact:** 70%: Percentage of disposed cases where names were restored to the electoral roll.
- **Scheme:** Annapurna Yojana: A central government scheme providing food security to women.

Mains question: Discuss the legal and administrative implications of using electoral rolls as a primary determinant for accessing welfare benefits and the necessity of clear adjudication for citizenship status.

Source: Indian Express · [satyadheesh.in/news/86059](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/86059)

Delhi HC to hear PIL alleging 'intrusive police surveillance' of Cockroach Janta Party protesters

Why in news: The Delhi High Court agreed to hear a PIL challenging the Delhi Police's continuous surveillance of a protest at Jantar Mantar, alleging violations of freedom of speech and assembly.

Key facts: Aishe Ghosh filed a PIL on July 20, 2026, alleging that police used a permanent surveillance tower and photography to intimidate protesters. The petition claims these actions violate Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(b) and lack a disclosed legal basis for data processing.

Prelims pointers

- **Constitution:** Article 19(1)(a) guarantees the freedom of speech and expression.
- **Constitution:** Article 19(1)(b) guarantees the right to assemble peaceably and without arms.
- **Fact:** The petition alleges surveillance includes round-the-clock monitoring via a permanent tower at Jantar Mantar.
- **Body:** Delhi High Court is the judicial body hearing the challenge against police surveillance.

Mains question: *Examine the tension between state security measures and the fundamental right to peaceful protest in a democracy. How can surveillance be regulated to prevent a 'chilling effect' on dissent?*

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/85749

Maratha Reservation Battle: Court Weighs 10 Percent Quota Against 50 Percent Cap

Why in news: The Bombay High Court is examining the constitutional validity of the Maharashtra SEBC Act, 2024, regarding the 10% reservation for Marathas and its impact on the 50% reservation ceiling.

Key facts: The Maharashtra State Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) Act, 2024, provides a 10% quota for Marathas in education and jobs. The court is evaluating whether this act violates the established 50% cap on reservations set by judicial precedents.

Prelims pointers

- **Constitution:** The 50% cap on reservations was established by the Supreme Court in the Indra Sawhney case (1992).
- **Act / Bill:** Maharashtra SEBC Act, 2024: Provides 10% reservation for Marathas in education and public employment.
- **Fact:** The Maratha community is being classified under the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) category.

Mains question: *To what extent can the state justify exceeding the 50% reservation ceiling to accommodate socially backward communities while ensuring the principle of equality?*

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85556

Supreme Court Approves Virtual Petitions, No Live-Stream After Disruption Incident

Why in news: The Supreme Court approved a protocol for virtual petitions and restricted live-streaming following a disruption incident by a petitioner.

Key facts: The Full Court of the Supreme Court approved the protocol to allow virtual appearances while banning live-streaming/recording to maintain decorum. The court also scheduled a Special Lok Adalat from August 21–23 to dispose of 9,177 cases as part of the Samadhan Samaroh.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** The Full Court of the Supreme Court includes the Chief Justice of India and all other judges of the Supreme Court.
- **Fact:** The Special Lok Adalat scheduled for August 21–23 aims to dispose of 9,177 cases.
- **Post:** The Chief Justice of India (CJI) presides over the Full Court proceedings.

Mains question: *Discuss the challenges of maintaining judicial decorum and the efficacy of virtual proceedings in ensuring the right to a fair trial in India.*

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85546

DHCBA suspends three-day strike over pecuniary jurisdiction hike

Why in news: The Delhi High Court Bar Association (DHCBA) suspended a strike after the Union Law Minister and Chief Justice assured consideration of concerns regarding increasing the pecuniary jurisdiction of district courts from Rs...

Key facts: Pecuniary jurisdiction refers to the monetary limit a court can hear based on the value of the dispute. The proposed hike aims to shift cases from High Courts to District Courts, but lawyers flagged a lack of data on Intellectual Property (IP) litigation impacts.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Proposed pecuniary jurisdiction hike for Delhi district courts: Rs 2 crore to Rs 10 crore
- **Body:** DHCBA: Delhi High Court Bar Association
- **Post:** Arjun Ram Meghwal: Union Law Minister of India
- **Fact:** Strike duration: Three consecutive days starting from July 14

Mains question: *Examine the implications of increasing the pecuniary jurisdiction of district courts on the judicial hierarchy and the efficiency of specialized litigation like Intellectual Property rights.*

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85507

Governance

SpiceJet fined Rs 1 lakh for misleading booking practices, auto-enrolls consumers in promotions

Why in news: The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) fined SpiceJet ₹1 lakh for employing 'dark patterns' in its booking interface to auto-enroll consumers in promotions.

Key facts: The CCPA imposed a ₹1 lakh fine on SpiceJet for violating the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. The airline was found using pre-ticked checkboxes and interface interference to mislead users into SpiceClub memberships.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** CCPA: Central Consumer Protection Authority is the regulatory body for consumer rights in India
- **Act / Bill:** Consumer Protection Act, 2019: Provides the legal framework for regulating unfair trade practices and dark patterns
- **Fact:** Fine amount: ₹1 lakh imposed on SpiceJet for misleading booking practices

Mains question: *Discuss the regulatory challenges in curbing 'dark patterns' in e-commerce and the role of the CCPA in ensuring consumer transparency.*

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/85991

Builders vs Owners: New Bill Defines Common Area Rights but Fails Specifics on Parking

Why in news: The Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill, 2026, was proposed to clarify ownership rights of common areas and land for flat owners against builder claims.

Key facts: The bill proposes that every flat owner holds an undivided right in the land and common areas, which transfers with the flat. It aims to resolve disputes regarding common area misuse by builders but faces scrutiny over potential conflicts with the RERA Act, 2016.

Prelims pointers

- **Act / Bill:** Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill, 2026: Proposed to define undivided rights in land and common areas for apartment owners.
- **Act / Bill:** RERA Act, 2016: Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act governs real estate projects and buyer protections in India.
- **Fact:** The bill was proposed on July 16, 2026.

Mains question: *Discuss how legislative clarity on common area ownership and land rights can mitigate the power imbalance between real estate developers and individual homebuyers in urban housing.*

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/85486

On Thursday, the Delhi government approved a Start-Up and Incubation policy offering

Why in news: The Delhi government approved a Start-Up and Incubation policy to provide seed funding and infrastructure to students to foster entrepreneurship.

Key facts: The policy allocates a total of Rs 400 crore over a five-year period. It targets 11 universities, 13 colleges, polytechnics, ITIs, and government schools. Students can receive up to Rs 10 lakh in seed funding.

Prelims pointers

- **Scheme:** Delhi Start-Up and Incubation policy provides up to Rs 10 lakh seed funding for students
- **Fact:** Total investment of Rs 400 crore planned over a 5-year period
- **Fact:** Policy covers 11 universities, 13 colleges, polytechnics, ITIs, and schools

Mains question: Discuss how fostering a startup ecosystem in educational institutions can address the challenge of youth unemployment and transition students from job seekers to job creators.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85482

Karnataka launches unit to fight misinformation, fake news after IAMAI meet

Why in news: The Karnataka government announced the creation of an Information Disorder Tackling Unit to coordinate with social media platforms to combat misinformation and hate speech.

Key facts: The unit will be led by the Home Department and IT-BT Department of Karnataka. It was announced by Home Minister Priyank Kharge following a consultation with the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** IAMAI: Internet and Mobile Association of India is an industry body representing digital platforms.
- **Post:** Priyank Kharge: Home Minister of Karnataka.
- **Fact:** The initiative was officially announced on July 17, 2026.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges in regulating misinformation on social media platforms while ensuring the protection of the fundamental right to freedom of speech.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/85418

The Maharashtra government implemented its aggregator policy to regulate app-based transport services

Why in news: The Maharashtra government implemented an aggregator policy to regulate app-based transport services to ensure passenger safety and fair fare distribution.

Key facts: The policy mandates unique identification numbers for companies, a centralized portal for real-time monitoring, and 24-hour call centers. It requires drivers to receive at least 80% of the fare and legally recognizes carpooling while capping fleet sizes in major cities.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Drivers must receive at least 80% of the fare under the new Maharashtra aggregator policy.
- **Body:** The policy requires a centralized portal for real-time monitoring of app-based transport services.
- **Act / Bill:** The policy mandates the appointment of grievance redressal officers and 24-hour call centers for transport aggregators.

Mains question: Discuss the necessity of regulatory frameworks for gig economy platforms in the transport sector to balance consumer safety with driver welfare.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85361

Social Justice

Supreme Court takes suo motu cognisance of matter regarding access to life-saving medicines

Why in news: The Supreme Court took suo motu cognizance of the 'In Re Exorbitant Pricing of Life Saving Patented Medicines' case to address the issue of unaffordable cancer drugs.

Key facts: The Supreme Court took cognizance on July 17, 2026, regarding a plea filed in 2022 by a woman in Kerala. The court directed the Kerala High Court Chief Justice to expedite the disposal of cases involving high prices of patented life-saving medicines.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Supreme Court of India: Has the power to take suo motu cognizance of matters of public importance.
- **Place:** Kerala: State where the original plea regarding cancer drug pricing originated.
- **Fact:** The original plea challenging exorbitant drug prices was filed in 2022.

Mains question: *Examine the conflict between the protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and the fundamental right to health in the context of high-priced life-saving medicines.*

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/85851](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/85851)

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

Supreme Court Urges Centre and States on Intersex Guidelines Within Six Months

Why in news: The Supreme Court of India directed the Centre and States to formulate separate statutory guidelines for intersex persons within six months to prevent forced medical interventions.

Key facts: The petition filed by advocate Shamshravish Rein seeks a National Medical Protocol Committee and a ban on unnecessary surgeries on intersex infants. The legal basis for the petition rests on Articles 14 (Equality), 15 (Non-discrimination), and 21 (Right to Life and Liberty) of the Constitution.

Prelims pointers

- **Constitution:** Article 14 guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws.
- **Constitution:** Article 15 prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.
- **Constitution:** Article 21 protects the right to life and personal liberty, including bodily autonomy.
- **Fact:** The Supreme Court requested a response from the Centre and States by July 2026.

Mains question: *Examine the constitutional safeguards required to protect the bodily autonomy and dignity of intersex individuals from non-consensual medical interventions in India.*

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/85927](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/85927)

Health policy & public health · Prelims + Mains

TB Vaccine Candidate M72/AS01E Set for Production Ready to Prevent Millions of Cases

Why in news: The Gates Medical Research Institute partnered with Serum Institute of India (SII) to manufacture the M72/AS01E TB vaccine candidate following successful Phase 3 trials.

Key facts: The M72/AS01E vaccine candidate is currently in Phase 3 trials involving 20,000 participants across five countries. Serum Institute of India (SII) will invest over \$100 million for production readiness, with GSK supplying the necessary adjuvant.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** M72/AS01E: A vaccine candidate specifically targeting Tuberculosis (TB).
- **Body:** Serum Institute of India (SII): World's largest vaccine manufacturer based in Pune, Maharashtra.
- **Fact:** The Phase 3 trial enrolled 20,000 participants across five countries.
- **Post:** Gates Medical Research Institute: A research entity funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Mains question: *Discuss the significance of public-private partnerships in accelerating the development and manufacturing of vaccines for neglected tropical diseases and infectious diseases like Tuberculosis.*

Source: Indian Express · [satyadheesh.in/news/85497](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/85497)

Education policy · Prelims + Mains

Parliament Panel Wary: Bill Aims to Merge India's Higher Ed Bodies, Draws Safeguards Demand

Why in news: A Parliamentary Joint Committee expressed concerns over the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025, regarding the proposed merger of higher education regulatory bodies and the preservation of institutional autonomy.

Key facts: The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025, proposes merging existing higher education regulatory bodies into a single commission. It aims to operationalize the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, by creating specialized councils for regulation, accreditation, and standards.

Prelims pointers

- **Act / Bill:** Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025: Proposed legislation to merge higher education regulatory bodies.
- **Scheme:** National Education Policy (NEP), 2020: The overarching policy framework for the proposed educational reforms.
- **Fact:** The bill proposes a three-tier oversight structure: specialized councils for regulation, accreditation, and standards.

Mains question: *Critically analyze the balance between centralized regulatory oversight and institutional autonomy in higher education under the proposed Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025.*

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/85459](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/85459)

Education policy · Prelims

Tamil Nadu Adds 950 MBBS Seats, Gains Third Spot for Total Slots in India

Why in news: The National Medical Commission (NMC) approved an expansion of 950 MBBS seats in Tamil Nadu to bolster medical infrastructure and counter seat losses from deemed university status changes.

Key facts: Tamil Nadu will have a total of 13,999 MBBS seats across 78 colleges starting the 2026-2027 academic year. The expansion includes one new private college (150 seats) and an increase in intake at three government colleges from 100 to 150 seats each.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** NMC: National Medical Commission is the regulatory body for medical education in India.
- **Fact:** Tamil Nadu ranks third in India for total MBBS seats, following Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Fact:** Total MBBS seats in Tamil Nadu will reach 13,999 by the 2026-2027 academic year.

Mains question: *Discuss the challenges in balancing the expansion of medical infrastructure with the quality of healthcare delivery in India's public health system.*

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/85719](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/85719)

Education policy · Prelims + Mains

Kerala eyes global education hub with ₹100 crore for 'Knowledge Valley'

Why in news: The Kerala government announced the 'Kerala Knowledge Valley' initiative to transform the state into a global higher education hub by attracting international and premier domestic universities.

Key facts: The Kerala government allocated ₹100 crore and 100 acres for the initiative in the Revised State Budget 2026-27. The project targets Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam, and Kozhikode as primary hubs and involves amending the Private Universities Bill.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Initial budget allocation for Kerala Knowledge Valley is ₹100 crore as of June 2026
- **Place:** Primary hubs for the initiative include Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam, and Kozhikode
- **Act / Bill:** The project involves legislative amendments to the Private Universities Bill
- **Body:** The initiative operates under an advisory committee of academic experts

Mains question: *Discuss how the creation of specialized 'Knowledge Valleys' can address the issue of 'brain drain' and enhance regional competitiveness in the global education market.*

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/85925](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/85925)

Education policy · Prelims

Tamil Nadu appoints Facilitation Officers to bridge loan gap for students

Why in news: The Tamil Nadu Collegiate Education Department appointed Facilitation Officers in all districts to streamline the disbursement of collateral-free education loans for students.

Key facts: On July 17, 2026, the Tamil Nadu government appointed Facilitation Officers (ranked as Assistant Professors) across all districts. These officers work with Nodal Officers at District Collectorates to facilitate collateral-free loans for higher education.

Prelims pointers

- **Post:** Facilitation Officers in this context are ranked as Assistant Professors.
- **Fact:** The initiative focuses on the disbursement of collateral-free loans for higher education.
- **Place:** The initiative is implemented across all districts of Tamil Nadu.

Mains question: Discuss how institutional interventions in credit accessibility can mitigate socio-economic barriers to higher education in India.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/85835

Education policy · Prelims + Mains

Karnataka plans to upgrade 1,000 schools into KPS using CCSR funds over two years

Why in news: The Karnataka government announced a plan to upgrade 1,000 government schools into Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) using CCSR funds to improve infrastructure and skill-based learning.

Key facts: The initiative aims to upgrade 1,000 schools over a two-year period using Community and Corporate Social Responsibility (CCSR) funds. Currently, 325 KPS schools operate in Karnataka, providing bilingual education from pre-school to Class 12 with a focus on computer and skill education.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Over ₹352 crore in CCSR contributions were disbursed in FY 2024-25 for infrastructure, teacher training, and digital support.
- **Body:** The Karnataka State CCSR Monitoring Committee is chaired by the Chief Minister.
- **Fact:** There are currently 325 Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) operating in the state.

Mains question: Examine how Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) can bridge the infrastructure gap in rural government schools in India.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/85474

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

Telangana Deputy CM Urges Fast Track Drafting of Anti-Discrimination Bill to End Bias

Why in news: Telangana Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka directed the fast-tracking of the Rohith Vemula Telangana (Prevention of Identity-Based Discrimination in Higher Education) Bill, 2026 to curb bias in academic institutions.

Key facts: The bill aims to prevent identity-based discrimination in higher education. The state government is seeking legal expertise from Supreme Court advocates and public stakeholder feedback before presenting the final draft to the State Legislature.

Prelims pointers

- **Act / Bill:** Rohith Vemula Telangana (Prevention of Identity-Based Discrimination in Higher Education) Bill, 2026
- **Fact:** The bill was discussed in a government meeting held on July 17, 2026
- **Post:** Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka is the Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana

Mains question: Discuss the necessity of legislative frameworks to ensure inclusive and non-discriminatory access to higher education for marginalized communities in India.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/85445

Education policy · Prelims + Mains

NEET-UG Re-exam: 11.21 Lakh Qualify as Fraud Warning Issued

Why in news: The National Testing Agency (NTA) released results for the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination following the cancellation of the original exam due to a paper leak.

Key facts: A total of 11.21 lakh candidates qualified in the re-examination held on June 21, 2026. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of successful candidates at over 170,000, while women constituted over 58% of the qualifiers.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** National Testing Agency (NTA): An autonomous body under the Ministry of Education responsible for conducting major entrance exams like NEET and JEE.
- **Fact:** NEET-UG 2026 Re-exam: Held on June 21, 2026, following the cancellation of the original exam due to a paper leak.
- **Fact:** NEET-UG Scoring: The maximum marks for the examination is 720.
- **Fact:** Candidate Demographics: Women accounted for over 58% of the qualifiers in the 2026 re-examination.

Mains question: Discuss the systemic vulnerabilities in the conduct of large-scale national entrance examinations and suggest measures to ensure the integrity of the merit-based selection process.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/85323

Health policy & public health · Prelims

Telangana government gives EHCT full powers to manage EHS for employees and pensioners

Why in news: The Telangana government empowered the Employees Health Care Trust (EHCT) to independently manage the Employees Health Scheme (EHS) for state employees and pensioners.

Key facts: The Telangana government reconstituted the EHCT Board to include representatives from employee and pensioner associations. A 1.5% contribution increase was approved to fund the scheme, with a mandate that funds be used exclusively for beneficiaries.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** EHCT: Employees Health Care Trust is the body responsible for managing health schemes for Telangana state employees.
- **Fact:** The contribution for the Employees Health Scheme (EHS) was increased by 1.5% to ensure fund sustainability.
- **Place:** Telangana: State government implementing the administrative overhaul of the EHS.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of autonomous trust management in ensuring the effective delivery of social security benefits to public servants and pensioners.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/85309

International Relations

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains

India launches first hydrogen train; US shortens student, journalist visa durations

Why in news: The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced a policy to shorten visa durations for F-1 (students), J (cultural exchange), and I (journalists) visas, while India launched its first hydrogen-powered train.

Key facts: The US DHS rule sets a maximum 4-year limit for F and J visas and a 240-day limit for I visas. India's hydrogen train is the world's longest hydrogen-powered train, featuring advanced safety measures for decarbonization.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Hydrogen-powered trains are utilized as a zero-emission transport technology to achieve decarbonization goals.
- **Fact:** US F-1 and J visas are now capped at a maximum duration of 4 years under the new DHS rule.
- **Fact:** US I visas for journalists are now restricted to a maximum duration of 240 days.
- **Post:** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is the US agency responsible for enforcing immigration and visa policies.

Mains question: Discuss the implications of tightening visa regimes on India-US bilateral cooperation and the mobility of Indian students and professionals.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85954

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains

US attacks southern Iran, as Tehran hits Gulf countries: What's the latest? | US-Israel war on Iran News

Why in news: The United States launched a series of airstrikes on Iranian infrastructure, leading to retaliatory strikes by Iran against multiple regional neighbors and US installations.

Key facts: The US conducted strikes on at least six bridges and sites in southern Iran over a period of six consecutive nights. Iran retaliated by striking Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Jordan, and Syria, resulting in 38 deaths and over 400 injuries.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** US strikes targeted at least six bridges and sites in southern Iran.
- **Place:** Iran retaliated against Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Jordan, and Syria.

- **Fact:** The conflict escalated following a failed 60-day negotiation period initiated on June 22.

Mains question: *Analyze the impact of escalating military tensions in the Middle East on regional stability and India's energy security.*

Source: Al Jazeera · satyadheesh.in/news/85688

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains

Japan to supply E10 Shinkansen trains to India for Mumbai-Ahmedabad project

Why in news: Japan committed to supplying E10 Shinkansen trains for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail project, marking a significant milestone in India-Japan infrastructure cooperation.

Key facts: The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail project will feature the E10 series Shinkansen trains capable of 320 kmph. The first section is scheduled to open in August 2027 with an Indian high-speed train running at 280 kmph, while Japanese trains are expected by the early 2030s.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** E10 Shinkansen trains: Next-generation Japanese high-speed trains capable of 320 kmph.
- **Fact:** Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail: First section scheduled to open in August 2027.
- **S&T:** European Train Control System (ETCS): Signalling system used in India to ensure interoperability with Shinkansen trains.
- **Place:** Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail: Project connecting Maharashtra and Gujarat states.

Mains question: *Examine how high-speed rail projects like the Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor can catalyze regional economic integration and infrastructure development in India.*

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/86041

India's bilateral relations · Prelims

On Thursday, the US military conducted its sixth consecutive night of air

Why in news: The US military conducted a series of air strikes and a naval blockade against Iran, escalating tensions in the Strait of Hormuz.

Key facts: The US military conducted six consecutive nights of air strikes hitting Bandar Abbas, Ahvaz, and Qeshm Island. A naval blockade was established to target oil tankers heading for Kharg Island to control the Strait of Hormuz.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic choke point connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- **Place:** Bandar Abbas: A major port city in Iran located on the coast of the Persian Gulf.
- **Fact:** The US military conducted six consecutive nights of air strikes as of the current reporting period.
- **Place:** Kharg Island: An Iranian island and major oil export hub located in the Persian Gulf.

Mains question: *Analyze the geopolitical significance of the Strait of Hormuz and the implications of naval blockades on global energy security and maritime trade.*

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85522

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains

India-UK CETA to Boost Textiles, Agri Products Demand and Facilitate Research Collaboration

Why in news: The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) became effective on July 15, aiming to reduce tariffs and boost bilateral trade in textiles, agriculture, and pharmaceuticals.

Key facts: The CETA facilitates reduced tariffs on Indian textiles, spices, and marine products while encouraging UK firms to establish global capability centers in Hyderabad. It includes a special visa category for 1,800 annual visas for specific professionals like chefs and yoga teachers.

Prelims pointers

- **Intl. org:** CETA: India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement effective from July 15
- **Fact:** Special visa category allows 1,800 annual visas for chefs, yoga teachers, and classical musicians
- **Place:** Hyderabad: Targeted location for UK global capability centers
- **Fact:** Key export sectors identified: Textiles, spices, marine products, pharmaceuticals, and leather

Mains question: *Analyze how bilateral trade agreements like the India-UK CETA can catalyze industrial growth and R&D collaboration while addressing sectoral trade imbalances.*

Policies of other countries affecting India · Prelims

Modi inaugurates 75 redeveloped stations at Rs 1,570 crore across India

Why in news: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 75 redeveloped railway stations under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) to enhance connectivity and regional economic growth.

Key facts: The project involved 75 stations across 20 states with a total investment of Rs 1,570 crore. Specific upgrades include Jalandhar Cantt station (Rs 125 crore) and Delhi's Modi Nagar station (Rs 25.75 crore).

Prelims pointers

- **Scheme:** Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS): A central government initiative for the redevelopment of railway stations.
- **Fact:** Total investment for 75 redeveloped stations: Rs 1,570 crore.
- **Fact:** Jalandhar Cantt station redevelopment cost: Rs 125 crore.
- **Fact:** Modi Nagar station redevelopment cost: Rs 25.75 crore.

Mains question: Discuss how the redevelopment of railway infrastructure under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme can act as a catalyst for regional economic integration and last-mile connectivity in India.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/86020

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains

Indian seafarers warned off Strait of Hormuz due to ship attacks

Why in news: The DGMA issued an advisory on July 15, 2026, warning shipowners to avoid deploying Indian seafarers in the Strait of Hormuz due to escalating attacks on merchant vessels.

Key facts: The Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA) operates under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. The advisory follows specific attacks on merchant ships including the Mombasa B and Al Bahyah. Shipowners must coordinate with the Maritime Domain Awareness Centre (MMDAC) and the Information Fusion Centre–Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR).

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** DGMA: Directorate General of Maritime Administration operates under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- **Body:** IFC-IOR: Information Fusion Centre–Indian Ocean Region is a maritime security hub for the Indian Ocean
- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea
- **Fact:** Advisory issued on July 15, 2026, regarding security risks to Indian seafarers

Mains question: Examine the challenges faced by Indian maritime interests in the Strait of Hormuz and discuss the role of maritime domain awareness in ensuring safe sea lines of communication.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85509

India & neighbourhood · Prelims

Elephants rescue supplies in Arunachal Pradesh as floods cut off 12 villages

Why in news: Villagers in Arunachal Pradesh are utilizing elephants to transport essential supplies to 12 flood-ravaged villages after flash floods destroyed critical infrastructure.

Key facts: Flash floods in Lower Siang district, Arunachal Pradesh, have cut off 12 villages due to destroyed roads and bridges. The State Emergency Operation Centre reported over 100,000 people affected, with 12 fatalities and 29 injuries.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Lower Siang: A district in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Fact:** Over 100,000 people affected by flash floods in Arunachal Pradesh as reported by the State Emergency Operation Centre.
- **Fact:** Proposed relief package of Rs 5,000 crore requested for flood-affected regions.

Mains question: Analyze the challenges in disaster management in the Himalayan region and suggest measures to enhance infrastructure resilience against frequent flash floods.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/85926

UN Rights Chief Calls for Probe as 31 Die in Kashmir Protests

Why in news: UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk called for an independent probe into the deaths of 31 people during protests led by the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) in Pakistani-administered Kashmir...

Key facts: The JAAC protests, which began over rising prices, shifted focus to a legal dispute over legislative seats reserved for refugees. On July 14, nine people died in Poonch during clashes. The UN High Commissioner warned against classifying the JAAC as a terrorist group.

Prelims pointers

- **Post:** Volker Turk: UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- **Place:** Poonch: District in the Jammu and Kashmir region
- **Fact:** 31 deaths reported in Pakistani-administered Kashmir since June
- **Intl. org:** UN High Commissioner for Human Rights: Independent office of the UN Secretary-General

Mains question: Discuss the implications of human rights concerns and the classification of civil protest groups as terrorist entities in the context of the Kashmir dispute.

Source: Al Jazeera · satyadheesh.in/news/85900

Australia's Home Affairs Minister Pledges Proactive Return of Indian Artefacts

Why in news: Australia's Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke pledged the proactive return of unlawfully held Indian cultural artefacts to strengthen bilateral trust.

Key facts: Australia's Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke announced a proactive stance on returning Indian artefacts without waiting for formal requests from New Delhi. The move follows recent returns of cultural items during Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's visit to India.

Prelims pointers

- **Post:** Tony Burke: Current Home Affairs Minister of Australia
- **Fact:** Australia and India have deepened bilateral cooperation through the proactive return of cultural heritage
- **Body:** Australian institutions currently house various Indian cultural artefacts

Mains question: Discuss how the proactive return of cultural heritage can serve as a tool for soft power and strengthening bilateral diplomatic ties between India and Australia.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/85783

India's President Murmu meets leaders in Moldova, Romania, North Macedonia to boost ties

Why in news: President Droupadi Murmu is undertaking a state visit to Moldova, Romania, and North Macedonia to strengthen bilateral cooperation in key sectors like agriculture and IT.

Key facts: President Droupadi Murmu's visit includes meetings with President Maia Sandu (Moldova), President Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova (North Macedonia), and interim PM Ilie Bolojan (Romania). The visit focuses on deepening ties in agriculture, healthcare, IT, and education.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Moldova: A landlocked country in Eastern Europe.
- **Place:** Romania: A country in Southeastern Europe, a member of the European Union and NATO.
- **Place:** North Macedonia: A landlocked country in the Balkan Peninsula.
- **Fact:** President Droupadi Murmu's visit is scheduled for July 2023.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of India's expanding diplomatic footprint in Eastern Europe and the Balkans for its 'Act East' and 'Neighborhood First' policy objectives.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85743

U.S. Embassy in India: F M J visa applicants must set social media public

Why in news: The U.S. Embassy in India mandated that F, M, and J visa applicants must set social media accounts to public for identity and admissibility vetting.

Key facts: The U.S. Embassy in India announced the requirement on June 23, 2025. It specifically targets F (student), M (vocational student), and J (exchange visitor) nonimmigrant visas. The measure is intended to facilitate vetting under U.S. law.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** F, M, and J visas are nonimmigrant visa categories for students and exchange visitors.
- **Body:** U.S. Embassy in India is the primary diplomatic mission for visa processing in the region.
- **Fact:** The requirement for public social media profiles became effective on June 23, 2025.

Mains question: Discuss the implications of digital footprint monitoring on individual privacy rights versus national security requirements in the context of international visa processing.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/85738

Policies of other countries affecting India · Mains

AI fuels extremist threats: Burke warns of multilingual propaganda and rapid radicalization

Why in news: Australia's Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke highlighted the use of AI by extremist groups for multilingual propaganda and radicalization, seeking cooperation with India to develop counter-AI tools.

Key facts: Australia is establishing a joint center between the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) to combat online radicalization. The minister emphasized the fusion of ideologies, such as ISIS-inspired beliefs mixed with Nazism, facilitated by AI bots.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** AI bots are being utilized by extremist groups to automate and scale the dissemination of disinformation.
- **Post:** Tony Burke is the Home Affairs and Immigration Minister of Australia.
- **Body:** ASIO (Australian Security Intelligence Organisation) is Australia's domestic intelligence agency.

Mains question: Discuss how the integration of Artificial Intelligence in extremist propaganda poses a challenge to traditional counter-terrorism frameworks and suggest measures for international cooperation.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/85694

India's bilateral relations · Prelims

Over 200 Vessels Applied for Strait of Hormuz Passage Post-US-Iran MoU, Traffic Drops Sharply

Why in news: Maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz dropped sharply following a period of high vessel applications after a US-Iran peace MoU.

Key facts: Over 200 non-Iranian vessels, including Indian ships, applied for passage via the Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) routes. India accounted for approximately 20-21% of these requests, but traffic plummeted to around 14 crossings on July 12.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- **Body:** Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA): The newly established Iranian body overseeing recommended passage routes.
- **Fact:** India accounted for 20% of exit and 21% of entry requests in the post-MoU period.
- **Fact:** Kpler: The data provider reporting the sharp decline in maritime traffic to 14 crossings on July 12.

Mains question: Analyze the geopolitical significance of the Strait of Hormuz for India's energy security and the implications of maritime instability on global trade routes.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85524

GS3 · Economy · S&T · Environment · Security · 18

Economy

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

Supreme Court Hits Indian Railways with Steep Compensation, Curbs Deemed Licensee Status

Why in news: The Supreme Court ruled that Indian Railways cannot be treated as a 'deemed licensee' under the Electricity Act, requiring it to pay cross-subsidies and surcharges to distribution companies.

Key facts: The Supreme Court's division bench dismissed appeals by Indian Railways regarding its status under the Electricity Act. The ruling mandates the Railways to pay backdated dues and surcharges to state distribution companies (discoms).

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Indian Railways: A statutory body under the Ministry of Railways.
- **Act / Bill:** Electricity Act: Governs the generation, transmission, distribution, and sale of electricity in India.
- **Fact:** Deemed Licensee: A status allowing certain entities to distribute electricity without a formal license under specific conditions of the Electricity Act.

Mains question: *Examine the implications of the Supreme Court's ruling on the 'deemed licensee' status for public infrastructure projects and the regulatory framework of the power sector.*

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85871

Industry, investment & MSMEs · Prelims + Mains

India dials back subsidies in ISM 2.0, aims for semiconductor supremacy by 2035

Why in news: The Union Cabinet approved India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0 to pivot from infrastructure subsidies to manufacturing and design incentives to achieve semiconductor supremacy by 2035.

Key facts: The ISM 2.0 was approved on July 17, 2026, with a total outlay of Rs 1.27 lakh crore. It marks a policy shift by removing subsidies for land acquisition and technology transfer costs, focusing instead on chip design and supply chain development.

Prelims pointers

- **Scheme:** ISM 2.0: India Semiconductor Mission's second phase approved in July 2026
- **Fact:** ISM 2.0 total outlay: Rs 1.27 lakh crore
- **Fact:** Target year for semiconductor supremacy: 2035
- **Fact:** ISM 2.0 removes subsidies for land acquisition and technology transfer costs

Mains question: *Analyze the shift in India's semiconductor policy from infrastructure-led subsidies to manufacturing-centric incentives under ISM 2.0 to achieve global supply chain resilience.*

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85596

Industry, investment & MSMEs · Prelims

The historic Ramagiri gold mines in the Sri Sathya Sai district

Why in news: The State government is reviving the historic Ramagiri gold mines in Sri Sathya Sai district after a 25-year hiatus to leverage modern mining technology.

Key facts: Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) operated the mines from 1982 to 2002. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) estimates the Ramagiri belt extends 150 km with approximately 9.1 tonnes of gold and 4.16 lakh tonnes of mineral-bearing waste dumps.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) is the entity previously responsible for Ramagiri operations.
- **Place:** Ramagiri gold mines are located in the Sri Sathya Sai district of Karnataka.
- **Fact:** The Ramagiri belt is estimated to contain 9.1 tonnes of gold over a 150 km stretch.
- **S&T:** Modern mining technology allows for the extraction of gold from lower-grade deposits.

Mains question: *Discuss how advancements in mining technology and geological surveying can enhance India's mineral security and contribute to the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.*

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/85933

Employment & inclusive growth · Prelims

Sitharaman, Naidu Distribute ₹3,216 Crore in Loans to 1,03,246 Beneficiaries in Palnadu

Why in news: Union Finance Minister and Andhra Pradesh CM distributed ₹3,216 crore in collateral-free loans to 1,03,246 beneficiaries in Palnadu district to expand institutional credit access.

Key facts: The Mega Credit Outreach Program provided loans to 1,03,246 beneficiaries in Palnadu district. The initiative focuses on providing credit to small businesses without collateral requirements to reduce dependence on private money lenders.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Total loan amount distributed in Palnadu district: ₹3,216 crore
- **Fact:** Number of beneficiaries in Palnadu district: 1,03,246
- **Body:** The program aims to shift borrowers from private money lenders and microfinance institutions to formal banking channels

Mains question: Discuss how expanding collateral-free institutional credit can foster entrepreneurship and reduce the influence of informal credit markets in rural and semi-urban India.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/85901](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/85901)

Capital markets & SEBI · Prelims

Insurers Seek Irdai Approval to Boost Private Firm Investments to ₹10,000 Crore

Why in news: Insurers are seeking IRDAI approval to increase the investment limit in private limited companies from ₹1,500 crore to ₹10,000 crore to boost private sector financing.

Key facts: The IRDAI proposed a 5% investment limit in private limited companies with a minimum net worth of ₹25 crore and a profitability track record. Insurers are lobbying to base this 5% on total shareholders' funds rather than the surplus remaining after solvency requirements.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** IRDAI: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India is the statutory body regulating the insurance sector.
- **Fact:** Proposed investment limit: Up to 5% of shareholders' funds in eligible private limited companies.
- **Fact:** Minimum net worth requirement for eligible private firms: ₹25 crore.
- **Fact:** Current investment capacity: Less than ₹1,500 crore; Proposed capacity: ₹10,000 crore.

Mains question: Discuss how expanding the investment capacity of insurance companies can contribute to private sector credit flow and the broader goals of financial inclusion in India.

Source: Economic Times · [satyadheesh.in/news/85523](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/85523)

Monetary policy, RBI & banking · Prelims

Bank of Baroda raised \$273 million, followed by Canara Bank and Punjab

Why in news: Major Indian public and private sector banks (BoB, Canara, PNB, SBI, HDFC, Axis) mobilized significant foreign-currency resources to bolster liquidity and capital.

Key facts: Bank of Baroda raised \$273 million, while Canara Bank and PNB raised \$80 million each. SBI mobilized approximately \$1.9 billion through bond issuances and FCNR(B) deposits swapped with the RBI.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Bank of Baroda raised \$273 million in foreign-currency resources.
- **Fact:** SBI raised approximately \$1.9 billion through bond issuances and FCNR(B) deposits.
- **Fact:** HDFC Bank and Axis Bank raised \$750 million and \$800 million respectively via bond issuances.
- **Body:** FCNR(B) deposits are held by banks and swapped with the RBI to manage foreign currency liquidity.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of mobilizing foreign-currency resources for Indian public sector banks and the role of the diaspora in strengthening the nation's capital reserves.

Source: Economic Times · [satyadheesh.in/news/85520](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/85520)

Agriculture

Cropping patterns & irrigation · Prelims

On Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated rail and road projects worth

Why in news: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated rail and road projects worth Rs 5,470 crore in Jalandhar to boost regional connectivity and infrastructure.

Key facts: The inauguration included 75 redeveloped railway stations under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. New train services, such as the Amritsar-Varanasi Sant Ravidas Express, were flagged off in Jalandhar.

Prelims pointers

- **Scheme:** Amrit Bharat Station Scheme: A central government initiative for the redevelopment of railway stations.
- **Fact:** Project value: Rs 5,470 crore for rail and road projects in Jalandhar.
- **Place:** Jalandhar: Located in the state of Punjab.

Mains question: Discuss how the expansion of railway and road infrastructure acts as a catalyst for regional economic development and rural-urban integration in India.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/85830

Science & Technology

Space technology (ISRO, missions) · Prelims + Mains

India's Skyroot Set for Milestone: First Private Orbital Rocket Launch on July 18

Why in news: Skyroot Aerospace is scheduled to launch Vikram-1, India's first private orbital rocket, on July 18, 2024, marking a shift toward private-sector participation in space exploration.

Key facts: Skyroot Aerospace is a private space-tech company founded by former ISRO scientists with a valuation of \$1.1 billion. The Vikram-1 rocket is designed to carry a payload of 300 kg to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Vikram-1: India's first private orbital rocket developed by Skyroot Aerospace.
- **Fact:** Vikram-1 payload capacity: 300 kg to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- **Place:** Sriharikota: Primary spaceport for India located in Andhra Pradesh.
- **S&T:** Skyroot Aerospace: Private Indian space-tech startup founded by ex-ISRO scientists.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of the 'NewSpace' initiative in India and evaluate how private participation can enhance India's space capabilities and economic growth.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/85775

Space technology (ISRO, missions) · Prelims

First detection: Astronomers spot atmosphere on potentially habitable exoplanet LHS 1140b

Why in news: Astronomers confirmed the first detection of an atmosphere on a potentially habitable rocky exoplanet, LHS 1140b, which orbits a red dwarf star.

Key facts: LHS 1140b is a rocky exoplanet located approximately 49 light-years away. It orbits a calm red dwarf star every 25 days within the habitable zone, where liquid water could potentially exist.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** LHS 1140b: A rocky exoplanet located in the habitable zone of a red dwarf star.
- **Fact:** Distance: LHS 1140b is located approximately 49 light-years from Earth.
- **S&T:** Observation: Helium was detected escaping the upper atmosphere in 2024 but was absent in 2025.
- **S&T:** Orbital Period: The planet completes one orbit every 25 days.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of detecting atmospheres on rocky exoplanets in the search for extraterrestrial life and the technological advancements required for such observations.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/86027

IT, AI, semiconductors & computing · Prelims + Mains

AI fraudsters use voice cloning to dupe firms, Sebi warns

Why in news: SEBI warned organizations about a surge in AI-driven fraud where criminals use voice cloning and deepfakes to impersonate CEOs and authorize fraudulent fund transfers.

Key facts: The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) identified a rise in impersonation fraud via WhatsApp and email. Fraudsters utilize AI tools for voice cloning and deepfake videos to trick employees into sending urgent payments.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** I4C: Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre is a nodal agency for coordinating cybercrime response.
- **Fact:** National Cybercrime Helpline: 1930 is the dedicated number for reporting cyber frauds.
- **S&T:** Deepfakes: Synthetic media where a person's likeness is replaced with someone else's using AI.
- **S&T:** Voice Cloning: AI technology that mimics a specific individual's voice patterns to generate realistic speech.

Mains question: Discuss the security implications of Generative AI in corporate environments and suggest a multi-stakeholder framework to mitigate AI-driven financial frauds.

IT, AI, semiconductors & computing · Prelims + Mains

Agentic AI takes over: Semiconductors get smarter, more efficient workflows

Why in news: The shift from traditional automation to Agentic AI in semiconductor design is enabling more autonomous, adaptive engineering workflows to boost productivity in India's Global Capability Centers (GCCs).

Key facts: Agentic AI systems differ from standard automation by managing entire workflows adaptively rather than executing isolated tasks. This technology is being adopted by India's GCCs to move up the value chain in semiconductor design and engineering.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Agentic AI: AI systems capable of autonomous goal-setting and multi-step workflow management.
- **Fact:** Global Capability Centers (GCCs): Indian entities providing high-end engineering and R&D services for global corporations.
- **S&T:** Semiconductor Design: The process of creating the architecture and layout of integrated circuits (ICs).

Mains question: Discuss how the integration of Agentic AI in high-tech manufacturing and engineering workflows can redefine India's position in the global semiconductor value chain.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85874

IT, AI, semiconductors & computing · Prelims

18-year-old develops AI device to deter elephants in Jharkhand

Why in news: An 18-year-old developer created 'Innobox', an AI-powered device to mitigate human-elephant conflict in Jharkhand.

Key facts: The 'Innobox' device utilizes seismic sensors and radar integrated with AI to achieve 80-85% detection accuracy. It was tested at the Palamau Tiger Reserve and is scheduled for a pilot project in Ranchi district in August 2024.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Innobox: An AI-based device using seismic sensors and radar to detect and deter elephants.
- **Place:** Palamau Tiger Reserve: Location where the AI device was initially tested.
- **Fact:** The device achieves an 80-85% accuracy rate in elephant detection.
- **Place:** Ranchi: District scheduled for the pilot project in August 2024.

Mains question: Discuss how the integration of Artificial Intelligence and IoT can mitigate human-wildlife conflict in India's biodiversity hotspots.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/85848

IT, AI, semiconductors & computing · Prelims

Pralhad Joshi inaugurates Indian Standard Time network in Bengaluru

Why in news: Union Minister Pralhad Joshi inaugurated the White Rabbit Technology-based Indian Standard Time (IST) Distribution Demonstration Network in Bengaluru to reduce reliance on foreign GPS sources.

Key facts: The project is part of the 'One Nation, One Time' initiative managed by the Legal Metrology Division. It utilizes White Rabbit Technology to provide high-precision time synchronization across critical sectors while adhering to global UTC protocols.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** White Rabbit Technology: A high-precision network protocol for sub-nanosecond time synchronization.
- **Body:** NPL (National Physical Laboratory): Primary body for establishing national standards in India.
- **Fact:** The network aims to provide a uniform and secure time standard to reduce dependency on foreign GPS signals.
- **Post:** Pralhad Joshi: Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of establishing an indigenous high-precision time synchronization network for India's critical infrastructure and national security.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/85379

Rising Temperatures Increase Sleep Loss in Indian States 4%-7% Annually Since 1970-1975

Why in news: A Climate Central study revealed that rising temperatures have caused a 4%-7% annual increase in sleep loss across Indian states since 1970-1975, highlighting the intersection of climate change and public health.

Key facts: The study identifies Southern India as a hotspot for sleep disruption due to rising temperatures. Chennai recorded the highest annual sleep loss at 93 hours, while Bengaluru saw an 8-hour increase linked specifically to climate change.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Annual sleep loss in Indian states has increased by 4% to 7% since the 1970-1975 period.
- **Fact:** Chennai recorded the highest observed annual sleep loss of 93 hours in the study.
- **Place:** Southern India is identified as a primary hotspot for climate-induced sleep disruption.
- **S&T:** Climate Central is the organization responsible for the study published in July 2026.

Mains question: Discuss how climate change acts as a multiplier for public health crises in urban India and suggest measures to mitigate heat-related health impacts.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/85366

Environment & Ecology

The Indian Express reports that Delhi's borders halt thousands of diesel trucks

Why in news: The Centre proposed a network of five multimodal logistics hubs to curb winter pollution in Delhi by shifting long-haul diesel freight to electric vehicles under the NHEV initiative.

Key facts: The National Highways for EV (NHEV) initiative proposes five hubs in Sonipat, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Greater Noida, and Gurgaon. The plan aims to shift nearly 50% of long-haul freight entering Delhi to a hub-and-spoke model using zero-emission vehicles.

Prelims pointers

- **Scheme:** NHEV: National Highways for EV initiative aims to decarbonize freight transport.
- **Fact:** The hub-and-spoke model aims to shift nearly 50% of long-haul freight entering Delhi.
- **Place:** Proposed hubs are located in Sonipat, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Greater Noida, and Gurgaon.
- **Body:** GRAP: Graded Response Action Plan is the emergency measure to control air pollution in Delhi.

Mains question: Examine how the transition to a hub-and-spoke logistics model and electric freight transport can mitigate the recurring air quality crisis in the National Capital Region.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/85428

Gujarat lion population rises to 891, expanding territory by 430%

Why in news: The Asiatic lion population in Gujarat reached 891 individuals, leading to a 430% territorial expansion and increased human-wildlife conflict.

Key facts: The Asiatic lion population in Gujarat has risen to 891 individuals. This growth has resulted in a 430% expansion of their territory beyond traditional sanctuary boundaries into agricultural and coastal areas.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Asiatic lion population in Gujarat reached 891 as of the latest report.
- **Fact:** Territorial expansion of Asiatic lions in Gujarat recorded at 430%.
- **Place:** Greater Gir landscape is the primary habitat for Asiatic lions in Gujarat.
- **Environment:** Asiatic lions (*Panthera leo leo*) are protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges of managing human-wildlife conflict in expanding habitats and suggest measures to ensure coexistence between local communities and protected species.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/85560

Tamil Nadu Forms Panels to Examine 86 Dams for Safety by December 2026

Why in news: Tamil Nadu government approved the formation of independent expert panels to assess 86 dams for safety and design compliance under the National Dam Safety Act, 2021.

Key facts: The state will evaluate 86 dams and reservoirs, including major ones like Mettur and Bhavanisagar. The assessment is mandated by the National Dam Safety Act, 2021, with a target completion date of December 30, 2026.

Prelims pointers

- **Act / Bill:** National Dam Safety Act, 2021: Provides a framework for the safety of dams and reservoirs in India.
- **Fact:** Tamil Nadu is auditing 86 dams and reservoirs for safety and design.
- **Place:** Mettur, Bhavanisagar, and Amaravathy: Major dams located in Tamil Nadu.
- **Fact:** The first comprehensive dam safety assessment is targeted for completion by December 30, 2026.

Mains question: Discuss the importance of independent safety audits in dam management to mitigate disaster risks and ensure structural integrity in water-stressed regions.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/85448](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/85448)

Internal Security

After ambushes, CRPF tells forces in Manipur to use armoured vehicles, avoid sudden deployment

Why in news: The Ministry of Home Affairs directed CRPF units in Manipur to utilize armored vehicles following ambushes on Assam Rifles personnel during ongoing ethnic conflicts.

Key facts: Two CoBRA battalions were deployed for anti-Maoist operations and crowd management training in Manipur. The ethnic conflicts involving Kuki, Meitei, and Naga communities have resulted in over 300 deaths since May 2023.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** CRPF: Central Reserve Police Force is a federal paramilitary force under the Ministry of Home Affairs
- **Body:** CoBRA: Commando Battalion for Resolute Action is a specialized wing of the CRPF for jungle warfare
- **Body:** Assam Rifles: The oldest paramilitary force of India, primarily responsible for guarding the North-Eastern borders
- **Fact:** The ethnic conflict in Manipur has resulted in over 300 deaths since May 2023

Mains question: Analyze the security challenges posed by ethnic conflicts in Northeast India and evaluate the role of paramilitary forces in maintaining internal stability.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/85390](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/85390)

Practice — Mains questions

1. Discuss the implications of tightening visa regimes on India-US bilateral cooperation and the mobility of Indian students and professionals. · GS2
2. Discuss the legal and administrative implications of using electoral rolls as a primary determinant for accessing welfare benefits and the necessity of clear adjudication for citizenship status. · GS2
3. Analyze the impact of escalating military tensions in the Middle East on regional stability and India's energy security. · GS2
4. Examine how high-speed rail projects like the Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor can catalyze regional economic integration and infrastructure development in India. · GS2
5. Examine the conflict between the protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and the fundamental right to health in the context of high-priced life-saving medicines. · GS2
6. Discuss the significance of the 'NewSpace' initiative in India and evaluate how private participation can enhance India's space capabilities and economic growth. · GS3
7. Analyze the geopolitical significance of the Strait of Hormuz and the implications of naval blockades on global energy security and maritime trade. · GS2
8. Examine the constitutional safeguards required to protect the bodily autonomy and dignity of intersex individuals from non-consensual medical interventions in India. · GS2

Prelims quick revision

- **S&T:** Hydrogen-powered trains are utilized as a zero-emission transport technology to achieve decarbonization goals.
- **Fact:** US F-1 and J visas are now capped at a maximum duration of 4 years under the new DHS rule.
- **Fact:** US I visas for journalists are now restricted to a maximum duration of 240 days.
- **Body:** Supreme Court of India: The highest judicial body in India, exercising judicial review.
- **Fact:** 33.5 lakh: Total number of pending appeals regarding electoral roll deletions as of the court's observation.
- **Fact:** 70%: Percentage of disposed cases where names were restored to the electoral roll.
- **Fact:** US strikes targeted at least six bridges and sites in southern Iran.
- **Place:** Iran retaliated against Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Jordan, and Syria.
- **Fact:** The conflict escalated following a failed 60-day negotiation period initiated on June 22.
- **Fact:** E10 Shinkansen trains: Next-generation Japanese high-speed trains capable of 320 kmph.
- **Fact:** Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail: First section scheduled to open in August 2027.
- **S&T:** European Train Control System (ETCS): Signalling system used in India to ensure interoperability with Shinkansen trains.
- **Body:** Supreme Court of India: Has the power to take suo motu cognizance of matters of public importance.
- **Place:** Kerala: State where the original plea regarding cancer drug pricing originated.
- **Fact:** The original plea challenging exorbitant drug prices was filed in 2022.
- **S&T:** Vikram-1: India's first private orbital rocket developed by Skyroot Aerospace.
- **Fact:** Vikram-1 payload capacity: 300 kg to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- **Place:** Sriharikota: Primary spaceport for India located in Andhra Pradesh.
- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic choke point connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.

- **Place:** Bandar Abbas: A major port city in Iran located on the coast of the Persian Gulf.
- **Fact:** The US military conducted six consecutive nights of air strikes as of the current reporting period.
- **Constitution:** Article 14 guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws.
- **Constitution:** Article 15 prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.
- **Constitution:** Article 21 protects the right to life and personal liberty, including bodily autonomy.
- **Body:** Indian Railways: A statutory body under the Ministry of Railways.
- **Act / Bill:** Electricity Act: Governs the generation, transmission, distribution, and sale of electricity in India.
- **Fact:** Deemed Licensee: A status allowing certain entities to distribute electricity without a formal license under specific conditions of the Electricity Act.
- **Scheme:** ISM 2.0: India Semiconductor Mission's second phase approved in July 2026
- **Fact:** ISM 2.0 total outlay: Rs 1.27 lakh crore
- **Fact:** Target year for semiconductor supremacy: 2035
- **S&T:** M72/AS01E: A vaccine candidate specifically targeting Tuberculosis (TB).
- **Body:** Serum Institute of India (SII): World's largest vaccine manufacturer based in Pune, Maharashtra.
- **Fact:** The Phase 3 trial enrolled 20,000 participants across five countries.
- **Act / Bill:** Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025: Proposed legislation to merge higher education regulatory bodies.
- **Scheme:** National Education Policy (NEP), 2020: The overarching policy framework for the proposed educational reforms.
- **Fact:** The bill proposes a three-tier oversight structure: specialized councils for regulation, accreditation, and standards.
- **Intl. org:** CETA: India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement effective from July 15
- **Fact:** Special visa category allows 1,800 annual visas for chefs, yoga teachers, and classical musicians
- **Place:** Hyderabad: Targeted location for UK global capability centers
- **Scheme:** NHEV: National Highways for EV initiative aims to decarbonize freight transport.

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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