

**SATYADHEESH**
सत्याधीश

UPSC DAILY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs · 18 August 2026**43**

NOTES

6

STORIES MERGED

GS1 · 1

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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

SOCIAL DIVERSITY, CASTE & TRIBES

M

2 REPORTS MERGED

18 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/107479**Mumbai Mandates Marathi Training for Drivers, Igniting Cosmopolitan Clash**

WHY IN NEWS The Maharashtra government mandated Marathi language training for non-Marathi-speaking cab and auto drivers in Mumbai, sparking a debate on cultural preservation versus cosmopolitan identity.

PLACE | Mumbai is the financial capital of India and a major cosmopolitan hub in Maharashtra.

FACT | The mandate specifically targets cab and auto-rickshaw drivers in the Mumbai metropolitan region.

MAINS Q Discuss the tension between regional cultural preservation and the cosmopolitan identity of Indian metropolitan cities in the context of linguistic mandates.

USE: cosmopolitanism cultural preservation linguistic diversity social integration economic pragmatism

Polity & Constitution

7

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

P

M

2 REPORTS MERGED

18 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/107701

Supreme Court Grills Delhi Police Over Facial Recognition Use in Protests

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court examined the proportionality and legality of Delhi Police using Facial Recognition Systems (FRS) during protests, highlighting the tension between public safety and the right to privacy.

- S&T** | FRS (Facial Recognition Systems) use biometric data to identify individuals in real-time or from images.
- FACT** | Delhi Police identified 2,873 individuals with criminal records using FRS during the protests.
- POST** | Tushar Mehta serves as the Solicitor General of India.

MAINS Q Critically analyze the challenges posed by the use of Facial Recognition Systems (FRS) by law enforcement agencies in the context of the Right to Privacy.

USE: Proportionality Right to Privacy Mass Surveillance Biometric Data Judicial Review

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

P

M

18 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/107456

Supreme Court forms panel to probe police excesses against Delhi student protesters

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court ordered the formation of a high-powered committee to investigate allegations of police misconduct during the July 20 Parliament march.

- CONSTITUTION** | Article 19 guarantees the fundamental rights to freedom of speech and peaceful assembly.
- BODY** | The Supreme Court of India has the power of judicial review to oversee executive actions.
- FACT** | The Solicitor General reported over 2,800 'anti-social elements' involved in the violence.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of judicial oversight in ensuring the balance between the state's power to maintain public order and the protection of fundamental rights.

USE: Judicial Oversight Fundamental Rights Public Order Accountability Rule of Law

ELECTIONS, ECI & ELECTORAL REFORMS

P

18 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/107195

Gyanesh Kumar launches Electoral Literacy Clubs 2.0 in Patna

WHY IN NEWS Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar launched Electoral Literacy Clubs 2.0 to promote voter awareness and democratic trust among youth.

- BODY** | Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is the head of the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- FACT** | Electoral Literacy Clubs 2.0 aims to reach 15 lakh schools and 1,420 universities.
- FACT** | The initiative focuses on building electoral literacy and trust in the democratic process.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of electoral literacy in strengthening grassroots democracy and ensuring informed participation in the Indian electoral process.

USE: electoral literacy democratic process voter awareness digital outreach grassroots democracy

The Supreme Court emphasized in a judgment that the Election Commission

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to eliminate black money's influence on elections to preserve the rule of law and voter choice.

- BODY** | Election Commission of India (ECI) is the constitutional body responsible for administering elections in India.
- FACT** | The court directed investigations into criminal cases related to ill-gotten funds to be completed within one year.
- PLACE** | Bellary district, Karnataka, was the site of the specific black money seizure case cited in the plea.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in curbing the influence of black money to ensure a free and fair electoral process.

USE: Rule of Law Electoral Integrity Transparency Political Funding Judicial Activism

Over 47 lakh Delhi voters face exclusion as submission rates plummet

WHY IN NEWS Over 47 lakh voters face exclusion from Delhi's draft electoral roll due to low submission rates during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

- FACT** | 47 lakh voters were excluded from the draft electoral roll in Delhi due to non-submission of forms.
- FACT** | The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise is the mechanism for updating electoral rolls.
- FACT** | The final electoral roll for Delhi is scheduled to be published on October 27.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in maintaining accurate electoral rolls in urban areas and suggest measures to ensure universal and inclusive voter participation.

USE: electoral roll universal suffrage voter exclusion Special Intensive Revision democratic participation

Madras High Court Clears Path for 'Tamil Thai Vazhthu' to Lead Government Functions

WHY IN NEWS The Madras High Court clarified that state anthems like 'Tamil Thai Vazhthu' can be sung at government functions, clarifying the scope of a Union Home Ministry circular.

- CONSTITUTION** | The National Anthem and Vande Mataram are recognized symbols of national integration.
- FACT** | Tamil Thai Vazhthu is the state anthem of Tamil Nadu.
- BODY** | The Union Home Ministry issued a circular on January 28 regarding anthem protocols.

MAINS Q Discuss the balance between the promotion of national integration through national anthems and the preservation of regional cultural identity in India.

USE: federalism cultural identity national integration judicial interpretation administrative law

Karnataka High Court Stuns GBA: No Post-Facto Land Relinquishment for Road Widening

WHY IN NEWS The Karnataka High Court ruled against the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) imposing post-facto land relinquishment conditions for road widening during the issuance of Occupancy Certificates.

- BODY** | BBMP: Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, the municipal corporation of Bengaluru.
- BODY** | GBA: Greater Bengaluru Authority, the body overseeing urban development in the region.
- FACT** | The court ruled that land relinquishment cannot be demanded post-facto if not in the initial approval.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of procedural fairness and adherence to statutory frameworks in urban planning and infrastructure development in India.

USE: Administrative Arbitrariness Procedural Fairness Statutory Framework Urban Planning Rule of Law

Indian government discusses Meta's role in tackling child abuse content on Instagram

WHY IN NEWS The Indian government is engaging with Meta to ensure social media platforms do not claim 'safe harbour' protections for Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) on Instagram.

- BODY** | Meta: Parent company of Instagram and Facebook, currently under regulatory scrutiny regarding CSAM.
- FACT** | Safe Harbour: Legal principle protecting intermediaries from liability for third-party content, unless specific legal requirements are unmet.
- S&T** | CSAM: Child Sexual Abuse Material, a primary focus of automated detection tools and human review systems.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in regulating social media platforms to prevent the spread of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) while balancing freedom of expression and intermediary liability.

USE: Safe Harbour Algorithmic Accountability Digital Governance Child Safety Intermediary Liability

In an effort to reduce bureaucratic expenses, the Himachal Pradesh government plans

WHY IN NEWS The Himachal Pradesh government proposed reducing the number of IAS and IFS officers to cut bureaucratic expenditure and optimize administrative costs.

- FACT** | Proposed IAS reduction: from 153 to 130 officers.
- FACT** | Proposed IFS reduction: from 118 to 83 officers.
- POST** | IAS (Indian Administrative Service) and IFS (Indian Forest Service) officers are often allocated to states on deputation by the Central Government.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges and benefits of optimizing civil service strength in states to ensure fiscal discipline while maintaining administrative efficiency.

USE: fiscal discipline administrative overheads deputation civil service reform resource optimization

Tamil Nadu Minister Announces Plans to Streamline Certificate Issuance and Correct Land Records

WHY IN NEWS Tamil Nadu Minister K.A. Sengottaiyan announced a multi-crore initiative to digitize land records, streamline certificate issuance, and implement flood mitigation systems.

- FACT** | Tamil Nadu government plans to provide tablets worth ₹688.63 crore to officials for certificate issuance.
- FACT** | The state aims to issue land pattas to over 2 million poor families.
- FACT** | Planned investment of ₹80 crore for an early warning system and ₹3.90 crore for flood mitigation plans.

MAINS Q Discuss how the digitization of land records and streamlining of administrative certificates can enhance transparency and ease of living for rural populations in India.

USE: Ease of Living Digital Governance Land Tenure Transparency Disaster Mitigation

Kerala council proposes four-year academic calendars, fellowships to boost education quality

WHY IN NEWS The Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) proposed a four-year academic calendar and fellowship schemes to enhance education quality and student retention.

- BODY** | KSHEC: Kerala State Higher Education Council is the nodal body for higher education in Kerala.
- FACT** | The proposed academic calendar overhaul is slated to be supported by a portal from 2027.
- SCHEME** | Kerala Campus Diversity Mission: A state initiative aimed at promoting diversity and providing fellowships to students.

MAINS Q Discuss how structural reforms in academic calendars and fellowship schemes can improve the quality of higher education and promote inclusivity in India.

USE: academic calendar pedagogical reform educational equity stakeholder coordination

Tamil Nadu Health Minister Announces 'Chief Minister's Elderly Health Insurance Scheme'

WHY IN NEWS Tamil Nadu announced the 'Chief Minister's Elderly Health Insurance Scheme' to provide comprehensive medical coverage for senior citizens without income restrictions.

- SCHEME** | Chief Minister's Elderly Health Insurance Scheme: A Tamil Nadu state initiative for citizens aged 70+.
- FACT** | The scheme covers nearly 38 lakh beneficiaries with no income ceiling.
- FACT** | The scheme is part of a ₹2,997 crore health department announcement package.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of universal health insurance schemes for the elderly in India and the challenges in ensuring equitable access to high-end medical treatments.

USE: Universal Health Coverage Geriatric Care Social Security Out-of-pocket expenditure

Delhi High Court Gives Union Government Two Months to Act on Nursing Commission Petition

WHY IN NEWS Delhi High Court issued a directive to the Union Government to expedite the implementation of the National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Act, 2023

- ACT / BILL** | National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Act, 2023: Legislation aimed at regulating nursing education and standards.
- BODY** | NNMC: The proposed body responsible for overseeing nursing and midwifery standards in India.
- FACT** | The Delhi High Court granted a two-month deadline for the Union Government to take action.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of establishing a dedicated National Nursing and Midwifery Commission in improving healthcare standards and professionalizing the nursing workforce in India.

USE: Regulatory framework Professional standards Healthcare infrastructure Judicial oversight Human resource development

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy inaugurates 1,082-bed MCR TIMS in Hyderabad

WHY IN NEWS Telangana CM inaugurated the 1,082-bed MCR TIMS in Hyderabad to enhance public healthcare infrastructure and provide affordable treatment for the poor.

FACT	MCR TIMS capacity: 1,082 beds
SCHEME	Rajiv Aarogyasri: Telangana state health insurance scheme
PLACE	MCR TIMS located in Hyderabad, Telangana

MAINS Q Discuss the role of public-private partnerships and state-funded healthcare infrastructure in achieving Universal Health Coverage in India.

USE: Universal Health Coverage Public Health Infrastructure Affordability Healthcare Delivery

Karnataka launches "Eat Right" campaign with citizen-led food safety teams

WHY IN NEWS Karnataka launched the 'Eat Right' campaign involving citizen-led food safety watch teams to monitor food establishments and ensure public health.

BODY	FSDA: Food Safety and Drug Administration is the regulatory body for food safety in Karnataka.
FACT	The campaign includes a QR code-based complaint system for reporting food safety violations.
POST	U.T. Khader is the Minister for Health and Family Welfare in Karnataka.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of community participation and decentralized monitoring in ensuring food safety and public health standards in India.

USE: public health citizen participation regulatory framework food safety decentralized governance

International Relations

6

BRICS Slams EU Carbon Border Taxes as "Unilateral and Discriminatory"

WHY IN NEWS BRICS nations officially opposed the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) at the 12th Environment Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi, labeling it discriminatory against developing economies.

INTL. ORG	BRICS: A grouping of major emerging economies including Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
S&T	CBAM: A carbon tax imposed by the EU on carbon-intensive products imported from outside the bloc.
FACT	The 12th Environment Ministers' Meeting was held in New Delhi in August 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss how unilateral carbon border taxes like the EU's CBAM impact the principle of 'Common But Differentiated Responsibilities' (CBDR) for developing nations.

USE: CBDR Trade Protectionism Climate Justice Carbon Leakage Multilateralism

India signs ₹1,943-crore deal for U.S. drones to boost maritime security in Indo-Pacific

WHY IN NEWS India signed a ₹1,943-crore deal with the U.S.-based GA-ASI to lease MQ-9B Sea Guardian drones to enhance maritime security in the Indo-Pacific.

- FACT** | Contract value: ₹1,943 crore
- S&T** | MQ-9B Sea Guardian: A High-Altitude Long-Endurance (HALE) remotely piloted aircraft system
- POST** | Union Ministry of Defence: Responsible for procurement and leasing of defense equipment
- FACT** | Lease duration: 30 months

MAINS Q Discuss how the acquisition of advanced unmanned aerial systems (UAS) contributes to India's maritime security and its strategic positioning in the Indo-Pacific region.

USE: Maritime Domain Awareness Strategic Autonomy Indo-Pacific Defense Procurement Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconna...

Chinese firm uses US-funded tech to dominate robot dog market, set for IPO

WHY IN NEWS Unitree Robotics, a Chinese firm, is dominating the global robot dog market using designs based on US military-funded research, highlighting tech-leakage and manufacturing competition.

- S&T** | Unitree Robotics: A Chinese company specializing in humanoid and quadruped robots.
- FACT** | Go2 model: A quadruped robot launched in 2023 priced at approximately \$1,600.
- BODY** | DEVCOM Army Research Laboratory (ARL): A US military body that funded early quadruped movement breakthroughs.
- PLACE** | Shanghai: The location of the planned IPO for Unitree Robotics.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges posed by state-directed manufacturing and technology leakage to the global high-tech supply chain and national security.

USE: technology leakage state-directed manufacturing strategic industries quadruped robotics industrial policy

Indian Army chief meets Nepal PM to boost ties, ease border tensions

WHY IN NEWS Indian Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth met Nepal's PM Balendra Shah to discuss military cooperation and border tensions, reinforcing the long-standing defense relationship.

- POST** | General Dhiraj Seth: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) of the Indian Army
- PLACE** | Singha Durbar: The seat of government in Kathmandu, Nepal
- FACT** | Tradition of conferring honorary ranks between India and Nepal dates back to 1950
- POST** | Ramchandra Paudel: President of Nepal

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of military diplomacy and border management in strengthening India-Nepal bilateral relations.

USE: military diplomacy bilateral cooperation border management strategic partnership

Indian high commissioner hopes Tarique visit takes place sooner despite challenges

WHY IN NEWS Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh expressed optimism regarding PM Tarique Rahman's visit to India despite the Bangladesh government's conditions regarding the extradition of Sheikh Hasina.

POST | Dinesh Trivedi: Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh

FACT | CII: Confederation of Indian Industry, a peak business association in India

PLACE | Bangladesh: Neighboring country of India in South Asia

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of bilateral diplomacy and economic cooperation in strengthening India-Bangladesh relations amidst political complexities.

USE: bilateral diplomacy extradition economic cooperation strategic partnership

Mufti Noor Ahmad Noor, Taliban-appointed Chargé d'Affaires at the Afghan Embassy

WHY IN NEWS The Taliban-appointed Chargé d'Affaires in New Delhi highlighted regional connectivity projects and stability to seek deeper engagement with India.

PLACE | TAPI: Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project

PLACE | CASA-1000: Central Asia-South Asia power project for electricity transmission

FACT | August 15 marks five years of Taliban rule in Afghanistan

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of regional connectivity projects like TAPI and CASA-1000 in fostering regional stability and economic integration in Central and South Asia.

USE: Regional Connectivity Energy Security Geopolitics Strategic Autonomy

Economy

12

INFRASTRUCTURE (ENERGY, PORTS, ROADS, RAILWAYS) P

18 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/107828

Government offers 200 standard cubic metres of cheaper gas to speed up PNG adoption

WHY IN NEWS The Indian government announced a subsidy of 200 standard cubic metres of cheaper APM gas to city-gas distributors to accelerate domestic Piped Natural Gas (PNG) adoption.

- FACT** | Incentive: 200 standard cubic metres of cheaper gas per new domestic-PNG connection.
- FACT** | Payback period reduction: From 10 years to approximately 3 years.
- FACT** | Mechanism: Administered Price Mechanism (APM) natural gas.
- FACT** | Implementation: Incentives to be rolled out in two tranches over six months starting September 1, 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the Administered Price Mechanism (APM) and government subsidies in accelerating the transition to Piped Natural Gas (PNG) in India.

USE: Administered Price Mechanism Piped Natural Gas Energy Transition Infrastructure Development Fiscal Incentives

EXTERNAL SECTOR, TRADE & FDI P

18 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/107451

India's Exports Soar to Record \$44.24 Billion in July, Electronics Surge 57.4%

WHY IN NEWS India's merchandise exports hit a record \$44.24 billion in July, driven by a surge in electronics and engineering goods despite rising freight costs.

- FACT** | India's merchandise exports in July reached a record \$44.24 billion.
- FACT** | Electronics exports jumped 57.4% to approximately \$5.9 billion in July.
- FACT** | Exports to China increased by 64.57% year-on-year to \$2.2 billion.
- FACT** | Engineering goods exports rose 17.7% to \$12.24 billion.
- FACT** | Exports to the Middle East rose 8.6% to \$5.7 billion.

MAINS Q Discuss the factors contributing to the growth of India's merchandise exports and the challenges posed by global geopolitical disruptions on maritime trade.

USE: merchandise exports value-added products market diversification freight costs geopolitical disruption

GROWTH, INFLATION & MACRO INDICATORS P

18 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/107806

India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) projected India's GDP growth to slow

WHY IN NEWS India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) projected a slowdown in India's GDP growth to 6.8% for FY27 due to inflationary pressures and external shocks.

- FACT** | Ind-Ra projected GDP growth for FY27 at 6.8%.
- FACT** | Projected crude oil price: \$85 per barrel.
- FACT** | Projected rupee-dollar exchange rate: ₹93.98.
- FACT** | Projected Current Account Deficit (CAD): 1.5% of GDP.
- FACT** | Projected retail inflation: 4.9%.

MAINS Q Analyze the external and climatic factors contributing to India's projected GDP slowdown and suggest measures to mitigate food and fuel inflation.

USE: GDP growth Inflationary pressures Current Account Deficit External shocks Macroeconomic stability

Kerala Leases 18.16 Acres to Cochin Shipyard for ₹5,000 Crore Project

WHY IN NEWS The Kerala government leased 18.16 acres to Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) for a ₹5,000 crore ship block building project to boost the state's shipbuilding sector.

- FACT** | Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) is a major Indian shipbuilding and repair company.
- FACT** | The project investment is valued at ₹5,000 crore.
- PLACE** | Ramanthuruth is the specific site in Kerala designated for the ship block building project.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of public-private partnerships and state-led industrial investments in developing India's maritime infrastructure and job creation.

USE: industrial investment maritime infrastructure job creation public-private collaboration

India's crude oil import bill surges 41% to \$13.7 billion in July 2026

WHY IN NEWS India's crude oil import bill saw a significant 41% surge in July 2026, highlighting the impact of global price volatility on India's trade balance.

- FACT** | India's crude oil import bill in July 2026: \$13.7 billion
- FACT** | Crude oil import volume in July 2026: 21.4 million metric tonnes
- FACT** | Average crude basket price in July 2026: \$82.04 per barrel
- FACT** | Petroleum product exports in July 2026: 5.5 MMT

MAINS Q Analyze the impact of global crude oil price volatility on India's current account deficit and suggest measures to enhance energy security.

USE: Trade Balance Current Account Deficit Energy Security Import Substitution Global Commodity Volatility

Kerala launches Vizhinjam port with 2.3 million TEU capacity, aims for maritime gateway

WHY IN NEWS Kerala launched full EXIM operations at the Vizhinjam International Seaport to establish a major maritime gateway under 'Mission Samudra'.

- PLACE** | Vizhinjam Port is located in the state of Kerala.
- FACT** | The port has a capacity of 2.3 million TEU.
- SCHEME** | Mission Samudra is the state initiative aimed at developing Kerala's maritime infrastructure.
- FACT** | The port is designed to handle international EXIM (Export-Import) operations.

MAINS Q Discuss how the development of deep-water ports like Vizhinjam can enhance India's maritime trade and contribute to the 'Blue Economy' goals.

USE: Maritime Gateway Blue Economy Logistics Infrastructure EXIM Trade Economic Growth

JPMorgan warns global food inflation could rise to 5% in 2027

WHY IN NEWS JPMorgan warned that global food inflation could reach 5% by 2027 due to geopolitical tensions, fertilizer shortages, and climate phenomena like El Niño.

- FACT** | JPMorgan projected food inflation: 5% by 2027
- S&T** | El Niño: A climate pattern involving the warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean
- FACT** | Key risk factors: Fertilizer shortages and Middle East geopolitical tensions

MAINS Q Discuss the impact of global supply chain disruptions and climate change on India's food security and the rural economy.

USE: food inflation climate-resilient agriculture supply chain disruption monsoon dependency geopolitical risk

Young Indian Investors Surge to 37.9% of Base but 91% Lost Money in FY25

WHY IN NEWS A surge in Gen-Z and youth participation in the Indian stock market has led to significant financial losses, highlighting risks in retail investment behavior.

- FACT** | Investors under 30 account for 37.9% of the total investor base in India.
- FACT** | Demat accounts in India crossed 23 crore by June 2026.
- FACT** | Median age of Indian investor fell from 38 in March 2020 to 33 in June 2026.
- FACT** | Net losses by young investors in FY25 exceeded Rs 1.05 lakh crore.

MAINS Q Discuss the factors contributing to the rapid rise of retail trading among Indian youth and the implications of information asymmetry in capital markets.

USE: Demographic Dividend Information Asymmetry Retail Participation Capital Markets Financial Literacy

India changes stock market closing to 10-minute auction since August 3

WHY IN NEWS The NSE and BSE changed the closing mechanism for F&O-eligible stocks to a 10-minute auction, impacting price discovery and time decay for options traders.

- FACT** | Closing auction window: 3:28 PM to 3:30 PM
- FACT** | Continuous trading ends: 3:15 PM
- FACT** | Equity derivatives trading ends: 3:40 PM
- FACT** | Price discovery: Auction price can land within a 3% band

MAINS Q Discuss how changes in market mechanics and price discovery mechanisms impact investor behavior and market efficiency in the Indian capital markets.

USE: price discovery time decay market mechanics capital markets volatility

Sebi Clarifies: Discretionary PMS Clients Can Pledge Securities for Loans

WHY IN NEWS SEBI clarified that clients of discretionary Portfolio Management Services (PMS) can pledge their securities as collateral for personal loans.

- BODY** | SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) is the primary regulator for the securities market in India.
- FACT** | Regulation 23(8) of the PMS Regulations, 2020, restricts portfolio managers from borrowing on behalf of clients.
- FACT** | Clients in a discretionary PMS retain legal ownership of the securities purchased through the service.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of investor protection and transparency in the Portfolio Management Services (PMS) framework in India.

USE: investor protection regulatory framework discretionary management collateralized lending

Pandey: CAS auction system under review due to trader concerns

WHY IN NEWS SEBI is reviewing the Closing Auction System (CAS) for approximately 200 stocks following feedback from traders regarding its functionality.

- S&T** | CAS: A mechanism used by SEBI to determine the closing prices of specific stocks through an auction process.
- BODY** | SEBI: The primary regulator of the securities and capital markets in India.
- FACT** | The CAS currently applies to approximately 200 stocks.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of transparent price discovery mechanisms in capital markets and the role of SEBI in ensuring market integrity.

USE: price discovery market integrity regulatory review transparency capital markets

Large and Medium Industries Minister vows Tumakuru Node completion by 2027

WHY IN NEWS The Large and Medium Industries Minister announced the progress of the Tumakuru Node of the Bengaluru–Chennai Industrial Corridor, aimed at industrial development and job creation.

- FACT** | Tumakuru Node: 1,736 acres earmarked for industrial development.
- FACT** | Investment Target: ₹7,000 crore for the Tumakuru Node.
- FACT** | Current Progress: 30% physical and 20% financial progress achieved.
- BODY** | Bengaluru–Chennai Industrial Corridor: A key component of India's industrial corridor network.
- SCHEME** | BHAVYA initiative: Aimed at developing 16 smart cities across India.

MAINS Q Discuss how the development of industrial corridors like the Bengaluru–Chennai corridor contributes to regional economic integration and industrial growth in India.

USE: Industrial Corridor Economic Integration Job Creation Infrastructure Development Investment Attraction

Science & Technology

4

Defence Dept Unveils List: 405 Items Worth ₹3,070 Crore to Boost Indigenous Production

WHY IN NEWS The Department of Defence Production released the sixth Positive Indigenisation List to boost domestic manufacturing of 405 defence items worth ₹3,070 crore.

- FACT** | The sixth Positive Indigenisation List comprises 405 items.
- FACT** | The business potential of the listed items is estimated at ₹3,070 crore.
- BODY** | The SRIJAN Defence Portal is the platform used for tracking indigenisation timelines.
- POST** | The Department of Defence Production (DDP) is the nodal body for this initiative.

MAINS Q Discuss how the Positive Indigenisation List contributes to the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative in the defence sector and its impact on India's strategic autonomy.

USE: Aatmanirbhar Bharat Indigenisation Strategic Autonomy Defence Manufacturing Import Substitution

CSIR Chief Tours MedTech Hub, Unveils 1-lakh Sqft Incubator for Startups

WHY IN NEWS CSIR Director General inaugurated a 1-lakh sqft incubator at Medi Valley to accelerate MedTech startup prototyping and indigenous manufacturing.

- BODY** | CSIR: Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is the apex body for scientific research in India.
- BODY** | DSIR: Department of Scientific and Industrial Research oversees R&D and industrial development.
- FACT** | Medi Valley incubator size: 1-lakh sqft.
- BODY** | NITI Aayog: The premier policy think tank of the Government of India.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of public-private partnerships and incubation centers in fostering indigenous MedTech manufacturing to achieve the goals of Viksit Bharat 2047.

USE: MedTech indigenous manufacturing incubation prototyping Viksit Bharat 2047

QpiAI Opens 8-inch Quantum Foundry in Bengaluru for 128 Qubits Tech

WHY IN NEWS QpiAI launched an 8-inch quantum foundry in Bengaluru to manufacture quantum processors with up to 128 qubits, aiming for commercialization.

- S&T** | QpiAI: A deep-tech firm based in Bengaluru focusing on quantum processor manufacturing.
- FACT** | The foundry is designed to support technologies with up to 128 qubits.
- FACT** | Phase 3 of the project aims to achieve 10,000 physical qubits by next year.
- S&T** | Quantum Supremacy: The point where a quantum computer can perform a calculation that is practically impossible for a classical computer.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of developing indigenous quantum computing infrastructure in India's quest for technological sovereignty and economic growth.

USE: Quantum Supremacy Deep-tech Commercialization Indigenous manufacturing Strategic autonomy

Indrajaal, Sigma bag Rs 155 crore for drone defence system; stocks surge 105%

WHY IN NEWS The Government of India awarded a Rs 155 crore contract to Indrajaal and Sigma for indigenous drone defence systems to counter aerial threats.

- FACT** | Total contract value awarded: Rs 155 crore
- FACT** | Allocation for border security: Rs 145 crore
- FACT** | Allocation for urban police: Rs 10 crore
- S&T** | Indrajaal Ranger system is an indigenous drone defence technology

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of indigenous drone defence systems in enhancing India's border security and internal policing capabilities.

USE: indigenous technology asymmetric warfare border security drone technology

Environment & Ecology

1

El Nino Set to Peak: 90% Chance of Record-Breaking Strength in 2026-27

WHY IN NEWS Experts and NOAA forecast a 90% probability of a record-breaking El Niño peaking in late 2026, posing significant risks to global monsoon patterns and climate stability.

- S&T** | El Niño: A climate pattern describing the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
- FACT** | NOAA forecasts a 69% probability of record-breaking El Niño strength in late 2026.
- S&T** | El Niño is associated with disruptions in global precipitation, often causing droughts in some regions and floods in others.

MAINS Q Discuss the impact of extreme El Niño events on India's monsoon patterns and suggest measures to mitigate the resulting agricultural and climatic risks.

USE: climate variability monsoon dynamics mitigation strategies climate resilience

Floods in Northern Odisha Force 7.85 Lakh People from Homes, Schools Close

WHY IN NEWS Heavy rainfall in northern Odisha caused severe flooding, displacing 7.85 lakh people and disrupting education and infrastructure.

- PLACE** | Districts affected in Odisha: Jajpur, Bhadrak, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Kendrapara, and Keonjhar
- FACT** | Average Areal Precipitation (AAP) recorded: up to 77.6 mm
- PLACE** | Utkal University: Located in Odisha, impacted by flood-related exam postponements

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in flood management in coastal and riverine districts of Odisha and suggest measures for enhancing disaster resilience.

USE: disaster management climate resilience Areal Precipitation mitigation strategies vulnerability assessment

Internal Security

Mumbai Police Initiate In Absentia Trial for Six 26/11 Attack Accused

WHY IN NEWS Mumbai Police initiated 'in absentia' trials against six Pakistani accused, including Hafiz Saeed, for the 26/11 attacks under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita.

- ACT / BILL** | Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).
- FACT** | Section 356 of BNSS pertains to the trial of proclaimed offenders in absentia.
- BODY** | Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) is a Pakistan-based militant organization.

MAINS Q Discuss the legal and diplomatic challenges India faces in prosecuting perpetrators of cross-border terrorism who remain at large in host countries.

USE: cross-border terrorism in-absentia trial proclamation sovereignty judicial recourse

46 militants, 20 arms surrendered in Manipur; chief minister promises Rs 6,000 stipends

WHY IN NEWS 46 militants of the Kangleipak Communist Party-Taibanganba surrendered arms in Manipur under the state's rehabilitation policy to foster peace.

- FACT** | 46 militants surrendered 20 arms in Manipur
- SCHEME** | Revised Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation Policy, 2018 is the governing framework for insurgent surrender in Manipur
- FACT** | Surrendered cadres receive a fixed deposit grant of Rs 4 lakh
- PLACE** | Homecoming Ceremony held at 1st Manipur Rifles Parade Ground, Imphal

MAINS Q Discuss the role of rehabilitation policies in addressing internal security challenges and fostering peace in conflict-ridden regions like Manipur.

USE: reconciliation mainstreaming internal security socio-economic rehabilitation insurgency

Narco-terror suspect Manoj Kumar Bhat arrested after four-year hunt

WHY IN NEWS The arrest of narco-terror suspect Manoj Kumar Bhat highlights the nexus between narcotics smuggling and terror funding in the Jammu and Kashmir region.

FACT | Manoj Kumar Bhat was linked to cross-border narcotics smuggling and terror funding since 2022.

BODY | State Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir is the body responsible for the arrest.

FACT | Hizbul Mujahideen is a militant organization active in the Jammu and Kashmir region.

MAINS Q Discuss the growing nexus between narcotics smuggling and terrorism in the border regions of India and its implications for national security.

USE: [narco-terrorism](#) [cross-border smuggling](#) [terror funding](#) [national security](#) [nexus](#)



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