

UPSC Current Affairs — 19 July 2026

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GS1 · History · Society · Geography · 1

Geography

Geophysical phenomena (earthquakes, cyclones, volcanoes) · Prelims

At least 16 die in India as rains trigger landslides, floods

Why in news: Heavy monsoon rains triggered landslides and flash floods in northern and eastern India, causing at least 16 deaths and disrupting the Amarnath Yatra.

Key facts: Heavy rains in Jammu and Kashmir caused 11 deaths due to landslides and floods. In Uttarakhand, lightning strikes killed two people, while Nagaland reported three deaths from flash floods.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Jammu and Kashmir: Region hit hardest by landslides and floods in the current monsoon cycle.
- **Fact:** Uttarakhand: 84 roads, including national highways, were blocked by landslides during the heavy rain event.
- **Body:** India Meteorological Department (IMD): The agency responsible for issuing red and orange alerts for monsoon conditions.
- **Place:** Pahalgam and Baltal: Specific locations in Jammu and Kashmir where the Amarnath Yatra was suspended.

Mains question: Analyze the geographical and climatic factors contributing to increasing landslide frequency in the Himalayan region and suggest measures for disaster-resilient infrastructure.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/87504

GS2 · Polity · Governance · IR · 17

Polity & Constitution

Constitution, amendments & basic structure · Prelims + Mains

Madhya Pradesh Cabinet Approves Draft Bill for Uniform Civil Code, Excluding Tribes

Why in news: The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet approved a draft Uniform Civil Code (UCC) bill on July 19, 2026, which seeks to standardize personal laws while exempting Scheduled Tribes.

Key facts: The bill was drafted by a committee led by retired Supreme Court Judge Ranjana Prakash Desai. It mandates marriage registration, prohibits polygamy, and requires affidavits for live-in relationships, specifically excluding Scheduled Tribes and communities protected under Part XXI of the Constitution.

Prelims pointers

- **Constitution:** Part XXI of the Constitution of India provides for the administration of Scheduled Tribes.
- **Act / Bill:** The Madhya Pradesh UCC draft bill mandates marriage registration and prohibits polygamy.
- **Fact:** The bill was approved by the Madhya Pradesh Cabinet on July 19, 2026.

Mains question: Examine the constitutional challenges and social implications of implementing a Uniform Civil Code while providing exemptions to Scheduled Tribes.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/87427](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/87427)

Judiciary & landmark judgments · Prelims + Mains

Supreme Court: Swear Words Alone Not Obscene Under IPC Section 294

Why in news: The Supreme Court clarified the scope of Section 294 of the IPC, ruling that mere use of swear words does not constitute obscenity without lascivious or corrupting intent.

Key facts: The Supreme Court bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Vipul M Pancholi overturned a conviction involving a land dispute in Tamil Nadu. The court ruled that Section 294(b) requires content to be 'lascivious' or 'corrupting' to be legally classified as obscene.

Prelims pointers

- **Act / Bill:** IPC Section 294: Deals with obscene acts and songs in public places.
- **Act / Bill:** IPC Section 326: Relates to assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty.
- **Act / Bill:** IPC Section 506(ii): Relates to punishment for criminal intimidation.
- **Fact:** The case originated from a land dispute in Tamil Nadu in August 2017.

Mains question: Discuss the judicial interpretation of 'obscenity' under the IPC and its implications on the balance between public order and freedom of expression.

Source: NDTV · [satyadheesh.in/news/87401](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/87401)

Elections, ECI & electoral reforms · Prelims + Mains

Election Commission Launches Outreach After SIR Sparking Opposition Protests

Why in news: The Election Commission of India (ECI) launched a public outreach campaign to counter opposition allegations of arbitrary voter deletions during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

Key facts: The ECI's ECINET initiative processed over 101 million registration forms during its pilot phase. The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise is currently facing legal challenges and protests from opposition parties regarding documentation requirements.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Election Commission of India (ECI) is a constitutional body established under Article 324.
- **Fact:** ECINET pilot phase processed over 101 million registration forms.
- **Body:** ECI is responsible for the preparation and revision of electoral rolls.

Mains question: Examine the role of the Election Commission in ensuring the integrity of electoral rolls and the importance of transparency in voter registration processes.

Source: NDTV · [satyadheesh.in/news/87027](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/87027)

Governance

Bills, Acts & ordinances · Prelims + Mains

Home Minister to Criminalize Insults to 'Vande Mataram' in New Bill

Why in news: The Union Government is introducing the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, to criminalize insults to the national song 'Vande Mataram'.

Key facts: The bill seeks to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971. It aims to provide legal protection to 'Vande Mataram' similar to the protections currently afforded to the National Anthem and the National Flag.

Prelims pointers

- **Act / Bill:** Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971: Provides legal protection to national symbols.
- **Fact:** Vande Mataram: Adopted as the national song of India in 1950.
- **Post:** Amit Shah: Current Union Home Minister of India.

Mains question: Discuss the constitutional balance between the protection of national symbols and the right to freedom of expression under Article 19(1)(a).

Source: NDTV · [satyadheesh.in/news/87550](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/87550)

Social Justice

Education policy · Prelims + Mains

NTA Warns: Fake OMR Sheets Lead to Legal Action in NEET-UG 2026 Scandal

Why in news: The National Testing Agency (NTA) issued a warning against the submission of fake or AI-generated OMR sheets by NEET-UG 2026 candidates seeking to contest score discrepancies.

Key facts: The NTA announced NEET-UG 2026 results on July 16, 2026, with over 11 lakh candidates qualifying. Following a paper leak in May 2026, the exam was re-conducted in June 2026 and transitioned to a Computer-Based Test (CBT) format.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** NTA: National Testing Agency is the autonomous body responsible for conducting major entrance exams like NEET and JEE.
- **Fact:** NEET-UG 2026: Over 11 lakh candidates qualified in the re-conducted exam cycle.
- **S&T:** CBT: The NTA transitioned the NEET-UG 2026 exam to a Computer-Based Test format following security breaches.

Mains question: *Examine the challenges in maintaining the integrity of high-stakes competitive examinations in India and suggest measures to mitigate technological fraud.*

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/87412

Education policy · Prelims + Mains

The article discusses the increasing costs of education in India, where tuition

Why in news: MoSPI's Comprehensive Modular Survey on Education 2025 highlights a significant disparity in annual household expenditure between government and non-government schools.

Key facts: The MoSPI survey reveals an average annual expenditure of Rs 2,863 per student in government schools compared to Rs 25,002 in non-government schools. Experts warn that education costs are outstripping general inflation and could triple over a 15-year period.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Average annual household expenditure in government schools: Rs 2,863
- **Fact:** Average annual household expenditure in non-government schools: Rs 25,002
- **Body:** MoSPI: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- **Fact:** Education costs are projected to potentially double or triple over a 15-year timeframe

Mains question: *Discuss how the rising cost of private education in India exacerbates educational inequality and hinders the achievement of universal inclusive education.*

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/87300

Health policy & public health · Prelims + Mains

Telangana Chief Minister directs officials to draft TGFADCA to curb food and drug adulteration

Why in news: Telangana CM Revanth Reddy directed the drafting of the Telangana Food Adulteration and Drug Control Act (TGFADCA) to combat rising health risks from chemical adulteration in food and medicines.

Key facts: The proposed TGFADCA aims to regulate chemical use in food and drugs using international best practices. A pilot enforcement phase will be launched within CURE limits, featuring a toll-free helpline and a whistleblower program.

Prelims pointers

- **Act / Bill:** TGFADCA: Proposed state legislation in Telangana to regulate food and drug safety.
- **Fact:** H-FAST: Initiative that led to 185 registered cases and seizure of over 120 tonnes of adulterated products.
- **Body:** CURE: The specific administrative limits designated for the pilot enforcement phase of the TGFADCA.

Mains question: *Discuss the necessity of stringent legislative frameworks to ensure food and drug safety in India. How can public-private partnerships and whistleblower mechanisms enhance enforcement?*

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/86979

International Relations

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains

US and Iran tensions escalate after US military personnel killed in Jordan

Why in news: Escalating military tensions between the US and Iran following the killing of US personnel in Jordan on July 18, 2026, threatening maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz.

Key facts: Two US military personnel were killed in Jordan on July 18, 2026. Iran claims US strikes resulted in at least 50 deaths and over 500 injuries. The conflict is linked to US efforts to loosen Iranian control over the Strait of Hormuz.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- **Fact:** Iran claims 50 deaths and 500+ injuries resulting from US strikes as of July 2026.
- **Fact:** MoU signed between the involved parties on June 17, 2026, prior to the escalation.

Mains question: Analyze the geopolitical implications of escalating US-Iran tensions on global energy security and the safety of Indian nationals in the Gulf region.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/87574

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains

On Sunday, the US conducted its eighth consecutive night of strikes

Why in news: The US conducted its eighth consecutive night of strikes on Iran's military and nuclear sites, escalating a conflict that began on 28 February.

Key facts: The US launched strikes targeting Iranian military and nuclear infrastructure in retaliation for American deaths in Jordan. Iran retaliated by striking US bases in Kuwait with drones, while Bahrain intercepted Iranian aerial attacks.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** The conflict escalated significantly starting from 28 February.
- **Place:** Kuwait: Site of US military bases targeted by Iranian drones.
- **Place:** Bahrain: Country that intercepted Iranian aerial attacks.
- **Fact:** At least 50 Iranians were reported killed in the escalating conflict.

Mains question: Analyze the implications of escalating military tensions in the Middle East on global energy security and regional stability.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/87612

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains

India secures uranium deal with Australia, aims for 100 GWe nuclear power by 2047

Why in news: India secured a long-term uranium supply deal with Australia to diversify nuclear fuel sources and meet its 100 GWe nuclear power target by 2047.

Key facts: India's domestic uranium reserves currently meet only 28% of its nuclear power requirements. The deal builds upon the 2014 Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement between India and Australia.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** India's target is to achieve 100 GWe of nuclear power capacity by 2047
- **Fact:** Domestic uranium reserves currently meet only 28% of India's nuclear power needs
- **Body:** The 2014 Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement governs the framework for nuclear trade between India and Australia
- **Place:** Major uranium suppliers for India include Australia, Canada, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Uzbekistan

Mains question: Examine the strategic and energy security implications of India's expanding nuclear cooperation with Australia and other nations to achieve its 2047 energy targets.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/87541

Indian President Murmu makes history, begins first visit to Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania

Why in news: President Droupadi Murmu embarked on a historic state visit to Moldova, North Macedonia, and Romania in July 2026 to bolster trade and technological cooperation.

Key facts: President Murmu's visit marks the first-ever visit by an Indian President to Moldova. The tour includes high-level meetings with heads of state and business forums in Moldova (July 20, 2026), North Macedonia (July 21-22, 2026), and Romania (July 23-25, 2026).

Prelims pointers

- **Post:** President Droupadi Murmu: The current President of India.
- **Place:** Moldova: A landlocked country in Eastern Europe.
- **Place:** North Macedonia: A landlocked country in the Balkan Peninsula.
- **Fact:** First-ever visit by an Indian President to Moldova occurred in July 2026.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of India's expanding diplomatic footprint in Eastern Europe for its 'Look East' and 'Act East' policies.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/87382](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/87382)

US Central Command launches airstrikes against Iran on Trump's order

Why in news: US Central Command launched airstrikes against Iran on President Trump's orders to degrade Iranian capabilities in the Strait of Hormuz and retaliate for an IRGC attack in Jordan.

Key facts: The airstrikes were ordered by President Donald Trump at 6 pm ET. The operation targeted the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) following an attack in Jordan that killed two US service members, bringing the total US military death toll in the conflict to 16.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** US Central Command (CENTCOM): A unified combatant command of the US Armed Forces responsible for the Middle East.
- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- **Fact:** IRGC: The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is an elite branch of the Iranian Armed Forces.
- **Fact:** US military death toll in the Iran conflict reached 16 service members following the Jordan incident.

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

Source: Times of India · [satyadheesh.in/news/87168](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/87168)

India Appoints First Military Attaché to Beijing in 1953

Why in news: Historical milestone of India appointing its first Military Attaché to Beijing in 1953 to formalize defense ties with China.

Key facts: India recognized the People's Republic of China on April 1, 1950. Brigadier R K Kochhar was appointed as the first Indian Military Attaché to Beijing on August 24, 1953, following Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's intervention.

Prelims pointers

- **Post:** Brigadier R K Kochhar: India's first Military Attaché to Beijing (1953)
- **Fact:** India recognized the People's Republic of China on April 1, 1950
- **Place:** Beijing: Capital of the People's Republic of China

Mains question: Analyze the evolution of India-China defense diplomacy from the 1950s to the present, highlighting the shift from early diplomatic optimism to contemporary border management challenges.

Source: Indian Express · [satyadheesh.in/news/87395](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/87395)

Supreme Court to Hear Centre's Plea Against Delhi High Court Verdict on CPV Tenders

Why in news: The Supreme Court is hearing the Centre's plea against a Delhi High Court verdict that quashed tenders for outsourcing Consular, Passport, and Visa (CPV) services at four Indian missions abroad.

Key facts: The Delhi High Court set aside tenders for CPV services in Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Singapore, and Canberra due to lack of transparency and fairness in evaluation. The Solicitor General argued that the stay on these tenders has rendered visa and consular services dysfunctional at these specific missions.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Supreme Court of India: The highest judicial body in India, exercising appellate jurisdiction.
- **Place:** CPV services affected: Abu Dhabi (UAE), Kuwait, Singapore, and Canberra (Australia).
- **Fact:** The Delhi High Court directed the Centre to issue fresh Requests for Proposal (RFPs) for outsourcing.

Mains question: Discuss the importance of transparent procurement processes in outsourcing public services and the implications of judicial interventions on administrative efficiency in diplomatic missions.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/87336

India's bilateral relations · Prelims

Indian Ambassador Yatin Patel, ACCI Chair Meet to Boost Trade Ties Amid Pakistan Decline

Why in news: Indian Ambassador Yatin Patel met the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) Chairman to discuss expanding bilateral trade as Pakistan's transit trade with Afghanistan significantly declined.

Key facts: India-Afghanistan bilateral trade reached \$907.85 million in 2025-26. Pakistan's transit trade with Afghanistan plummeted from approximately \$5 billion to \$367 million.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** India-Afghanistan bilateral trade volume: \$907.85 million in 2025-26
- **Fact:** Pakistan's transit trade decline: From ~\$5 billion to \$367 million
- **Body:** ACCI: Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment
- **Post:** Yatin Patel: Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan

Mains question: Analyze the geopolitical and economic implications of declining transit trade routes for Afghanistan and the role of India in providing alternative trade corridors.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/87333

India's bilateral relations · Prelims

On September 15, the US Department of Homeland Security announced a rule

Why in news: The US Department of Homeland Security announced a rule eliminating 'duration of status' for F-1 visa holders, impacting approximately 300,000 Indian students.

Key facts: The rule replaces open-ended 'duration of status' with fixed-period admissions matching academic programs. Students now receive a maximum initial admission of four years and must apply for extensions to remain in the US beyond that period.

Prelims pointers

- **Post:** Department of Homeland Security (DHS): US federal agency responsible for preventing terrorist activities and managing immigration.
- **Fact:** Approximately 300,000 Indian students are affected by the new F-1 visa rule.
- **Fact:** Maximum initial admission period for international students under the new rule is four years.

Mains question: Discuss the implications of tightening visa regulations on the mobility of international students and the resulting impact on the human capital development of developing nations.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/87172

Regional & global groupings (QUAD, BRICS, SCO, G20...) · Prelims

UPSC Weekly Quiz Advises CSE Prelims 2027 Aspirants; BIMSTEC Endorses Maritime Law Enforcement

Why in news: BIMSTEC member nations met in New Delhi to endorse maritime law enforcement principles to bolster regional security.

Key facts: BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) members met in New Delhi. The group is approaching its 30th anniversary in 2025.

Prelims pointers

- **Intl. org:** BIMSTEC: Regional organization comprising Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

- **Place:** New Delhi: Host city for the BIMSTEC maritime law enforcement meeting.
- **Fact:** BIMSTEC: Established in 1997, approaching its 30th anniversary in 2025.

Mains question: Examine the significance of BIMSTEC in fostering maritime security and regional connectivity in the Bay of Bengal region.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/86999

GS3 · Economy · S&T · Environment · Security · 16

Economy

Monetary policy, RBI & banking · Prelims + Mains

RBI bans banks from reselling repossessed properties to original borrowers

Why in news: The RBI issued the Third Amendment Directions, 2026, prohibiting banks from reselling repossessed properties back to original borrowers to ensure transparency in NPA management.

Key facts: The RBI's Third Amendment Directions, 2026, mandates that banks must classify loans as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) before acquiring non-financial assets (SNFAs). Banks are required to create internal policies for SNFA management and must list these assets separately as 'non-banking assets' in their balance sheets.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** RBI: The regulatory body responsible for issuing directions on NPA management and SNFA disposal.
- **Fact:** SNFAs: Non-financial assets acquired by banks from defaulting borrowers.
- **Fact:** Third Amendment Directions, 2026: The specific regulatory framework governing the acquisition and disposal of repossessed properties.
- **Fact:** Balance Sheet Requirement: SNFAs must be listed separately under 'non-banking assets' rather than being bundled with core banking assets.

Mains question: Discuss how the RBI's regulations on non-financial assets (SNFAs) aim to enhance transparency and prevent 'evergreening' of non-performing assets in the Indian banking sector.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/87160

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

India's First Undersea Railway Tunnel Digging Begins with 13.6-Meter TBM

Why in news: NHRCL commenced excavation for India's first undersea railway tunnel under Thane Creek as part of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail project.

Key facts: The project involves a 10-km tunnel section where 7 km passes under Thane Creek. The excavation utilizes a 13.6-meter-diameter cutterhead TBM weighing approximately 3,200 tonnes equipped with Mixshield technology.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** NHRCL: National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited is the special purpose vehicle for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project.
- **S&T:** Mixshield technology: A specialized TBM technology used to stabilize tunnel faces in soft ground and underwater conditions.
- **Fact:** The TBM used for the Thane Creek tunnel has a diameter of 13.6 meters and weighs 3,200 tonnes.
- **Place:** Thane Creek: A tidal creek in Maharashtra, now site of India's first undersea railway tunnel.

Mains question: Examine how the integration of advanced tunneling technologies and high-speed rail infrastructure can catalyze regional economic integration and urban connectivity in India.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/87051

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

Kerala's Rooftop Solar Surplus Strains Grid, KSEB Plans Battery Storage Solutions

Why in news: Kerala's rapid adoption of rooftop solar under PM Suryaghar Yojana has created a supply-demand mismatch, prompting KSEB to plan battery storage solutions.

Key facts: Kerala ranks fourth in India for rooftop solar capacity, aiming for 2,508 MW by May 2026. The state faces a mismatch where peak demand occurs from 6 PM to 11 PM, while solar generation peaks during

daylight hours.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Kerala's rooftop solar target: 2,508 MW by May 2026
- **Scheme:** PM Suryaghar Yojana: Central government scheme to promote rooftop solar installations
- **Body:** KSEB: Kerala State Electricity Board, the state's primary power utility
- **S&T:** Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS): Technology used to store excess solar energy for nighttime use

Mains question: Discuss the technical and economic challenges of integrating decentralized renewable energy into state power grids and the role of energy storage in ensuring grid stability.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/87097

Agriculture

Cropping patterns & irrigation · Prelims

Heavy rains trigger orange alert, landslides fear in Himachal Pradesh

Why in news: Heavy rains and orange alerts in Himachal Pradesh have prompted the state government to authorize local officials to close schools to mitigate monsoon-related disaster risks.

Key facts: The Shimla Meteorological Centre issued an orange alert for heavy to very heavy rains from July 19 to July 23. Jot received 109 mm of rainfall since Friday evening, leading to landslide and flash flood warnings in Kangra and Chamba districts.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Kangra and Chamba: Districts in Himachal Pradesh prone to landslides and flash floods during monsoon.
- **Fact:** Jot: Received 109 mm of rainfall between Friday evening and Saturday.
- **Fact:** Orange Alert: Issued by Shimla Meteorological Centre for the period July 19 to July 23.

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

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/87187

Science & Technology

Space technology (ISRO, missions) · Prelims + Mains

India's Skyroot Launches Vikram-1, First Private Orbital Rocket with ISRO Support

Why in news: Skyroot Aerospace successfully launched Vikram-1, India's first privately-built orbital rocket, signaling a shift toward a commercialized space ecosystem with ISRO's technical support.

Key facts: Skyroot Aerospace, a private startup, launched the Vikram-1 rocket. The mission was supported by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to facilitate private participation in space exploration. This marks a milestone in India's 'Space Policy 2023' objectives.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Vikram-1: India's first privately-built orbital rocket launched by Skyroot Aerospace.
- **Body:** ISRO: The primary space agency of India providing support to private space entities.
- **Fact:** The launch marks the transition from a state-led space model to a public-private partnership model in India.

Mains question: Discuss how the emergence of private space startups like Skyroot Aerospace complements India's space ambitions and the challenges of regulating a commercial space sector.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/87531

Nuclear & new energy technology · Prelims + Mains

India's Energy Secretary Urges States: Switch to Electric Cooking for Massive Cost Savings

Why in news: The Secretary of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency urged states to adopt electric cooking to reduce import dependence and achieve non-fossil fuel targets.

Key facts: India has achieved 297.37 GW from non-fossil fuel sources, representing approximately 59.5% of its 2030 target. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power is spearheading the push for electric mobility and cooking.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE): A statutory body under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- **Fact:** India's non-fossil fuel capacity: 297.37 GW as of the current reporting period.
- **Body:** EESL: Energy Efficiency Services Limited, a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Power.
- **Fact:** Non-fossil fuel target progress: 59.5% of the 2030 target achieved.

Mains question: Discuss the role of electrification in achieving India's climate goals and the challenges in transitioning from traditional cooking methods to electric alternatives.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/87634](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/87634)

Nuclear & new energy technology · Prelims

Hydrogen train pulled by diesel engine for maintenance, clarifies Indian Railways

Why in news: Indian Railways clarified that the country's first hydrogen train is hauled by a diesel locomotive during maintenance movements to ensure operational safety.

Key facts: The hydrogen train operates on an 89-km route between Jind and Sonipat in Haryana. It was flagged off by PM Narendra Modi and began commercial service on July 19, 2026, completing the journey in approximately two hours with 12 stops.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Hydrogen train route: Jind to Sonipat (89 km) in Haryana.
- **Fact:** Commercial service commencement: July 19, 2026.
- **S&T:** Hydrogen trains utilize hydrogen fuel cells to generate electricity for propulsion, offering a zero-emission alternative to diesel.
- **Body:** Northern Railway's Delhi Division manages the hydrogen train operations.

Mains question: Discuss the potential of hydrogen-based rail transport in achieving India's net-zero emissions goals while addressing the logistical challenges of fuel infrastructure.

Source: Indian Express · [satyadheesh.in/news/87533](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/87533)

Space technology (ISRO, missions) · Prelims

Harvard-Smithsonian Confirms Habitable Rock Exoplanet LHS 1140 b with Atmosphere

Why in news: Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics confirmed LHS 1140 b as a rocky exoplanet with an atmosphere in the habitable zone, marking a milestone in the search for extraterrestrial life.

Key facts: LHS 1140 b is a rocky exoplanet located 48 light-years away. Observations from 2024 and 2025 detected helium leaks, suggesting the planet has retained its atmosphere for at least 3 billion years.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** LHS 1140 b: A rocky exoplanet located in the habitable zone of its host star.
- **S&T:** Atmospheric Retention: LHS 1140 b has retained its atmosphere for at least 3 billion years.
- **S&T:** Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics: The research body that confirmed the planet's atmospheric composition.

Mains question: Discuss how the discovery of habitable-zone exoplanets like LHS 1140 b influences the trajectory of space exploration and the search for extraterrestrial life.

Source: Wired · [satyadheesh.in/news/87476](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/87476)

IT, AI, semiconductors & computing · Prelims + Mains

IIMs Expand into Undergraduate Education with JEE Main Scores

Why in news: IIMs are diversifying into undergraduate education by integrating JEE Main/Advanced scores to offer specialized degrees in AI, Data Science, and Management.

Key facts: IIM Mumbai, Bangalore, and Sambalpur utilize JEE Main scores for undergraduate admissions. IIM Lucknow launched a BS programme in 2026 admitting students via JEE Advanced.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** IIMs: Autonomous bodies established by the Government of India to provide management education.
- **Fact:** IIM Lucknow BS programme: Admissions conducted via JEE Advanced starting in 2026.
- **Fact:** IIM Mumbai: Offers Bachelor of Science (BS) using JEE Main scores.

- **Fact:** IIM Kozhikode: Waives aptitude tests specifically for high JEE score holders.

Mains question: Discuss the implications of premier management institutes expanding into undergraduate technical education on the Indian higher education landscape and skill development.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/87368

IT, AI, semiconductors & computing · Prelims + Mains

77% of Indian professionals now use AI at work: Naukri's Report

Why in news: Naukri's World AI Day Report 2026 highlights a massive surge in AI adoption among Indian professionals and a significant premium on AI-skilled labor.

Key facts: The report analyzed 27,000 professionals and 300,000 job descriptions. AI-related skills in tech job descriptions rose from 0.9% in 2020 to 15.4% in 2026, while non-tech roles saw a six-fold increase in AI mentions.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** 77% of Indian professionals reported using AI at work as of 2026.
- **Fact:** Demand for AI expertise in tech jobs increased nearly 17 times between 2020 and 2026.
- **Fact:** Only 35% of professionals received formal AI training from employers as of 2026.
- **Fact:** AI skills appeared in 15.4% of tech job descriptions in 2026.

Mains question: Discuss how the rapid integration of Artificial Intelligence in the Indian workforce creates a 'skills gap' and what measures can be taken to ensure inclusive economic growth.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/87053

Environment & Ecology

Species, protected areas & wetlands · Prelims + Mains

The Uttarakhand government suspended tree felling for the Bhaniyawala-Rishikesh road in Dehradun

Why in news: The Uttarakhand government suspended tree felling for the NHAI-proposed Bhaniyawala-Rishikesh road project following public protests and an FIR regarding the impact on the Shivalik elephant reserve.

Key facts: The project involves widening a 19-km stretch near Dehradun airport, requiring the removal of 4,369 trees. NHAI deposited Rs 1.97 crore for compensatory afforestation and planned wildlife passages to mitigate ecological damage.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Bhaniyawala-Rishikesh road is located in the Dehradun district of Uttarakhand.
- **Body:** NHAI (National Highways Authority of India) is the body responsible for the proposed road widening.
- **Fact:** The project earmarks 4,369 trees for felling as of July 2026.
- **Environment:** The Shivalik elephant reserve is a key ecological zone in Uttarakhand affected by the project.

Mains question: Discuss the conflict between infrastructure development and biodiversity conservation in ecologically sensitive zones like the Shivalik range. Suggest measures to balance these competing priorities.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/87325

Species, protected areas & wetlands · Prelims

Gujarat moves 50 spotted deer to Surat in bid to ease human-wildlife conflict

Why in news: The Gujarat Forest Department translocated 50 spotted deer to Surat to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and bolster the prey base for carnivores.

Key facts: The translocation occurred in three phases between May and June 2026. Deer were moved from Sasan Gir Wildlife Division to Mandvi Forest Range in Surat district. The project involves habitat assessments and water point development to ensure survival.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Sasan Gir Wildlife Division: Located in Gujarat, known for Asiatic lions.
- **Fact:** 50 spotted deer were translocated to Mandvi Forest Range in Surat.
- **Environment:** Spotted deer (*Axis axis*) are native to the Indian subcontinent and are key prey for large carnivores.

Mains question: Discuss the ecological and socio-economic implications of wildlife translocation as a strategy to manage human-wildlife conflict in India.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/87650

Climate change & international agreements · Prelims + Mains

J&K's High-Altitude Regions Warm 1°C in Two Decades, Accelerating Glacier Melt

Why in news: A study by IIT Kharagpur revealed a 1°C temperature rise in J&K's high-altitude regions over two decades, highlighting the risk of accelerated glacier melt and water scarcity.

Key facts: Researchers analyzed 44 years of data to identify 'Elevation-Dependent Warming' in Jammu and Kashmir. The study found that nighttime minimum temperatures increased faster than daytime maximums, while Jammu's plains showed slight cooling due to irrigation and lack of snow cover.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Snow-albedo feedback: A process where melting snow exposes darker surfaces, increasing heat absorption and accelerating melting.
- **Fact:** High-altitude regions of J&K warmed by nearly 1°C over a two-decade period.
- **Place:** Jammu and Kashmir: Region experiencing Elevation-Dependent Warming (EDW).
- **S&T:** Elevation-Dependent Warming (EDW): A phenomenon where higher altitudes experience faster warming rates than lower elevations.

Mains question: Discuss how the snow-albedo feedback mechanism in the Himalayan region poses a significant threat to the water security and ecological stability of Northern India.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/87464

Species, protected areas & wetlands · Prelims + Mains

NGT halts construction near Pallikaranai Ramsar site until study completes

Why in news: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered a construction halt near the Pallikaranai Ramsar site to ensure ecological preservation through scientific study.

Key facts: The Southern Bench of the NGT issued the order in September 2025. The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) is the primary body affected, and the order impacts development in Perumbakkam and Velachery. The Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority (TNSWA) is the state-level body overseeing the wetland's status.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** National Green Tribunal (NGT): A specialized body for adjudication of environmental disputes.
- **Place:** Pallikaranai marshland: A Ramsar site located in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- **Fact:** Construction halt applies within a 1-kilometre radius of the Ramsar site.
- **Body:** Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority (TNSWA): State body responsible for wetland conservation.

Mains question: Discuss the conflict between urban infrastructure expansion and the preservation of ecologically sensitive Ramsar sites in rapidly urbanizing Indian cities.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/87196

Internal Security

Border management · Prelims + Mains

Flash floods in J&K: At least 10 feared dead as rains suspend pilgrimages

Why in news: Flash floods in Jammu and Kashmir on July 19, 2026, caused fatalities and forced the suspension of major pilgrimages like the Amarnath Yatra.

Key facts: Torrential rains triggered flash floods in several parts of Jammu and Kashmir on July 19, 2026. The Union Home Minister coordinated with the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister to provide central assistance. Pilgrimages to Amarnath, Mata Vaishno Devi, and Shiv Khori were suspended based on IMD forecasts.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Amarnath Yatra: An annual pilgrimage to the holy cave of Amarnath in the Himalayas of Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Body:** IMD: India Meteorological Department, responsible for providing weather forecasts and warnings.

- **Fact:** Flash floods occurred on July 19, 2026, leading to at least 10 feared deaths.
- **Post:** Union Home Minister: Responsible for internal security and disaster management coordination in J&K.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges in disaster management and infrastructure resilience in the Himalayan region amidst increasing frequency of extreme weather events.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/87342

Cyber security · Prelims + Mains

Tamil Nadu launches e-Zero FIR to fast-track cyber fraud complaints over ₹1 lakh

Why in news: Tamil Nadu launched an e-Zero FIR system to automate the registration of cyber fraud complaints exceeding ₹1 lakh to expedite fund recovery.

Key facts: The system integrates complaints from the 1930 helpline directly into the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS). Complainants must visit jurisdictional police stations within three days of receiving an SMS notification to authenticate the case.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** CCTNS: A national database for recording and sharing crime-related information across police stations.
- **Fact:** Helpline 1930: The national helpline number for reporting cyber financial fraud in India.
- **Act / Bill:** Section 173 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS): Governs the registration of First Information Reports (FIR).
- **Fact:** e-Zero FIR: A mechanism allowing the registration of an FIR at any police station, regardless of jurisdiction, for cybercrimes.

Mains question: Discuss how the integration of automated reporting systems and the e-Zero FIR mechanism can enhance the efficacy of India's cybercrime investigation framework.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/87276

Practice — Mains questions

1. Discuss how the emergence of private space startups like Skyroot Aerospace complements India's space ambitions and the challenges of regulating a commercial space sector. · GS3
2. Analyze the geopolitical implications of escalating US-Iran tensions on global energy security and the safety of Indian nationals in the Gulf region. · GS2
3. Analyze the implications of escalating military tensions in the Middle East on global energy security and regional stability. · GS2
4. Discuss the constitutional balance between the protection of national symbols and the right to freedom of expression under Article 19(1)(a). · GS2
5. Examine the strategic and energy security implications of India's expanding nuclear cooperation with Australia and other nations to achieve its 2047 energy targets. · GS2
6. Discuss the significance of India's expanding diplomatic footprint in Eastern Europe for its 'Look East' and 'Act East' policies. · GS2
7. Analyze the geopolitical implications of escalating military tensions in the Strait of Hormuz on global energy security and maritime trade routes. · GS2
8. Discuss how the RBI's regulations on non-financial assets (SNFAs) aim to enhance transparency and prevent 'evergreening' of non-performing assets in the Indian banking sector. · GS3

Prelims quick revision

- **S&T:** Vikram-1: India's first privately-built orbital rocket launched by Skyroot Aerospace.
- **Body:** ISRO: The primary space agency of India providing support to private space entities.
- **Fact:** The launch marks the transition from a state-led space model to a public-private partnership model in India.
- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- **Fact:** Iran claims 50 deaths and 500+ injuries resulting from US strikes as of July 2026.
- **Fact:** MoU signed between the involved parties on June 17, 2026, prior to the escalation.
- **Fact:** The conflict escalated significantly starting from 28 February.
- **Place:** Kuwait: Site of US military bases targeted by Iranian drones.
- **Place:** Bahrain: Country that intercepted Iranian aerial attacks.
- **Act / Bill:** Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971: Provides legal protection to national symbols.
- **Fact:** Vande Mataram: Adopted as the national song of India in 1950.
- **Post:** Amit Shah: Current Union Home Minister of India.
- **Fact:** India's target is to achieve 100 GWe of nuclear power capacity by 2047
- **Fact:** Domestic uranium reserves currently meet only 28% of India's nuclear power needs
- **Body:** The 2014 Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement governs the framework for nuclear trade between India and Australia
- **Post:** President Droupadi Murmu: The current President of India.
- **Place:** Moldova: A landlocked country in Eastern Europe.
- **Place:** North Macedonia: A landlocked country in the Balkan Peninsula.
- **Body:** US Central Command (CENTCOM): A unified combatant command of the US Armed Forces responsible for the Middle East.

- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- **Fact:** IRGC: The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is an elite branch of the Iranian Armed Forces.
- **Body:** RBI: The regulatory body responsible for issuing directions on NPA management and SNFA disposal.
- **Fact:** SNFAs: Non-financial assets acquired by banks from defaulting borrowers.
- **Fact:** Third Amendment Directions, 2026: The specific regulatory framework governing the acquisition and disposal of repossessed properties.
- **Body:** NHRCL: National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited is the special purpose vehicle for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project.
- **S&T:** Mixshield technology: A specialized TBM technology used to stabilize tunnel faces in soft ground and underwater conditions.
- **Fact:** The TBM used for the Thane Creek tunnel has a diameter of 13.6 meters and weighs 3,200 tonnes.
- **Place:** Bhaniyawala-Rishikesh road is located in the Dehradun district of Uttarakhand.
- **Body:** NHAI (National Highways Authority of India) is the body responsible for the proposed road widening.
- **Fact:** The project earmarks 4,369 trees for felling as of July 2026.
- **Place:** Sasan Gir Wildlife Division: Located in Gujarat, known for Asiatic lions.
- **Fact:** 50 spotted deer were translocated to Mandvi Forest Range in Surat.
- **Environment:** Spotted deer (*Axis axis*) are native to the Indian subcontinent and are key prey for large carnivores.
- **Body:** Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE): A statutory body under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- **Fact:** India's non-fossil fuel capacity: 297.37 GW as of the current reporting period.
- **Body:** EESL: Energy Efficiency Services Limited, a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Power.
- **Fact:** Hydrogen train route: Jind to Sonapat (89 km) in Haryana.
- **Fact:** Commercial service commencement: July 19, 2026.
- **S&T:** Hydrogen trains utilize hydrogen fuel cells to generate electricity for propulsion, offering a zero-emission alternative to diesel.
- **Place:** Jammu and Kashmir: Region hit hardest by landslides and floods in the current monsoon cycle.

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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