

UPSC Current Affairs — 3 August 2026

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History & Culture

Modern India & freedom struggle · Prelims

Surendranath Banerjee Found Indian Association in 1876 to Protest Civil Service Age Limit

Why in news: The historical significance of Surendranath Banerjee founding the Indian Association in 1876 to protest colonial civil service policies is highlighted as a catalyst for youth political activism.

Key facts: Surendranath Banerjee founded the Indian Association in Calcutta on July 26, 1876. The primary objective was to protest the reduction of the Indian Civil Service examination age limit from 21 to 19.

Prelims pointers

- **Post:** Surendranath Banerjee was a key figure in the Indian Association and a prominent nationalist leader.
- **Fact:** The Indian Association was founded in 1876 in Calcutta.
- **Fact:** The colonial policy in question lowered the ICS examination age limit from 21 to 19.

Mains question: Discuss the role of the Indian Association in mobilizing political consciousness and youth activism during the late 19th-century nationalist movement.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/95724

Geography

Geophysical phenomena (earthquakes, cyclones, volcanoes) · Prelims

Kerala Floods: 18 Dead, 3 Missing as IMD Issues Orange Alerts for 12 Districts

Why in news: Heavy rainfall in Kerala led to significant casualties and flooding, triggering emergency response and IMD orange alerts.

Key facts: Heavy showers continued for three days in Kerala as of August 3, resulting in 18 deaths and 3 missing. Over 13,496 people are currently sheltered in relief camps while the NDRF is deployed for rescue operations.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** NDRF: National Disaster Response Force is the primary agency for disaster response in India.
- **Body:** IMD: India Meteorological Department issues weather alerts like Orange, Yellow, and Red.
- **Fact:** Orange Alert: Indicates a situation where people are advised to take action to prepare for heavy rainfall.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges in disaster management during extreme weather events in coastal states and suggest measures to enhance community resilience.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/96087

Polity & Constitution

Judiciary & landmark judgments · Prelims + Mains

Supreme Court: Women in 'marriage-like' live-in relationships protected under Section 498A

Why in news: The Supreme Court clarified that women in 'marriage-like' live-in relationships are protected under Section 498A of the IPC against harassment by partners or in-laws.

Key facts: The Supreme Court upheld a Karnataka High Court decision regarding Section 498A. The court ruled that protection applies to live-in relationships if the 'intent to marry' is proven, covering mental or physical injury caused by the partner or their relatives.

Prelims pointers

- **Act / Bill:** Section 498A of the IPC deals with cruelty by the husband or his relatives towards the woman.
- **Body:** The Supreme Court of India is the highest judicial body in the country.
- **Fact:** The ruling clarifies that 'marriage-like' live-in relationships are eligible for protection under the said section.

Mains question: Discuss the judicial evolution of the definition of 'marriage' and 'domestic violence' in the context of live-in relationships in India.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/95989

Judiciary & landmark judgments · Prelims + Mains

Supreme Court Notices Centre on Finding Jantar Mantar Protest Alternative

Why in news: The Supreme Court issued a notice to the Centre to identify an alternative site to Jantar Mantar for protests to address public inconvenience and logistical issues.

Key facts: The Supreme Court is considering Ramlila Maidan as a potential alternative to Jantar Mantar for public protests. The plea was filed by Satish Chand Kaushik, citing disruptions to services and crowd management difficulties.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Supreme Court of India: The highest judicial body in India, exercising judicial review.
- **Place:** Jantar Mantar: A public space in New Delhi historically used for peaceful protests.
- **Place:** Ramlila Maidan: A large open space in Delhi often used for cultural events and protests.

Mains question: Discuss the balance between the fundamental right to protest and the state's obligation to maintain public order and ensure the smooth functioning of urban infrastructure.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/95937

Judiciary & landmark judgments · Prelims + Mains

Supreme Court OKs Delhi to Close Protest Cases After Government Assures No Legal Action

Why in news: The Supreme Court permitted Delhi and other states to withdraw protest-related cases following a government assurance against legal action, highlighting the balance between the right to protest and law enforcement.

Key facts: The Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice Surya Kant, ruled on the withdrawal of FIRs against protesters. A high-powered committee was ordered to probe 20 incidents of violence during the Cockroach Janta Party's march in July.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Supreme Court of India: The highest judicial body in the country.
- **Fact:** The court ordered a probe into 20 specific incidents of violence from July.
- **Post:** Solicitor General: The highest-ranking law officer of the Government of India.

Mains question: Discuss the constitutional balance between the right to peaceful protest and the state's duty to maintain public order and rule of law.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/95932

Governance

Role of civil services · Prelims

Indian government splits ministry into two departments

Why in news: The Indian government restructured the ministry by splitting it into two distinct departments—Capital Development and Urban Development—to streamline infrastructure projects and urban policy.

Key facts: The ministry was split into the Department of Capital Development and the Department of Urban Development. Secretary Srinivas Katikithala handed over charge to D Thara for capital development, while Satendra Singh was appointed as secretary for urban development.

Prelims pointers

- **Post:** Secretary: A senior civil servant (Group A) who heads a department or ministry division.
- **Fact:** The split involves two specific departments: Capital Development and Urban Development.
- **Body:** Departmental restructuring is a tool used by the executive to improve administrative efficiency.

Mains question: Discuss how the restructuring of administrative departments can enhance the efficiency of urban infrastructure development in India.

Source: Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/95693

Social Justice

Health policy & public health · Prelims + Mains

According to the World Bank and WHO, per capita public

Why in news: The World Bank and WHO highlighted a significant decline in per capita public health spending and development assistance in LMICs following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key facts: Public health spending in LMICs is currently about half of minimum benchmarks despite narrowing GDP gaps. Major donors including the US, UK, France, and Germany have announced significant cuts to foreign assistance programs in early 2025.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** OECD predicts health funding could drop up to 60% from its 2022 peak.
- **Fact:** The US announced a 67% cut to its foreign assistance programme in early 2025.
- **Body:** DAH (Development Assistance for Health) peaked during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges faced by low- and middle-income countries in maintaining public health infrastructure amidst declining international development assistance.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/95726

Education policy · Prelims

The Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) has announced the schedule for UG NEET

Why in news: The Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) announced the UG NEET 2026 counselling schedule, which faces potential delays due to the non-submission of the seat matrix by Karnataka's Department of Medical Education.

Key facts: The MCC schedule spans from August 13 to September 26, including a stray vacancy round in October. There are 15,495 MBBS seats across 75 colleges for the academic session starting September 8.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Medical Counselling Committee (MCC): Body responsible for coordinating medical and dental seat allotment in India.
- **Fact:** Total MBBS seats available for the session: 15,495 across 75 colleges.
- **Body:** Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA): State body responsible for conducting entrance exams and counselling in Karnataka.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges in the centralized and decentralized coordination of medical seat allocations in India and suggest measures to ensure transparency and timely admissions.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/96126

Delhi High Court Orders MCD, NDMC to Run Stray Dog Sterilization Camps

Why in news: The Delhi High Court directed MCD and NDMC to conduct trial sterilization and vaccination camps for stray dogs to balance public safety with animal welfare.

Key facts: The Delhi High Court issued the order following a suo motu public interest litigation. The mandate requires the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) to select one ward each for trial camps with clear public signage.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** MCD: Municipal Corporation of Delhi, responsible for civic bodies and municipal services.
- **Body:** NDMC: New Delhi Municipal Council, the local body for the New Delhi area.
- **Fact:** The court order emphasizes sterilization and vaccination as the primary methods for stray dog management.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges in balancing public safety with animal rights in urban centers. How can municipal bodies effectively implement stray dog management policies?

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/95996

International Relations

Trump halts Iran strikes, announces talks over Strait of Hormuz deal

Why in news: Donald Trump announced a halt on planned strikes against Iran to initiate negotiations involving Gulf allies over the Strait of Hormuz and denuclearization.

Key facts: The US President announced talks starting Monday involving Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, and Oman. The primary objectives of the negotiations are a deal over the Strait of Hormuz and Iran's denuclearization. Oil prices saw a decline following the announcement of eased tensions.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- **Fact:** Key participants in the proposed talks include Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, and Oman.
- **S&T:** Denuclearization: The process of removing nuclear weapons and materials from a country.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of the Strait of Hormuz in global energy security and the role of multilateral diplomacy in managing Middle Eastern tensions.

Source: Al Jazeera · satyadheesh.in/news/95831

In January, US forces captured Nicolas Maduro, taking him to New York

Why in news: The capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro by US forces and the subsequent control of Venezuela's oil revenues by the US marks a significant shift in Western intervention in South America.

Key facts: US forces captured Nicolas Maduro in January and transported him to New York on drug-trafficking charges. The US currently controls Venezuela's oil revenues and supports interim leader Delcy Rodriguez in negotiations with opposition factions.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Venezuela: A South American country known for its significant oil reserves.
- **Fact:** Nicolas Maduro: Former President of Venezuela captured on drug-trafficking charges.
- **Post:** Delcy Rodriguez: Current interim leader of Venezuela involved in brokering negotiations.

Mains question: Discuss the implications of unilateral extra-regional interventions on the sovereignty of smaller nations and the stability of global energy markets.

Source: Al Jazeera · satyadheesh.in/news/95712

Indian seafarers face risks; 17 die, 166 trapped since February

Why in news: The death and entrapment of 17 Indian seafarers due to geopolitical conflicts in Ukraine and Iran highlights the vulnerability of India's maritime workforce.

Key facts: India is the second-largest supplier of seafarers globally. Since February, 17 Indian seafarers have died and 166 remain trapped on ships due to attacks by Iranian and American forces.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** India is the second-largest global supplier of seafarers.
- **Place:** Conflict zones affecting shipping include the Ukraine region and the Persian Gulf (Iran).
- **Fact:** 166 Indian seafarers are currently reported trapped on ships since February.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges faced by Indian seafarers in global shipping lanes and suggest measures to ensure their safety amidst escalating geopolitical conflicts.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/95943

India's bilateral relations · Prelims

Modi plans Canada visit to boost ties as India-Canada CEPA negotiations make progress

Why in news: The Indian government confirmed progress in India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations and planned PM Modi's visit to boost bilateral ties.

Key facts: Three rounds of CEPA negotiations have been held, with the most recent in Ottawa (July 6-10). The agreement aims to reduce tariffs and liberalize trade in goods and services between India and Canada.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Canada's GDP (PPP) is \$2.34 trillion with a population of 41.65 million.
- **Fact:** Bilateral trade between India and Canada stood at \$8.66 billion in 2024-25.
- **Body:** CEPA: A proposed trade agreement to eliminate/reduce tariffs and liberalize trade in goods and services.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPAs) in enhancing India's position in the global value chain and boosting bilateral trade.

Source: Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/95689

India & neighbourhood · Prelims

Floods Ease but Death Toll Rises to 85 in Assam's Five Hit Districts

Why in news: Heavy flooding in Assam's five districts has caused significant casualties and agricultural damage, highlighting the recurring vulnerability of the Brahmaputra basin.

Key facts: As of August 2, 2026, 1.35 lakh people were affected across Charaideo, Dhemaji, Golaghat, Jorhat, and Sivasagar. The floods inundated 335 villages and damaged 15,422 hectares of farmland, with the Dhansiri river exceeding danger levels.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Sivasagar, Dhemaji, and Jorhat are districts in the state of Assam.
- **Body:** ASDMA: Assam State Disaster Management Authority.
- **Fact:** Dhansiri River: A major tributary of the Brahmaputra river.
- **Fact:** 15,422 hectares of farmland were damaged by the floods in the affected districts.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges in flood management in the Brahmaputra basin and suggest measures to mitigate the socio-economic impact on agrarian communities.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/95687

GS3 · Economy · S&T · Environment · Security · 14

Economy

Capital markets & SEBI · Prelims

Government to sell up to 6.5% of LIC, fetching Rs 31,000 crore starting Tuesday

Why in news: The Government of India is initiating an Offer for Sale (OFS) of a 6.5% stake in LIC to meet SEBI's minimum public shareholding norms.

Key facts: The government plans to sell a 6.5% stake in LIC at a price of Rs 382 per share, aiming to raise approximately Rs 31,000 crore. This move is intended to bring the public shareholding above the 10% threshold required by SEBI.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Government currently holds a 96.5% stake in LIC.
- **Fact:** The offer price for the LIC stake is set at Rs 382 per share.
- **Body:** SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) mandates minimum public shareholding for listed companies.
- **Fact:** The deadline to meet the 10% public shareholding requirement is May 16, 2027.

Mains question: Discuss the implications of privatizing stakes in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) like LIC on the Indian capital markets and fiscal health.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/96161

Capital markets & SEBI · Prelims

Sebi Extends PaRRVA Enrolment Deadline for IAs and RAs to September 3, 2026

Why in news: SEBI extended the deadline for Investment Advisers (IAs) and Research Analysts (RAs) to register with the PaRRVA platform to ensure smooth implementation of performance data certification.

Key facts: PaRRVA became operational on May 4, 2025. SEBI extended the enrollment deadline from August 3, 2026, to September 3, 2026. Entities failing to enroll will be barred from sharing certified past performance data with clients.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** SEBI: The primary regulator for the securities and capital markets in India.
- **Fact:** PaRRVA: A platform for Investment Advisers and Research Analysts to register and certify past performance data.
- **Fact:** Deadline: Extended to September 3, 2026, for mandatory enrollment.

Mains question: Discuss how the regulation of investment advisers and research analysts contributes to investor protection and the integrity of the Indian capital markets.

Source: Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/96173

Fiscal policy, budget & taxation (GST) · Prelims

Centre hikes petrol export tax to ₹3.5 from ₹2.5 in response to Iran conflict

Why in news: The Centre hiked windfall taxes on fuel exports to manage domestic supply and price volatility triggered by the Iran conflict.

Key facts: The export duty on petrol increased from ₹2.5 to ₹3.5 per litre. Diesel export duty rose from ₹15.5 to ₹25.5 per litre, and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) rose from ₹14.5 to ₹22 per litre.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Petrol export duty hike: ₹2.5 to ₹3.5 per litre
- **Fact:** Diesel export duty hike: ₹15.5 to ₹25.5 per litre
- **Fact:** ATF export duty hike: ₹14.5 to ₹22 per litre
- **Body:** Windfall tax is a levy on 'excess' profits from commodities like oil and coal.

Mains question: Discuss the role of fiscal instruments like windfall taxes in ensuring energy security and stabilizing domestic markets during global geopolitical conflicts.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/96076

Capital markets & SEBI · Prelims

On Friday, Sebi barred ZEEL founder Subhash Chandra and CEO Punit Goenka

Why in news: SEBI barred ZEEL founders and CEO from the securities market for unauthorized pledging of assets and non-compliance with audit findings.

Key facts: SEBI imposed a Rs 1.48 crore penalty on Subhash Chandra and Punit Goenka for unauthorized pledging of ZEEL's Hyderabad land. The action followed a Deloitte audit finding that original title deeds were missing and had been deposited with Indiabulls Housing Finance in 2018.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) is the primary regulator for the securities market in India.
- **Fact:** The penalty imposed by SEBI on the ZEEL founders was Rs 1.48 crore.
- **Fact:** The unauthorized pledging was linked to Essel Group loans worth Rs 726 crore.

Mains question: Discuss the importance of regulatory oversight by SEBI in ensuring corporate governance and protecting minority shareholders from unauthorized asset pledging.

Source: Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/95995

Fiscal policy, budget & taxation (GST) · Prelims

In a significant ruling, the Punjab and Haryana High Court directed

Why in news: The Punjab and Haryana High Court ordered the Punjab Government to clear ₹14,191 crore in pending Dearness Allowance (DA) arrears for six lakh employees and pensioners.

Key facts: The Punjab and Haryana High Court directed the clearance of DA arrears amounting to ₹14,191 crore within 15 days. The court imposed a 6% interest penalty for delays exceeding one month and barred non-essential spending until the dues are settled.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Total DA arrears to be cleared: ₹14,191 crore
- **Fact:** Number of employees and pensioners affected: nearly six lakh
- **Fact:** Interest penalty for delays beyond one month: 6%
- **Body:** Punjab and Haryana High Court: State High Court for Punjab and Haryana

Mains question: Discuss the challenges faced by state governments in managing fiscal liabilities and the role of the judiciary in ensuring the timely disbursement of employee benefits.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/95925

Employment & inclusive growth · Prelims

Employees Demand Higher Pay as 8th Pay Commission Closes Data Submission

Why in news: The 8th Pay Commission has closed the data submission window for employee pay structures and allowances to begin drafting recommendations.

Key facts: The commission is collecting data on employee details, pay structures, allowances, and vacancies from ministries, departments, and Union Territories. Consultations with unions and pensioners will be held in Delhi, Chennai, Puducherry, and Chandigarh.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** The 8th Pay Commission is tasked with reviewing and recommending revisions to the pay structure for central government employees.
- **Body:** Pay Commissions are established by the Government of India to review the emoluments and allowances of central government employees.

Mains question: Discuss the role of Pay Commissions in maintaining the morale of civil servants and the fiscal implications of periodic salary revisions on the national economy.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/95868

Monetary policy, RBI & banking · Prelims

VRC Reddy, head of treasury at Karur Vysya Bank, noted that FCNR(B)

Why in news: The Reserve Bank of India reported significant FCNR(B) inflows, with experts revising upward the year-end deposit estimates to bolster the balance of payments.

Key facts: The RBI reported \$40.81 billion in foreign exchange inflows up to July 31. FCNR(B) deposits reached \$36.72 billion since June 8, with revised forecasts suggesting a potential total of \$90 billion by December 31.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** FCNR(B) deposits reached \$36.72 billion as of July 31.
- **Fact:** Revised forecasts for FCNR(B) inflows suggest a total of up to \$90 billion.
- **S&T:** FCNR(B) stands for Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of FCNR(B) deposits in managing India's Balance of Payments and stabilizing the domestic currency.

Source: Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/95684

Agriculture

Cropping patterns & irrigation · Prelims + Mains

ICRISAT secures CRISPR rights to boost crop yields, ease India's food security

Why in news: ICRISAT secured CRISPR Cas9 rights from Corteva and The Broad Institute to enhance crop yields and resilience in pulses and sorghum to bolster food security.

Key facts: ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for International Agriculture) secured humanitarian rights for CRISPR Cas9 technology. The technology targets chickpea, pigeon pea, and sorghum to improve yields without introducing foreign genes.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** CRISPR Cas9: A gene-editing tool that allows precise changes to DNA sequences.
- **Body:** ICRISAT: An international research organization focused on improving agriculture in dry-land regions.
- **Fact:** Target crops for the technology include chickpea, pigeon pea, and sorghum.

Mains question: How can gene-editing technologies like CRISPR contribute to achieving India's food security goals while ensuring sustainable agricultural practices?

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/96086

Science & Technology

Biotechnology & health research · Prelims + Mains

Mercury Poisoning from 1932 Led to Mysterious Disease Named Minamata in 1956

Why in news: The historical context of Minamata disease is highlighted as a catalyst for global mercury regulation and the Minamata Convention.

Key facts: In 1932, Chisso Corporation released mercury-laden wastewater into Minamata Bay. By 1956, a neurological disorder (Minamata disease) was identified, caused by methylmercury biomagnification in seafood.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Methylmercury: A potent neurotoxin that biomagnifies in marine food chains.
- **Intl. org:** Minamata Convention: A global treaty adopted in 2013 to protect human health and the environment from mercury.
- **Fact:** Minamata disease: A neurological syndrome caused by severe mercury poisoning.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of the Minamata Convention in addressing industrial pollution and its impact on global public health and environmental safety.

Source: Times of India · satyadheesh.in/news/96030

Space technology (ISRO, missions) · Prelims

Nasa's Ingenuity Helicopter Soars 72 Times on Mars

Why in news: NASA's Ingenuity helicopter completed its historic mission on Mars, having exceeded its original flight goals to prove the feasibility of powered flight in thin atmospheres.

Key facts: The Ingenuity helicopter, weighing 1.8 kg, was part of NASA's Mars 2020 mission. It landed in Jezero Crater on February 18, 2021, and completed 72 flights over 1,004 sols, covering over 17 kilometers.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Ingenuity: The first aircraft to achieve powered, controlled flight on another planet (Mars).
- **Fact:** Mars atmosphere density: Less than 1% as dense as Earth's atmosphere.
- **Place:** Jezero Crater: The landing site for the Perseverance rover and Ingenuity helicopter.
- **S&T:** Mars 2020 mission: The NASA mission that deployed both the Perseverance rover and the Ingenuity helicopter.

Mains question: Discuss how the success of the Ingenuity helicopter mission signifies a paradigm shift in planetary exploration and the future of extraterrestrial aerial mobility.

Source: Times of India · satyadheesh.in/news/95960

Kerala researchers patent catalyst for cleaner fuel production from biomass

Why in news: Researchers at the Central University of Kerala secured an Indian patent for a multifunctional catalyst to convert biomass into cleaner fuels, advancing India's biofuel and petrochemical efficiency.

Key facts: The patent (No. 596368) covers the 'Method for the Preparation of ITQ-2 Metal Oxy-Hydroxide Composite Material'. It integrates acidic and redox properties into a single material to convert biomass and petrochemical feedstocks into cleaner fuels.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** ITQ-2 Metal Oxy-Hydroxide Composite Material is a multifunctional catalyst for fuel production.
- **Fact:** Indian Patent No. 596368 was granted to researchers at the Central University of Kerala.
- **S&T:** The technology utilizes both acidic and redox properties in a single material for enhanced efficiency.

Mains question: Discuss the role of indigenous catalyst technologies in achieving India's goals for biofuel production and reducing dependency on fossil fuels.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/95793](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/95793)

Environment & Ecology

The Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Limited (MRDCL) stated that sediment

Why in news: The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority approved the Musi Riverfront Development project despite environmentalists' claims of pharmaceutical residues and AMR markers in the river sediment.

Key facts: The Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Limited (MRDCL) reported sediment between twin reservoirs and Bapughat as free of hazardous material. Environmentalists counter-claimed high levels of pharmaceutical residues and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) markers in the same stretch.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Musi River: A major river in Telangana, India.
- **Body:** State Environment Impact Assessment Authority: Body responsible for environmental clearance of projects.
- **Body:** State Expert Appraisal Committee: Technical body providing expert advice on environmental impacts.
- **S&T:** AMR: Antimicrobial Resistance refers to the ability of microbes to resist drugs.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges of balancing urban infrastructure development with environmental preservation in riverfront rejuvenation projects. How can robust monitoring mitigate pollution risks?

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/96119](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/96119)

Harlequin Frogs Lose Toxic Defense in Captivity, Study Shows

Why in news: A study by UC Berkeley and PARC reveals that Harlequin frogs lose their toxic skin defense in captivity, complicating conservation efforts against the chytrid fungus.

Key facts: 81% of Harlequin frog species (Atelopus) are in decline, with 56% possibly extinct. Research shows captive-born frogs lack tetrodotoxin, a key defense against predators. The Harlequin Toad Conservation Action Plan (HarleCAP) is a 20-year initiative to save these species.

Prelims pointers

- **Environment:** Harlequin frogs (Atelopus) are known for their toxic skin defense.
- **Environment:** Chytrid fungus is a major driver of amphibian population decline globally.
- **Fact:** 56% of Harlequin frog species are currently classified as possibly extinct.
- **S&T:** Tetrodotoxin is a potent neurotoxin used by certain species as a chemical defense.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges faced in ex-situ conservation of endangered amphibians and the role of biological defenses in species survival.

Source: Times of India · [satyadheesh.in/news/95950](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/95950)

Internal Security

Border management · Prelims

Rs 272 crore sanctioned for new 17-km railway line near India-China border

Why in news: The Ministry of Railways sanctioned ₹272 crore for a 17-km railway line near the India-China-Bhutan tri-junction to enhance border connectivity and tourism.

Key facts: The project involves a 17-km rail link from Khunia More to Jaldhaka in North Bengal. The sanction of ₹272 crore aims to strengthen infrastructure in sensitive border regions following the Doklam standoff.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Khunia More and Jaldhaka are located in the North Bengal region near the tri-junction of India, China, and Bhutan.
- **Fact:** The sanctioned amount for the new railway line is ₹272 crore.
- **Fact:** The railway line spans a distance of 17 km.

Mains question: *Discuss the significance of infrastructure development in border regions for India's national security and regional connectivity.*

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/95918

Practice — Mains questions

1. How can gene-editing technologies like CRISPR contribute to achieving India's food security goals while ensuring sustainable agricultural practices? · GS3
2. Discuss the judicial evolution of the definition of 'marriage' and 'domestic violence' in the context of live-in relationships in India. · GS2
3. Discuss the significance of the Strait of Hormuz in global energy security and the role of multilateral diplomacy in managing Middle Eastern tensions. · GS2
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8. Discuss the challenges in the centralized and decentralized coordination of medical seat allocations in India and suggest measures to ensure transparency and timely admissions. · GS2

Prelims quick revision

- **S&T:** CRISPR Cas9: A gene-editing tool that allows precise changes to DNA sequences.
- **Body:** ICRISAT: An international research organization focused on improving agriculture in dry-land regions.
- **Fact:** Target crops for the technology include chickpea, pigeon pea, and sorghum.
- **Act / Bill:** Section 498A of the IPC deals with cruelty by the husband or his relatives towards the woman.
- **Body:** The Supreme Court of India is the highest judicial body in the country.
- **Fact:** The ruling clarifies that 'marriage-like' live-in relationships are eligible for protection under the said section.
- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- **Fact:** Key participants in the proposed talks include Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, and Oman.
- **S&T:** Denuclearization: The process of removing nuclear weapons and materials from a country.
- **Fact:** OECD predicts health funding could drop up to 60% from its 2022 peak.
- **Fact:** The US announced a 67% cut to its foreign assistance programme in early 2025.
- **Body:** DAH (Development Assistance for Health) peaked during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Place:** Venezuela: A South American country known for its significant oil reserves.
- **Fact:** Nicolas Maduro: Former President of Venezuela captured on drug-trafficking charges.
- **Post:** Delcy Rodriguez: Current interim leader of Venezuela involved in brokering negotiations.
- **Fact:** Government currently holds a 96.5% stake in LIC.
- **Fact:** The offer price for the LIC stake is set at Rs 382 per share.
- **Body:** SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) mandates minimum public shareholding for listed companies.
- **Body:** SEBI: The primary regulator for the securities and capital markets in India.

- **Fact:** PaRRVA: A platform for Investment Advisers and Research Analysts to register and certify past performance data.
- **Fact:** Deadline: Extended to September 3, 2026, for mandatory enrollment.
- **Body:** Medical Counselling Committee (MCC): Body responsible for coordinating medical and dental seat allotment in India.
- **Fact:** Total MBBS seats available for the session: 15,495 across 75 colleges.
- **Body:** Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA): State body responsible for conducting entrance exams and counselling in Karnataka.
- **Place:** Musi River: A major river in Telangana, India.
- **Body:** State Environment Impact Assessment Authority: Body responsible for environmental clearance of projects.
- **Body:** State Expert Appraisal Committee: Technical body providing expert advice on environmental impacts.
- **Body:** NDRF: National Disaster Response Force is the primary agency for disaster response in India.
- **Body:** IMD: India Meteorological Department issues weather alerts like Orange, Yellow, and Red.
- **Fact:** Orange Alert: Indicates a situation where people are advised to take action to prepare for heavy rainfall.
- **Fact:** Petrol export duty hike: ₹2.5 to ₹3.5 per litre
- **Fact:** Diesel export duty hike: ₹15.5 to ₹25.5 per litre
- **Fact:** ATF export duty hike: ₹14.5 to ₹22 per litre
- **S&T:** Methylmercury: A potent neurotoxin that biomagnifies in marine food chains.
- **Intl. org:** Minamata Convention: A global treaty adopted in 2013 to protect human health and the environment from mercury.
- **Fact:** Minamata disease: A neurological syndrome caused by severe mercury poisoning.
- **Body:** MCD: Municipal Corporation of Delhi, responsible for civic bodies and municipal services.
- **Body:** NDMC: New Delhi Municipal Council, the local body for the New Delhi area.
- **Fact:** The court order emphasizes sterilization and vaccination as the primary methods for stray dog management.
- **Body:** SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) is the primary regulator for the securities market in India.

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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