



SATYADHEESH

सत्याधीश

UPSC DAILY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs • 20 August 2026

55

NOTES

5

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.

History & Culture

1

ART, ARCHITECTURE & CULTURE P

20 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/108874](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/108874)

Minister Rajmohan Allocates ₹10 Crore for Archaeology, Boosts Artists' Aid to ₹20,000

WHY IN NEWS The Tamil Nadu government announced a significant budget hike for archaeological activities and increased financial aid for folk artists to preserve cultural heritage.

- FACT | Archaeological allocation increased from ₹7 crore to ₹10 crore.
- S&T | A modern laboratory costing ₹2 crore will be established for artifact analysis.
- FACT | Financial aid for disadvantaged artists increased from ₹10,000 to ₹20,000 per month.
- FACT | Two art research centers are being established in Coimbatore and Thanjavur.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of integrating modern technology with archaeological conservation to preserve India's cultural heritage and promote traditional arts.

USE: cultural preservation heritage conservation digital archiving folk art promotion archaeological research

Polity & Constitution

7

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

P

M

20 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/109432**Amit Shah Announces High Court Bench in Ladakh, Amid Local Demands for Safeguards**

WHY IN NEWS Union Cabinet announced the establishment of a High Court Bench of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court in Ladakh to enhance judicial accessibility.

PLACE	Ladakh is a Union Territory of India.
BODY	The High Court Bench in Ladakh will be an extension of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.
FACT	The announcement was made by Home Minister Amit Shah on August 20, 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of establishing judicial benches in Union Territories like Ladakh in ensuring the effective delivery of justice and upholding constitutional safeguards.

USE: [judicial infrastructure](#) [access to justice](#) [constitutional safeguards](#) [administrative efficiency](#)

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

P

M

20 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/109426**Supreme Court: Caste slur in closed room not a public offense, cancels charges**

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court clarified the scope of the SC/ST Act by ruling that casteist slurs in a closed room do not constitute a public offense.

ACT / BILL	Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989
BODY	Supreme Court of India
FACT	The court distinguished between private disputes and public offenses under the SC/ST Act.

MAINS Q Discuss the judicial interpretation of 'public view' in the context of the SC/ST Act and its implications for protecting the dignity of marginalized communities.

USE: [Judicial Interpretation](#) [Public Order](#) [Scheduled Castes and Tribes Act](#) [Rule of Law](#) [Due Process](#)

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

P

M

20 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/109221**Supreme Court forms five-member panel to probe excessive force against protesters**

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court formed a High-Powered Expert Committee (HPEC) to investigate allegations of excessive force and harassment against protesters, highlighting the judiciary's role in ensuring human rights.

BODY	Supreme Court of India: The highest judicial body in India, exercising judicial review.
POST	Justice R Subhash Reddy: Former judge appointed to head the HPEC.
FACT	HPEC: A five-member committee formed to probe excessive force and privacy protection.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of the judiciary in ensuring the protection of fundamental rights and human dignity during public protests and civil unrest.

USE: [Judicial Review](#) [Fundamental Rights](#) [Accountability](#) [Human Rights](#) [Rule of Law](#)

Opposition Leaders Move Supreme Court Against New Mines Bill, Alleging Federalism Violation

WHY IN NEWS Opposition leaders are challenging the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Amendment Act in the Supreme Court, alleging it undermines fiscal federalism by restricting state powers over mineral taxation.

ACT / BILL	Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Amendment Act: Legislation governing mineral resources and taxation.
FACT	The bill was passed on August 12 and 13 with minimal parliamentary debate.
BODY	Supreme Court of India: The judicial body where the legal challenge against the bill is being moved.

MAINS Q Critically analyze the tension between central mineral regulations and the principle of fiscal federalism in India's federal structure.

USE: [Fiscal Federalism](#) [State Autonomy](#) [Centralized Regulation](#) [Cooperative Federalism](#) [Mineral Taxation](#)

Kerala High Court Grants State Six Weeks to Fill Waqf Board Vacancies

WHY IN NEWS The Kerala High Court directed the State government to fill vacancies in the Kerala State Waqf Board within six weeks under the UMEED Act, 2025.

ACT / BILL	UMEED Act, 2025: Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development Act.
BODY	Waqf Board: A statutory body responsible for managing Waqf properties.
FACT	The Kerala High Court granted a 6-week deadline for reporting on vacancy status.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of statutory bodies in managing religious endowments and the importance of inclusive representation in such institutions.

USE: [statutory body](#) [inclusive representation](#) [administrative oversight](#) [religious endowments](#)

Andhra Pradesh Races to Hold Elections by October 3 for ₹28,785 Crore Grants

WHY IN NEWS The Andhra Pradesh government is pushing for early local body elections to secure central grants and meet constitutional deadlines for urban and rural bodies.

FACT	Andhra Pradesh seeks ₹28,785 crore in Central grants for local bodies.
PLACE	Andhra Pradesh local body elections involve both urban and rural bodies.
BODY	Central grants are provided by the Union Government to State Governments for local governance.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of timely local body elections in ensuring the effective devolution of funds and strengthening grassroots democracy in India.

USE: [fiscal devolution](#) [grassroots democracy](#) [constitutional mandate](#) [local governance](#) [electoral integrity](#)

Telangana issues notices to 73,39,235 voters for electoral roll verification

WHY IN NEWS The Chief Electoral Officer of Telangana initiated a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to rectify anomalies and ensure accurate voter mapping for the 2026 elections.

BODY	Chief Electoral Officer (CEO): The state-level officer responsible for the preparation and maintenance of electoral rolls.
FACT	Special Intensive Revision (SIR): A process to clean electoral rolls by identifying anomalies, duplicate entries, and missing mappings.
FACT	ASDD: A category of electoral roll anomalies requiring verification of documents and mapping.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of periodic and intensive revision of electoral rolls in ensuring the integrity of the democratic process in India.

USE: electoral integrity voter mapping transparency democratic process administrative efficiency

Governance

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Jharkhand High Court Stays Order Cancelling JPSC Exams, Appointments

WHY IN NEWS The Jharkhand High Court stayed the state government's order cancelling JPSC exams and appointments, highlighting the importance of the principles of natural justice in administrative actions.

BODY	JPSC: Jharkhand Public Service Commission is the body responsible for recruiting civil servants in Jharkhand.
FACT	The court stayed the cancellation of the 11th and 13th JPSC examinations.
POST	The Jharkhand High Court has the power of judicial review over executive actions of the state government.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the 'principles of natural justice' in ensuring transparency and accountability in the recruitment processes of state public service commissions.

USE: Natural Justice Judicial Review Administrative Action Transparency Accountability

Amazon Fined Rs 1 Lakh for Selling Fake Ram Mandir Prasad

WHY IN NEWS The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) fined Amazon for hosting misleading listings of fake 'Ram Mandir Prasad' sweets, highlighting issues in e-commerce oversight.

BODY	CCPA: Central Consumer Protection Authority is the regulatory body for consumer rights in India.
ACT / BILL	E-Commerce Rules: Guidelines governing the conduct of electronic commerce entities in India.
FACT	Penalty amount: Rs 1 lakh imposed on Amazon Seller Services.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in regulating e-commerce platforms to prevent the sale of counterfeit religious artifacts and ensure consumer protection.

USE: consumer protection e-commerce regulation misleading advertisements regulatory oversight

Supreme Court Acquits Forest Officer Vinod Shivakumar in Suicide Abetment Case

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court discharged a senior forest officer accused of abetment of suicide, clarifying that stern administrative behavior does not automatically constitute a criminal offense.

ACT / BILL	Section 306 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) deals with abetment of suicide.
POST	Deputy Conservator of Forests is a senior position in the State Forest Department.
FACT	The court ruled that harsh conduct or disciplinary supervision alone does not satisfy the statutory ingredients of abetment.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges of maintaining a healthy work environment in civil services and the legal boundaries between administrative discipline and criminal liability.

USE: [administrative supervision](#) [criminal liability](#) [statutory ingredients](#) [proximate act](#) [workplace ethics](#)

Maharashtra Transport Dept Enforces Marathi Language Rule for Drivers Today

WHY IN NEWS The Maharashtra Transport Department is enforcing a mandatory Marathi language proficiency rule for commercial drivers to ensure local linguistic integration and regulatory compliance.

FACT	Maharashtra Transport Department is the enforcing body for the language rule.
FACT	Drivers are given a one-month grace period to learn Marathi before badge suspension.
FACT	Assessments for language proficiency are video-recorded for transparency.

MAINS Q Discuss the balance between promoting regional linguistic identity and ensuring the ease of doing business in a globalized transport economy.

USE: [linguistic identity](#) [regulatory compliance](#) [gig economy](#) [cultural integration](#)

KSEB reopens ₹50,000 concession for BPL applicants to shift power lines until 2027

WHY IN NEWS The Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) reopened a ₹50,000 concession for BPL applicants to shift power lines under the LIFE Mission housing scheme until 2027.

SCHEME	LIFE Mission: A housing scheme in Kerala providing housing for the poor.
FACT	Concession amount: Up to ₹50,000 for shifting power lines.
FACT	Validity: The scheme is reopened until March 31, 2027.
BODY	KSEB: Kerala State Electricity Board is the state-owned electricity utility.

MAINS Q Discuss how targeted subsidies and infrastructure concessions can improve the quality of life for the Below Poverty Line (BPL) population in rural and urban housing schemes.

USE: [Social welfare](#) [Infrastructure development](#) [Targeted subsidy](#) [Housing for all](#)

Tourism Minister S

WHY IN NEWS Tourism Minister S. Rajesh Kumar announced a ₹48 crore investment to develop film shooting spots in Tamil Nadu via a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

- FACT** | ₹48 crore investment for film shooting spot development in Tamil Nadu
- S&T** | AI-based CCTV installations planned for tourism security
- PLACE** | Pechiparai dam is a key site for development
- FACT** | ₹2 crore allocated for cruise and ferry tourism feasibility studies

MAINS Q Discuss how Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models can enhance regional tourism and infrastructure development in India.

USE: Public-Private Partnership Infrastructure Development Tourism Promotion Digital Integration

Social Justice

7

NCERT Reconstitutes Class 11-12 Political Science Textbook Team Led by Sandeep Shastri

WHY IN NEWS NCERT has reconstituted the textbook development team for Class 11-12 Political Science to integrate Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) and cultural rootedness.

- BODY** | NCERT: National Council of Educational Research and Training is the apex body for school education in India.
- FACT** | The new textbooks aim to integrate Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) and cultural rootedness.
- POST** | Sandeep Shastri is the lead for the reconstituted Political Science textbook development team.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of integrating Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into the school curriculum. How does it balance cultural rootedness with the need for a modern, inclusive education?

USE: Indian Knowledge Systems Curriculum Reform Cultural Rootedness Pedagogical Inclusion

In Rajasthan, children study in a cowshed due to unsafe school buildings

WHY IN NEWS The Rajasthan High Court's ban on classes in dilapidated buildings has forced children to study in cowsheds, highlighting a systemic failure in school infrastructure despite allocated funds.

- FACT** | Rajasthan government allocated ₹12,335 crore for school infrastructure over 5 years
- PLACE** | Pipalodi, Jhalawar: Site of a fatal school roof collapse in Rajasthan
- BODY** | High Court of Rajasthan: Took suo moto cognizance of dilapidated school buildings

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in ensuring safe and quality infrastructure in rural education systems. How can the government ensure effective utilization of funds for school infrastructure?

USE: Infrastructure deficit Suo motu cognizance Educational equity Public accountability Rural development

Andhra Pradesh Passes Bill to Expand Organ Donor Eligibility and Curb Trafficking

WHY IN NEWS Andhra Pradesh passed the Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Bill, 2026, to expand donor eligibility and combat organ trafficking.

- ACT / BILL** | Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Bill, 2026: State-level legislation in Andhra Pradesh.
- FACT** | The bill expands definitions to include human tissues in addition to organs.
- BODY** | The bill aligns with the Central Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 2011.

MAINS Q Discuss the legislative and ethical challenges in regulating organ donation in India while ensuring the prevention of organ trafficking.

USE: organ trafficking bioethics legislative framework healthcare infrastructure

Maharashtra Declares Snakebites Notifiable After 3 Schoolgirls Die

WHY IN NEWS Maharashtra declared snakebites a 'notifiable disease' to ensure systematic monitoring and timely treatment after three schoolgirls died in Gadchiroli.

- FACT** | Snakebites are now a 'notifiable disease' in Maharashtra.
- BODY** | Maharashtra Public Health Department is the nodal body for reporting.
- S&T** | ASV (Anti-Snake Venom) is the primary treatment for venomous snakebites.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in managing snakebite-related fatalities in rural India and suggest measures to improve the availability of Anti-Snake Venom (ASV).

USE: notifiable disease public health surveillance rural healthcare preventive medicine ASV availability

56 Special E-Buses For Women In Delhi: Check Routes, Services

WHY IN NEWS Delhi launched 56 women-only electric bus services with integrated police security to enhance safety for female commuters.

- FACT** | Delhi's electric bus fleet has surpassed 5,000 units.
- FACT** | The new initiative includes 56 women-only electric bus services.
- PLACE** | Delhi: The initiative is being implemented by the Delhi Government.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of public transport infrastructure in ensuring the safety and mobility of women in urban centers. How can technology-led policing enhance this?

USE: gender-sensitive infrastructure public safety urban mobility technological intervention

Tamil Nadu Grants Year of Paid Leave for Third Child to Boost Birth Rates

WHY IN NEWS Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh introduced incentives like paid leave and cash for third children to counter declining fertility rates in South India.

- FACT** | Replacement level fertility is generally considered to be 2.1 children per woman.
- PLACE** | Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh are states in Southern India implementing these demographic policies.

MAINS Q Discuss the socio-economic implications of declining fertility rates in Southern India and evaluate the effectiveness of state-led incentives in addressing demographic shifts.

USE: Demographic transition Replacement level Fertility rate Ageing population Socio-economic policy

Delhi High Court Slams Centre, NMC for Year-Long Silence on Same-Sex Medical Rights

WHY IN NEWS The Delhi High Court criticized the Centre and National Medical Commission (NMC) for failing to respond to a petition seeking legal recognition of same-sex partners as medical representatives.

- BODY** | NMC: National Medical Commission is the regulatory body for medical education and practice in India.
- PLACE** | Delhi High Court: The judicial body overseeing the petition regarding queer rights.
- FACT** | The petitioner's marriage to a same-sex partner took place in New Zealand in 2023.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community in accessing healthcare and the necessity of inclusive legal frameworks for medical representation.

USE: LGBTQ+ rights medical representation judicial oversight inclusive healthcare legal framework

International Relations

14

Top US Diplomat Arrives In Ladakh, 1st Such Visit Since Galwan Clashes

WHY IN NEWS US Ambassador Sergio Gor visited Ladakh and met J&K Chief Minister, reaffirming the US stance on India's sovereignty over Kashmir amidst ongoing LAC tensions.

- POST** | Sergio Gor: US Ambassador to India and Special Envoy to South and Central Asia
- FACT** | Galwan Clashes (June 2020): Resulted in the death of 20 Indian Army soldiers
- PLACE** | Ladakh: Became a separate Union Territory in 2019
- FACT** | US support: Provided real-time intelligence and high-altitude gear to India post-2020 clashes

MAINS Q Analyze the significance of the US-India strategic partnership in the context of border security and regional stability in the Himalayas.

USE: strategic partnership sovereignty status quo diplomatic signaling defense cooperation

India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Aligns MAHASAGAR with Japan's FOIP During New Delhi Meeting

WHY IN NEWS Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met with Japanese counterparts to align India's MAHASAGAR vision with Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) initiative.

- POST** | Rajnath Singh is the current Union Minister of Defence of India
- FACT** | MAHASAGAR: India's maritime vision for the Indian Ocean Region
- FACT** | FOIP: Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific initiative
- PLACE** | Kumamoto: Prefecture in Japan recently affected by an earthquake

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of aligning India's MAHASAGAR vision with Japan's FOIP initiative in ensuring a rules-based maritime order in the Indo-Pacific region.

USE: maritime security strategic alignment Indo-Pacific bilateral cooperation maritime domain awareness

India, Japan Sign MoA for Maritime Security, Pledge Joint Shipbuilding

WHY IN NEWS India and Japan signed a Memorandum of Arrangement (MoA) on Maritime Security Cooperation to deepen operational ties and joint shipbuilding.

- POST | Rajnath Singh: Minister of Defence, India
- FACT | Dharma Guardian: Joint military exercise between India and Japan
- FACT | JAIMEX: Joint Amphibious Exercise between India and Japan
- BODY | 2+2 Dialogue: A high-level meeting between the Foreign and Defence Ministers of India and Japan

MAINS Q Examine the significance of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership in ensuring maritime security and promoting joint industrial cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

USE: maritime security strategic partnership joint shipbuilding Indo-Pacific operational cooperation

India, Singapore Ministers Eye Deeper Ties: ISMR Discusses Digital, Economic Growth

WHY IN NEWS Indian ministers met with Singapore's PM Lawrence Wong during the 4th India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) to deepen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

- PLACE | Singapore: A key ASEAN partner for India's 'Act East' policy
- FACT | 4th India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) held in August 2026
- BODY | Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: A high-level bilateral framework between India and Singapore

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and Singapore in the context of India's 'Act East' policy and digital economy goals.

USE: Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Act East Policy Digital Diplomacy Bilateral Cooperation Connectivity

India demands UN Security Council reforms, criticizes delays in appointing chairs

WHY IN NEWS India criticized the UN Security Council's lack of transparency in terrorist listing/de-listing and called for structural reforms to prevent the body from being used for narrow political interests.

- BODY | UNSC: The United Nations Security Council is the primary international body responsible for maintaining international peace and security.
- FACT | 1267 Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee: A specific UNSC body tasked with implementing sanctions against Al-Qaida and associated individuals/entities.
- BODY | Permanent Mission to the UN: The diplomatic mission representing India's interests at the United Nations.

MAINS Q Critically analyze the challenges faced by the UN Security Council in maintaining objectivity in counter-terrorism measures and suggest ways to enhance its transparency.

USE: transparency disguised veto counter-terrorism sanctions regime multilateralism

Karnataka CM vows cooperation, commits water to Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

WHY IN NEWS Karnataka CM D.K. Shivakumar committed to the Mekedatu project's water distribution to Tamil Nadu and Puducherry during the Southern Zonal Council meeting.

- PLACE** | Mekedatu: A proposed dam project on the Cauvery River.
- BODY** | Southern Zonal Council: A body for coordinating development and inter-state issues in Southern India.
- FACT** | The project aims to provide water to Tamil Nadu and Puducherry while maintaining Karnataka's share under tribunal awards.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of inter-state cooperation in resolving water-sharing disputes in India. How can federal institutions like the Southern Zonal Council facilitate equitable distribution?

USE: Riparian states Inter-state cooperation Equitable distribution Federalism Water security

Sri Lanka Allocates \$14m as Minister Warns El Nino Peak Sooner Than Expected

WHY IN NEWS Sri Lanka allocated \$14m to combat severe drought caused by a rapidly strengthening El Nino, highlighting the regional climate risks.

- S&T** | El Nino: A climate pattern characterized by the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
- FACT** | Sri Lanka allocated \$14 million for drought mitigation measures.
- PLACE** | Indonesia, Peru, and Honduras are identified as regions facing significant El Nino impacts.

MAINS Q Discuss the impact of El Nino on the climate and food security of South Asian and Southeast Asian nations. Suggest measures for regional climate resilience.

USE: climate variability drought mitigation regional cooperation climate resilience

The trilateral Mecca security pact between Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan was not unexpected

WHY IN NEWS The formation of a trilateral Mecca security pact between Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan is being analyzed for its implications on regional security and India's strategic position.

- FACT** | SMDA: A bilateral Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement exists between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.
- PLACE** | Mecca security pact: A trilateral arrangement involving Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan.
- S&T** | Collective deterrence: A military strategy where multiple nations agree to deter aggression through mutual defense.

MAINS Q Analyze the implications of trilateral security pacts in the Middle East on India's strategic autonomy and regional security architecture.

USE: collective deterrence strategic autonomy regional security geopolitical shift

Bangladesh adviser: Visit to India hinges on "dignified invitation" after canceled trips

WHY IN NEWS Bangladesh's foreign affairs adviser stated that PM Tarique Rahman's visit to India depends on a 'dignified invitation' and mutual trust following recent diplomatic tensions.

POST	Humayun Kabir: Foreign Affairs Adviser to Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman
PLACE	New Delhi: Site of the press interaction involving former PM Sheikh Hasina on August 5
BODY	BRICS: Bangladesh is considering participation based on the diplomatic environment
POST	Dinesh Trivedi: Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh

MAINS Q Discuss the evolving dynamics of India-Bangladesh bilateral relations in the wake of recent political transitions and the importance of 'mutual trust' in regional diplomacy.

USE: sovereignty mutual trust bilateral diplomacy regional cooperation diplomatic protocol

Bhutan's Dasho Sonam Topgay Could Become 16th SAARC Secretary General

WHY IN NEWS Bhutan's nomination of Dasho Sonam Topgay for the 16th SAARC Secretary General position highlights the ongoing leadership transition within the regional body.

BODY	SAARC: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, established in 1985.
FACT	SAARC has been largely inactive since India's withdrawal from the 2016 summit following the Uri terror attack.
POST	Dasho Sonam Topgay: Former Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan.

MAINS Q Discuss the factors contributing to the current stagnation of SAARC and suggest measures to revitalize regional cooperation in South Asia.

USE: regional cooperation multilateralism geopolitical friction institutional stagnation

Taliban Seals \$520m Trade Deals with Uzbekistan Amid Border Tensions

WHY IN NEWS The Taliban government signed \$520m trade deals with Uzbekistan to enhance regional connectivity and mining cooperation despite limited international recognition.

FACT	Logar copper mine project value: nearly \$3.4 billion
FACT	Uzbekistan-Taliban trade deals signed in 2026: approximately \$520 million
PLACE	TAPI gas pipeline: involves Turkmenistan and regional connectivity
BODY	China manages its embassy in Kabul despite lack of full international recognition for the Taliban

MAINS Q Analyze the impact of Afghanistan's evolving trade and security partnerships on the geopolitical dynamics of Central Asia and the Arabian Sea connectivity.

USE: regional connectivity geopolitical dynamics trade diplomacy strategic partnerships resource extraction

USCIRF Chair and Commissioner Call for Sanctions on RSS Before Bhagwat's U.S. Visit

WHY IN NEWS USCIRF officials called for sanctions against the RSS and urged the US government to deny diplomatic courtesies ahead of RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat's visit.

- BODY** | USCIRF: U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom is a non-governmental organization that monitors religious freedom globally.
- FACT** | RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat's visit to the U.S. is scheduled for August 29.
- POST** | Asif Mahmood serves as the Chair of the USCIRF.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of international human rights reports and non-governmental bodies on India's diplomatic relations and its image as a global democracy.

USE: religious freedom diplomatic courtesies sanctions sovereignty human rights

Pakistan Extends Airspace Closure to India Until September 24

WHY IN NEWS Pakistan extended its airspace closure to Indian aircraft until September 24, 2026, following the Pahalgam terrorist attack and reciprocal restrictions by India.

- FACT** | Airspace closure extended until September 24, 2026
- PLACE** | Affected regions include Karachi and Lahore flight information regions
- FACT** | The closure follows the Pahalgam terrorist attack in April 2025

MAINS Q Discuss how bilateral tensions and airspace restrictions impact India's aviation economy and regional connectivity.

USE: bilateral tensions reciprocal restrictions aviation economy regional connectivity

India launches hospital, hands over medicines in Jenin during Ranganathan's visit

WHY IN NEWS India's Ministry of External Affairs launched a super-speciality hospital and provided medicines in Jenin, Palestine, to bolster healthcare and support a two-state solution.

- PLACE** | Jenin is a city in the West Bank, Palestine.
- FACT** | India officially supports a 'two-state solution' regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- POST** | Sripriya Ranganathan serves as the Secretary of India's Ministry of External Affairs.

MAINS Q Discuss India's 'soft power' diplomacy through healthcare initiatives in the Middle East and its implications for India's strategic position in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

USE: soft power humanitarian assistance two-state solution bilateral cooperation healthcare diplomacy

Economy

10

MONETARY POLICY, RBI & BANKING

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20 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/109252**On August 6, the Lok Sabha passed a bill amending Section 10A**

WHY IN NEWS The Lok Sabha passed a bill to amend Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, to allow the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to charge fees for UPI transactions.

ACT / BILL	Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007: Governs electronic payment systems in India.
BODY	NPCI: The umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.
FACT	UPI annual cost: Currently estimated at up to ₹20,000 crore.
S&T	UPI: A real-time payment system developed by NPCI.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of introducing transaction fees on UPI for financial inclusion and the sustainability of India's digital payment infrastructure.

USE: [Digital Public Infrastructure](#) [Financial Inclusion](#) [Monetization](#) [Payment Gateway](#) [Statutory Framework](#)

CAPITAL MARKETS & SEBI

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M

20 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/109113**Market Regulator Bans JPMorgan Unit From Trading Over Sensex Price Rigging**

WHY IN NEWS SEBI banned a JPMorgan unit and a local firm for manipulating the BSE Sensex closing auction, highlighting vulnerabilities in the newly introduced auction-based pricing system.

BODY	SEBI: Securities and Exchange Board of India, the primary regulator for securities and capital markets in India.
FACT	The Indian stock market is valued at approximately \$5.1 trillion.
PLACE	BSE Sensex: The benchmark index of the Bombay Stock Exchange.
S&T	Auction-based system: A mechanism used to determine the closing price of stocks to align with global standards.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced by regulators in maintaining market integrity in the face of high-frequency trading and sophisticated market manipulation techniques.

USE: [market manipulation](#) [regulatory enforcement](#) [market integrity](#) [liquidity](#) [auction-based pricing](#)

CAPITAL MARKETS & SEBI

P

M

20 Aug · Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/108936**SEBI plans 15%-20% drop in collateral for liquid stocks to lure back foreign investors**

WHY IN NEWS SEBI plans to lower collateral requirements for liquid stocks by 15%-20% to attract foreign institutional capital following a significant sell-off by foreign investors.

BODY	SEBI: The primary regulator for the securities and capital markets in India.
FACT	Foreign ownership in Indian equities hit a 17-year low as of the reporting period.
FACT	Over \$50 billion worth of Indian equities were sold by foreigners between October 2024 and June 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of capital market reforms in attracting Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) and their impact on India's macroeconomic stability.

USE: [Capital Market Reform](#) [Foreign Institutional Investment \(FII\)](#) [Market Liquidity](#) [Collateral Requirements](#) [Derivatives Trading](#)

RBI Keeps Policy Rate Unchanged at 5.25% Amid Inflation Concerns

WHY IN NEWS The RBI Monetary Policy Committee kept the policy rate unchanged at 5.25% due to persistent inflation risks and projected headline inflation peaks.

- FACT** | RBI Policy Rate: 5.25% as of the August meeting.
- FACT** | Projected headline inflation peak: 5.9% in Q3 2026–27.
- FACT** | Projected core inflation: 4.3% for FY27.
- POST** | Sanjay Malhotra: Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced by the RBI in balancing inflation control with economic growth in a volatile macroeconomic environment.

USE: [monetary policy](#) [inflation targeting](#) [policy rate](#) [core inflation](#) [liquidity management](#)

Sebi Chairman Announces Overhaul of IPO Rules for SMEs, Targets Costly Underwriting Systems

WHY IN NEWS SEBI Chairman announced a review of SME IPO rules to address inefficient and costly underwriting systems and reform portfolio management services.

- BODY** | SEBI: Securities and Exchange Board of India is the primary regulator for the securities market in India.
- FACT** | SME Platform: A dedicated platform for small and medium enterprises to list on stock exchanges.
- S&T** | Portfolio Management Services (PMS): A professional management of an individual's investment portfolio.

MAINS Q Discuss how streamlining IPO regulations for SMEs can enhance the ease of doing business and deepen the Indian capital markets.

USE: [Capital formation](#) [Regulatory overhaul](#) [Market efficiency](#) [Ease of doing business](#)

For Assessment Year 2026-27, belated income tax returns can be filed until

WHY IN NEWS The deadline and penalties for filing belated income tax returns for Assessment Year 2026–27 were clarified, impacting tax compliance and loss carry-forward rules.

- FACT** | Belated income tax return deadline for AY 2026–27 is December 31, 2026
- FACT** | Late filing fee is Rs 5,000, reduced to Rs 1,000 for income below Rs 5 lakh
- FACT** | Late filers lose the ability to carry forward capital, business, and F&O losses
- FACT** | E-verification of returns must be completed within 30 days

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of timely tax compliance in enhancing India's fiscal health and the implications of tax penalties on voluntary compliance.

USE: [fiscal compliance](#) [revenue mobilization](#) [tax administration](#) [loss carry-forward](#) [voluntary compliance](#)

India Could Hit \$20 Trillion Economy by 2036, Critics Call Target Overly Optimistic

WHY IN NEWS Equirus brokerage report suggests India could reach a \$20 trillion economy by 2036 through sustained reforms, sparking debate on the feasibility of such high growth targets.

- FACT** | Projected target: \$20 trillion economy by 2036.
- FACT** | Projected rupee growth rate: 14.2%.
- FACT** | Projected currency appreciation: 3–3.6%.

MAINS Q Critically analyze the structural reforms required for India to achieve a \$20 trillion economy by 2036, addressing the challenges of human capital and urban governance.

USE: [structural reforms](#) [human capital](#) [growth trajectory](#) [capital markets](#) [urban governance](#)

RBI buys rupees for nine days as Goldman snaps up 40 lakh Shiprocket shares

WHY IN NEWS The RBI intervened in the forex market for nine consecutive sessions to stabilize the rupee against the dollar amid rising global oil prices.

- BODY** | RBI: The central bank of India responsible for monetary policy and managing foreign exchange reserves.
- FACT** | The RBI intervened for nine consecutive trading sessions to stabilize the rupee.
- FACT** | Goldman Sachs purchased over 40 lakh shares of Shiprocket during its stock debut.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of the Reserve Bank of India in managing exchange rate volatility and its impact on domestic inflation and equity markets.

USE: Exchange Rate Volatility Monetary Intervention Current Account Deficit Market Stabilization

IndiGo website faces technical issues, customers see "no data available" messages

WHY IN NEWS IndiGo's website faced technical failures while the airline simultaneously faces an antitrust investigation by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) regarding market dominance.

- BODY** | Competition Commission of India (CCI): The statutory body responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002.
- FACT** | IndiGo is currently the largest domestic airline carrier in India.
- S&T** | Technical issues on airline websites can lead to service disruptions in online booking and check-in systems.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of the Competition Commission of India in regulating market dominance in the aviation sector to ensure fair competition and consumer protection.

USE: Antitrust Market Dominance Regulatory Oversight Consumer Protection Service Reliability

Pension income ceiling enhanced to ₹1.20 lakh, set to benefit over 20 lakh people

WHY IN NEWS The Karnataka government extended the Social Security Pension scheme to include beneficiaries with an annual income up to ₹1.20 lakh, impacting over 20 lakh people.

- FACT** | The revised annual income cap for the Karnataka Social Security Pension scheme is ₹1.20 lakh.
- FACT** | The scheme benefits over 20 lakh people in the state of Karnataka.
- BODY** | The Revenue Department is the nodal body responsible for issuing the order for pension distribution.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of inclusive social security schemes in alleviating poverty and ensuring economic inclusion for marginalized sections in India.

USE: social security economic inclusion poverty alleviation fiscal policy marginalized sections

Science & Technology

5

First X-rays Taken in Space During Fram2 Mission

WHY IN NEWS The Fram2 mission successfully conducted the first-ever diagnostic X-rays in space, demonstrating the feasibility of advanced medical imaging for long-duration space missions.

- S&T** | Fram2: A space mission launched in March 2025 to test medical technologies in orbit.
- S&T** | Dragon spacecraft: The vehicle used to transport crew and cargo to the International Space Station (ISS).
- FACT** | The mission successfully produced diagnostically adequate X-ray images in a microgravity environment.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of developing autonomous medical diagnostic technologies for long-duration human space exploration and the challenges posed by microgravity.

USE: microgravity diagnostic imaging space medicine autonomous systems long-duration missions

Oldest life on Earth found in eastern India, dating back 3.497 billion years

WHY IN NEWS Discovery of 3.497 billion-year-old microfossils in eastern India's Singhbhum block provides evidence of early microbial life and complex metabolic pathways.

- PLACE** | Singhbhum geological block is located in eastern India.
- S&T** | Microfossils dating back 3.497 billion years indicate early life forms.
- S&T** | Spectroscopic methods were used to analyze biological traces in volcanic ash.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of geological and biological discoveries in understanding the evolution of life and Earth's early metabolic pathways.

USE: [microfossils](#) [hydrothermal vents](#) [metabolic pathways](#) [spectroscopic analysis](#)

NASA offers \$500,000 for tech to measure thermosphere conditions, save satellites

WHY IN NEWS NASA launched the Orbital Clarity Challenge to incentivize technology that measures thermosphere conditions to mitigate satellite drag caused by solar activity.

- S&T** | Thermosphere: The layer of the atmosphere above the mesosphere where satellites orbit.
- S&T** | Solar Activity: Increased solar activity leads to atmospheric expansion, increasing drag on low-earth orbit (LEO) satellites.
- FACT** | NASA's Orbital Clarity Challenge offers a prize of up to \$500,000 for atmospheric measurement tech.
- S&T** | TechLeap Prize: A NASA programme designed to foster innovation in space technology and orbital safety.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges posed by space debris and atmospheric drag on satellite infrastructure and the role of international cooperation in ensuring orbital sustainability.

USE: [orbital drag](#) [thermosphere](#) [space sustainability](#) [technological innovation](#) [solar activity](#)

Laundry Gun Cuts Astronaut Germs by 75%, Paves Way for Mars Missions

WHY IN NEWS NASA and University of Alabama scientists developed a 'laundry gun' using cold plasma to disinfect astronaut clothing, crucial for resource-limited space missions.

- S&T** | Cold plasma technology: A state of ionized gas used for sterilization and surface treatment.
- S&T** | NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center: Primary center for space vehicle development and research.
- FACT** | The laundry gun achieved a reduction of over 75% in spore colonies during early tests.

MAINS Q Discuss how advancements in space-based life support systems and resource management are essential for the success of long-duration human space exploration.

USE: [resource management](#) [biosecurity](#) [space exploration](#) [innovation](#)

Moderna's mRNA Cancer Vaccine Cuts Melanoma Recurrence, Shares Soar 160%

WHY IN NEWS Moderna and Merck announced successful interim results for a personalized mRNA cancer vaccine (Intismeran) that reduces melanoma recurrence and spread.

- S&T** | mRNA technology: uses messenger RNA to instruct cells to produce specific proteins to trigger an immune response.
- S&T** | Melanoma: A type of skin cancer that develops from melanocytes.
- FACT** | Moderna and Merck are the primary pharmaceutical entities involved in the Intismeran vaccine development.

MAINS Q Discuss the potential of mRNA technology in revolutionizing personalized medicine and its implications for India's healthcare infrastructure.

USE: [mRNA technology](#) [personalized medicine](#) [biotechnology](#) [oncology](#) [immunotherapy](#)

Environment & Ecology

3

Supreme Court orders eviction framework for Agasthyamalai landscape

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court mandated a structured eviction framework using paramilitary forces to remove encroachers from the Agasthyamalai landscape due to state inaction.

- PLACE** | Agasthyamalai landscape is located in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- ENVIRONMENT** | Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve and Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary are key protected areas in the Agasthyamalai region.
- FACT** | The Supreme Court suggested the use of paramilitary forces for eviction of encroachers.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in protecting ecologically sensitive zones from encroachment and the role of the judiciary in ensuring environmental conservation.

USE: [Ecologically Sensitive Zones](#) [Judicial Oversight](#) [Encroachment](#) [Biodiversity Conservation](#) [Paramilitary Intervention](#)

A Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice S.V.N

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court issued a directive on solid waste management (SWM) blaming public passivity and ordering District Collectors to integrate SWM education into school curricula.

- BODY** | Supreme Court of India: The highest judicial body in India.
- FACT** | District Collectors: Administrative heads of districts responsible for implementing waste management directives.
- PLACE** | India: The geographical scope of the court's directive on solid waste management.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of community participation and educational reforms in addressing the challenges of urban solid waste management in India.

USE: [Solid Waste Management](#) [Public Health](#) [Behavioral Change](#) [Community Engagement](#) [Sanitation](#)

Bihar court orders strict noise curbs, bans loudspeakers after 9:55 PM

WHY IN NEWS Patna High Court issued statewide directives to curb noise pollution in Bihar by banning loudspeakers after 9:55 PM and mandating sound monitoring systems.

ACT / BILL	Motor Vehicles Act: Section 190(2) provides for penalties regarding noise pollution.
BODY	Bihar State Pollution Control Board: State body responsible for monitoring and regulating environmental pollution.
FACT	Loudspeaker ban: Effective after 9:55 PM across Bihar.
PLACE	Patna High Court: The judicial body issuing the statewide directive.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in enforcing noise pollution regulations in India and suggest measures to balance individual rights with the right to a healthy environment.

USE: Right to a healthy environment Regulatory compliance Public nuisance Environmental governance Judicial activism

Internal Security

2

Navy launches eight-week Yogasana training for Agniveers

WHY IN NEWS The Indian Navy launched an eight-week Yogasana training program for Agniveers to formalize yoga certification and address the shortage of certified instructors.

SCHEME	Agnipath Scheme: Launched in June 2022 for recruitment into the Armed Forces.
FACT	The Yogasana training program duration is eight weeks.
POST	Agniveers: Personnel recruited under the Agnipath scheme who undergo training and service.

MAINS Q Discuss how the Agnipath scheme's 'Serve, Learn, Transition, Lead' framework aims to enhance the holistic development and post-service transition of Agniveers.

USE: holistic development skill acquisition transition framework human resource optimization

Over 250 Arrested in Nationwide Operation Targeting Shahzad Bhatti's Terror Recruitment Network

WHY IN NEWS Indian agencies dismantled a nationwide terror recruitment network led by Shahzad Bhatti, highlighting the use of social media for radicalization.

FACT	Over 250 arrests made across 14 states in a nationwide operation.
S&T	Social media platforms are being leveraged for radicalization and terror recruitment.
FACT	The network operated from Dubai with logistical support/reposting from Pakistan.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges posed by social media in radicalization and the role of internal security agencies in countering digital terror recruitment.

USE: radicalization social media internal security cross-border counter-terrorism



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