

**SATYADHEESH**
सत्याधीश

UPSC DAILY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs • 16 August 2026**26**

NOTES

2

STORIES MERGED

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PAPER MIX

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HOW EACH NOTE READS

Why in news → facts to remember → a Mains question with keywords. Duplicate stories are merged.

SHORT ON TIME?

The 5-page **Brief** has the stories that matter most, plus a quiz. Same day, same notes.

Indian Society

1

POPULATION, DEMOGRAPHY & MIGRATION

P

16 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/105946](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/105946)**Census 2027: RG&CCI Adds 13 New Data Fields Including Spouse's Name, Digital Literacy**

WHY IN NEWS The Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India (RG&CCI) introduced 13 new data fields, including digital literacy and spouse's name, for the Census 2027 enumeration in specific hilly and snow-bound regions.

BODY	RG&CCI: Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India is the nodal body for conducting the national census.
FACT	Census 2027: The upcoming decadal census of India.
S&T	Digital Literacy: One of the 13 new data fields added to the census questionnaire.
PLACE	Snow-bound areas: Specific regions in Ladakh, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand targeted for this enumeration.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of incorporating digital literacy and identity documents in the national census for effective policy formulation and governance.

USE: [Demographic profile](#) [Data-driven policy](#) [Digital literacy](#) [Enumeration](#) [Governance](#)

Polity & Constitution

2

FEDERALISM & CENTRE-STATE RELATIONS

M

16 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/105749

CM D.K. Shivakumar: Separate Rules for Water Scarcity to Avoid Central Control

WHY IN NEWS Karnataka CM D.K. Shivakumar advocated for specific water scarcity rules to maintain state autonomy over dam management while adhering to Supreme Court mandates on the Cauvery basin.

- FACT** | Tamil Nadu's annual water allocation from the Cauvery: 177.25 tmcft
- PLACE** | Cauvery River: Flows through Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala
- BODY** | Supreme Court of India: Final arbiter in inter-state river water disputes

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges of inter-state water sharing in India and the role of federalism in balancing regional needs with ecological and legal mandates.

USE: Federalism Inter-state disputes Water security State autonomy Judicial oversight

STATUTORY, REGULATORY & QUASI-JUDICIAL BODIES

P

16 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/105647

Telangana merges Food Safety and Drugs departments under new authority TG SAFE

WHY IN NEWS The Telangana government merged the Food Safety Department and Drugs Control Administration into the Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE) to streamline regulatory compliance.

- BODY** | TG SAFE: A newly formed authority in Telangana for food and drug safety.
- FACT** | The authority will initially operate in the CURE region with six wings.
- POST** | Avinash Mohanty: IPS officer leading the TG SAFE authority.

MAINS Q Discuss how the integration of food and drug regulatory bodies can enhance public health safety and streamline administrative efficiency in India.

USE: regulatory compliance administrative merger public health statutory powers standardization

Governance

2

TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY & RTI

P

M

16 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/105229

The CAG report, tabled in Parliament on August 12, found widespread non-compliance

WHY IN NEWS The CAG tabled a report highlighting widespread non-compliance with passenger amenities and hygiene standards at Indian railway stations between 2019-20 and 2023-24.

- BODY** | CAG: Constitutional body established under Article 148 to audit the accounts of the Union and State governments.
- FACT** | Audit Period: The report covers the period from 2019-20 to 2023-24.
- FACT** | Non-compliance: Over 89% of the 512 selected non-suburban grade stations were found deficient.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of the CAG in ensuring public accountability and infrastructure quality in public service delivery. How can the findings be used to improve railway amenities?

USE: public accountability audit findings infrastructure deficit sanitation standards transparency

The Standing Committee on Finance has flagged a "crippling" 43% vacancy

WHY IN NEWS The Standing Committee on Finance flagged a 43% vacancy rate in the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), hindering the management of assets worth over ₹42.76 lakh crore.

- BODY

DIPAM: Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, under the Ministry of Finance.
- FACT

DIPAM manages assets worth over ₹42.76 lakh crore.
- BODY

DoPT: Department of Personnel and Training, responsible for recruitment and manpower.
- BODY

DoE: Department of Expenditure, handles the budget and financial management.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced by government departments in managing large-scale public assets amidst manpower shortages and budgetary constraints. Suggest measures to streamline administrative efficiency.

USE:

administrative efficiency

manpower shortage

public asset management

institutional oversight

fiscal prudence

Social Justice

3

Karnataka's Kidney Exchange Plan Stalls: No Transplants Despite 4 Months, 1 Approved Request

WHY IN NEWS Karnataka became the first state to frame guidelines for multi-pair kidney paired exchange transplants under the THOTA Act, 1994, but has yet to execute a transplant.

- ACT / BILL

Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA) was enacted in 1994
- FACT

Multi-pair kidney exchange involves three or more donor-recipient pairs
- BODY

State Authorisation Committee is the body responsible for approving transplant requests

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in implementing organ transplant exchange programs in India and suggest measures to improve the success rate of such medical initiatives.

USE:

organ transplantation

medical ethics

public health infrastructure

regulatory framework

Punjab's MMSY Provides Over 6 Lakh Treatments Since Launch Seven Months Ago

WHY IN NEWS Punjab's Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana (MMSY) achieved a milestone of providing over 6 lakh treatments within seven months of its launch.

- SCHEME

Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana (MMSY) is a health insurance scheme launched by the Government of Punjab.
- FACT

MMSY provides a coverage of up to ₹10 lakh per family annually.
- FACT

The scheme covers critical procedures like dialysis, cancer treatment, and cardiac surgeries.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of state-sponsored health insurance schemes in achieving Universal Health Coverage and reducing out-of-pocket expenditure in India.

USE:

Universal Health Coverage

Out-of-pocket expenditure

Tertiary care

Social safety net

Healthcare accessibility

Chitra Core Launches: India's New Stent Aims to Revolutionize Heart Health

WHY IN NEWS SCTIMST launched 'Chitra Core' and 'Chitra TiN' stents to provide indigenous, advanced solutions for cardiovascular health and reduce surgical complications.

- S&T** | Chitra Core: A polymer-coated Everolimus drug-eluting stent for heart health.
- S&T** | Chitra TiN: A Titanium Nitride-coated bare metal stent currently awaiting pre-clinical evaluations.
- BODY** | SCTIMST: Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology is the developing body.
- FACT** | The institute has been involved in heart valve and stent innovation since 1990.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of indigenous medical device manufacturing in achieving universal healthcare and reducing the economic burden of cardiovascular diseases in India.

USE: Indigenous innovation Cardiovascular health Medical device manufacturing Restenosis prevention Healthcare accessibility

International Relations

1

Bangladesh's foreign ministry spokesperson AKM Shahidul Karim stated on Sunday that Tarique

WHY IN NEWS Bangladesh's foreign ministry stated that Tarique Rahman's visit to India is contingent on the extradition of former PM Sheikh Hasina and other fugitives.

- FACT** | Bangladesh's 'Bangladesh First' policy is the current guiding principle for its foreign relations.
- PLACE** | Sheikh Hasina is the former Prime Minister of Bangladesh.
- BODY** | Extradition treaties are bilateral agreements between countries to return fugitives.

MAINS Q Analyze how bilateral extradition treaties and diplomatic friction can impact regional security and cooperation between India and its neighbors.

USE: extradition treaty bilateral relations diplomatic friction regional security sovereignty

Economy

7

INFRASTRUCTURE (ENERGY, PORTS, ROADS, RAILWAYS) P M

16 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/105985

Kerala CM V.D. Satheesan to Flag Off Vizhinjam Seaport on August 18

WHY IN NEWS Kerala CM to flag off the first export container at Vizhinjam International Seaport, transitioning it into a full EXIM port and a key commercial gateway.

- PLACE** | Vizhinjam International Seaport is located in the state of Kerala.
- FACT** | Mission Samudra aims to develop the maritime region along Kerala's 600-km coastline.
- POST** | Sarbananda Sonowal is the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of developing deep-water seaports like Vizhinjam in enhancing India's maritime trade and regional economic integration.

USE: EXIM port Maritime Economic Region Blue Economy Logistics infrastructure Coastal development

INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT & MSMES P

16 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/105972

NMDC Surpasses 50 MT Iron Ore Production, Aims for 100 MT by 2030

WHY IN NEWS NMDC Limited became India's first mining company to surpass 50 MT of iron ore production, signaling a boost in domestic mineral security.

- FACT** | NMDC production in FY2026: 53.15 MT iron ore
- FACT** | NMDC target: 100 MT iron ore production by 2030
- FACT** | Nagarnar Steel Plant: Crossed 7 MT cumulative hot metal production
- BODY** | NMDC: National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, a 'Miniratna' Category-I CPSE

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of strengthening domestic mineral security and the role of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in achieving India's industrial growth targets.

USE: mineral security industrial growth strategic minerals infrastructure development resource self-reliance

INFRASTRUCTURE (ENERGY, PORTS, ROADS, RAILWAYS) P M

16 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/105894

Why the Visakhapatnam airport shut, and what still flies from INS Dega

WHY IN NEWS The Visakhapatnam airport ended commercial operations as the new Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram officially took over its IATA code and civil traffic.

- PLACE** | Bhogapuram: Location of the new Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport in Andhra Pradesh.
- FACT** | IATA Code VTZ: Transferred from the old Visakhapatnam airport to the Bhogapuram airport.
- BODY** | Ministry of Civil Aviation: Issued the gazette notifications for the transition of airport operations.
- FACT** | INS Dega: The naval base where non-scheduled civil flights and naval operations continue.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of developing greenfield airports in India's infrastructure strategy and its impact on regional connectivity and economic growth.

USE: Greenfield airport Infrastructure development Regional connectivity Civil aviation Logistics

Six firms pull misleading labels as FSSAI cracks down on false claims

WHY IN NEWS FSSAI cracked down on six firms for misleading product labels, highlighting the regulatory oversight of food safety and consumer protection.

- BODY** | FSSAI: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is the apex body for food safety and standards.
- FACT** | Six firms (Livor Ventures, Honest Innovations, Heliostone Specialities, Rajasthan Agro, Iota Nanotechnology, Panchamurtha Industries) were penalized for misleading labels.
- S&T** | FSSAI regulates food labeling to ensure transparency regarding ingredients, nutritional value, and health claims.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of regulatory bodies like FSSAI in ensuring consumer protection and preventing deceptive marketing practices in the food industry.

USE: consumer protection regulatory compliance transparency food safety standards deceptive marketing

Telangana Launches Unprecedented Rural Road Plan, Covering 7,448 km

WHY IN NEWS Telangana became the first state to adopt the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) for rural road development to improve connectivity across 3,036 Gram Panchayats.

- FACT** | The rural road plan covers 7,448 km of roads across 96 rural Assembly constituencies in Telangana.
- S&T** | Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) is a public-private partnership (PPP) model where the government pays the developer a portion of the project cost during construction and the rest as annuities.
- FACT** | The project covers 3,036 Gram Panchayats with an estimated cost of ₹6,294.81 crore.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) in accelerating infrastructure development in rural India while ensuring fiscal sustainability.

USE: Hybrid Annuity Model Public-Private Partnership Rural Connectivity Infrastructure Development Fiscal Sustainability

Telangana launches ₹200 crore plan to convert 18,766 autos into EVs

WHY IN NEWS Telangana government announced a ₹200 crore scheme to convert over 18,000 auto-rickshaws into electric vehicles to reduce carbon emissions and fuel costs.

- SCHEME** | Telangana Auto Rickshaw Electric Conversion Scheme 2026 offers subsidies for EV retrofitting.
- FACT** | Total outlay for the conversion scheme is ₹200 crore.
- FACT** | Subsidy amount per beneficiary is up to ₹1.5 lakh.
- S&T** | The scheme supports both fixed and swappable battery systems for auto-rickshaws.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of state-led subsidies in accelerating the transition to electric mobility and its impact on reducing urban carbon footprints.

USE: decarbonization subsidies electric mobility sustainable transport retrofitting

CAG Audit Reveals 458 Out of 512 Rail Stations Lacking Basic Amenities

WHY IN NEWS The CAG audit highlighted significant infrastructure deficiencies and fund mismanagement at 458 out of 512 audited Indian Railways stations.

BODY	CAG: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is the supreme audit institution of the country.
FACT	458 out of 512 audited railway stations were found to lack basic amenities.
PLACE	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus and Howrah are major railway terminals in India.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in infrastructure maintenance and fund management within the Indian Railways. How can CAG reports be utilized to ensure better public service delivery?

USE: public accountability fund underutilization infrastructure deficit audit oversight service delivery

Agriculture

1

Tamil Nadu launches ₹507.92 crore project to rejuvenate 10,185 irrigation channels and 809 ponds

WHY IN NEWS Tamil Nadu launched a ₹507.92 crore project under the VB-G RAM G scheme to rejuvenate irrigation channels and ponds to improve water management.

FACT	Total project cost: ₹507.92 crore
FACT	Scope: 10,185 irrigation channels and 809 ponds
PLACE	Coverage: 37 districts of Tamil Nadu (excluding Chennai)
BODY	Implementing Body: Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of rejuvenating traditional and modern water bodies in ensuring agricultural sustainability and groundwater recharge in water-stressed regions.

USE: Water rejuvenation Groundwater levels Irrigation infrastructure Flood control Rural development

Science & Technology

6

NASA Invites ISRO to Join 'Moon Base' Program Near South Pole

WHY IN NEWS NASA invited ISRO to join the 'Moon Base' program near the lunar south pole as part of the Artemis Accords partnership.

S&T	Artemis Accords: A multilateral agreement for cooperation in civil space exploration.
S&T	Lunar South Pole: Targeted for exploration due to the presence of water-ice deposits in permanently shadowed craters.
POST	ISRO: Indian Space Research Organisation, the national space agency of India.
FACT	Construction of the Moon Base is planned to commence around the year 2030.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of international cooperation in space exploration and the strategic importance of lunar south pole resources for future human habitation.

USE: Space Diplomacy Lunar Exploration Artemis Accords Technological Collaboration

India Navy nears Rs 70,000 crore deal with Germany for six advanced submarines

WHY IN NEWS The Indian Navy is nearing a ₹70,000 crore deal with Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems to build six advanced submarines under Project 75(I).

- S&T** | Project 75(I): A major submarine procurement programme by the Indian Navy.
- FACT** | Estimated deal value: ₹70,000 crore.
- BODY** | Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL): A prominent public sector shipyard in Mumbai.
- S&T** | Air-independent propulsion: Technology allowing submarines to operate for extended periods without surfacing.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the 'Make in India' initiative in the defence sector and its role in enhancing India's maritime security and self-reliance.

USE: Strategic Autonomy Indigenization Maritime Security Technology Transfer Project 75(I)

Indian Researchers Develop 3D Model to Predict Sun's Deadly Eruptions

WHY IN NEWS Researchers at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) developed a 3D simulation model to predict Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) to protect satellite infrastructure and power grids.

- S&T** | CMEs (Coronal Mass Ejections) are eruptions of magnetized plasma from the sun's corona.
- BODY** | Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) is a premier research institute in India.
- S&T** | NASA's HMI (Helioseismic and Magnetic Imager) and AIA (Atmospheric Imaging Assembly) are instruments used for solar observation.
- FACT** | The study was published on August 16, 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of space weather monitoring in ensuring the security of critical infrastructure and satellite communication systems in the modern era.

USE: Space Weather Coronal Mass Ejections Critical Infrastructure Predictive Modeling Satellite Security

In a new Nature paper, scientists using the James Webb Space Telescope

WHY IN NEWS Scientists using the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) identified a 'black hole star' (MoM-BH*-1) from the early universe, potentially explaining mysterious red spots in cosmic images.

- S&T** | James Webb Space Telescope (JWST): An infrared space observatory designed to observe the first stars and galaxies.
- FACT** | MoM-BH*-1: A 'black hole star' emitting 100 billion times more energy than a typical star.
- S&T** | Nature: A prominent international peer-reviewed scientific journal.

MAINS Q Discuss how advancements in space-based telescopes like the James Webb Space Telescope are reshaping our understanding of the early universe and cosmic evolution.

USE: cosmology infrared astronomy black hole astrophysics JWST

Inside the Experimental Traps Scientists Set for Ghostly Neutrinos

WHY IN NEWS The historical discovery and ongoing study of neutrinos are highlighted as a cornerstone of particle physics and neutrino oscillation research.

- S&T | Neutrinos: Subatomic particles with very small mass and no electric charge.
- S&T | Neutrino Oscillation: The phenomenon where neutrinos change flavors (electron, muon, tau) during flight.
- S&T | IceCube: A neutrino observatory located at the Amundsen–Scott South Pole Station.
- S&T | KM3NET: A deep-sea neutrino telescope located in the Mediterranean Sea.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of neutrino physics in understanding the fundamental properties of matter and the evolution of the universe.

USE: [Subatomic particles](#) [Neutrino oscillation](#) [Particle physics](#) [Standard Model](#)

Kudankulam Plant Sets Record: Reactor 2 Operates Continuously for 638 Days

WHY IN NEWS The Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) achieved a record of 638 days of continuous operation for Reactor 2, highlighting India's progress in nuclear energy capacity.

- S&T | Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) is located in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- FACT | Reactor 2 at KKNPP set a record for continuous operation of 638 days.
- FACT | KKNPP has prevented 11.22 crore tonnes of CO2 emissions.
- S&T | Reactor pressure vessel erection is a key milestone in nuclear reactor construction.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of nuclear energy in achieving India's net-zero emissions targets while addressing safety and infrastructure challenges.

USE: [base-load power](#) [decarbonization](#) [operational capacity factor](#) [CSR](#) [energy security](#)

Environment & Ecology

3

Andhra Pradesh Plans 120 GW Renewable Projects to Tackle Climate Change

WHY IN NEWS Andhra Pradesh outlined eight adaptation measures in its State Action Plan on Climate Change to establish 120 GW of renewable power projects by 2030.

- FACT | Target: 120 GW of renewable power projects by 2030.
- FACT | Target: 40% renewable energy generation from solar and wind.
- FACT | Hydrogen Hubs: Two hubs with a combined capacity of 60 MW.
- FACT | EV Infrastructure: Plan to install one lakh electric vehicle charging stations.
- PLACE | Vulnerability: Northern and central regions identified as highly vulnerable to climate change.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of state-level action plans in achieving India's national climate goals, with reference to Andhra Pradesh's renewable energy targets.

USE: [Climate Adaptation](#) [Renewable Energy Transition](#) [Decarbonization](#) [State Action Plan](#) [Energy Security](#)

Forest Department Evicts Thousands in Theni Over Alleged Encroachments

WHY IN NEWS The Forest Department initiated mass evictions in the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve (ABR) following Supreme Court directives and CEC recommendations to remove illegal encroachments.

- PLACE** | Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve (ABR) is located in the Western Ghats region.
- BODY** | CEC (Central Empowered Committee) provides recommendations on environmental and land issues.
- FACT** | 118 government servants were identified and penalized for encroachment in the ABR.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in balancing the rights of forest-dwelling communities with the conservation of biodiversity in protected areas like the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve.

USE: [Biodiversity conservation](#) [Encroachment](#) [Judicial activism](#) [Sustainable development](#) [Rehabilitation](#)

Exotic Animal Backlog Hits 2,000 in Tamil Nadu; Vikram's Video Adds Heat

WHY IN NEWS A massive backlog of 2,000 applications for exotic animal registration in Tamil Nadu highlights enforcement challenges and infrastructure gaps in wildlife regulation.

- BODY** | CWLW: Chief Wildlife Warden is the primary authority for wildlife management and enforcement at the state level.
- FACT** | Tamil Nadu currently has a backlog of approximately 2,000 applications for exotic animal registration.
- ENVIRONMENT** | Exotic animals are non-native species whose trade and possession are regulated under the Wildlife Protection Act.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in regulating the trade and possession of exotic animals in India and suggest measures to strengthen wildlife enforcement mechanisms.

USE: [Wildlife Protection](#) [Exotic Species](#) [Regulatory Backlog](#) [Enforcement Mechanism](#) [Biodiversity Conservation](#)



TELEGRAM



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