



SATYADHEESH

सत्याधीश

UPSC DAILY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs · 21 August 2026

42

NOTES

4

STORIES MERGED

GS1 · 1

GS2 · 25

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PAPER MIX

CONTENTS

Every note, grouped by paper

GS1 History · Society · Geography 1 notes

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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

MODERN INDIA & FREEDOM STRUGGLE

P

21 Aug · BBC · [satyadheesh.in/news/109974](https://www.bbc.com/news/india-57489974)

Gandhi's 688 Notes Sell for \$1.69m, Setting Record at Mumbai Auction

WHY IN NEWS A record-breaking auction of 688 handwritten notes by Mahatma Gandhi in Mumbai highlights the growing commercial and historical value of Indian independence era documents.

- FACT** | The notes were written during the period 1944-1946.
- PLACE** | The auction took place in Mumbai, India.
- POST** | Mahatma Gandhi: Leader of the Indian Independence Movement.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of preserving and documenting the personal writings of freedom fighters in shaping India's national identity and historical narrative.

USE: [Independence Movement](#) [Historical Documentation](#) [Cultural Heritage](#) [National Identity](#)

Polity & Constitution

8

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

P

M

21 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/110004

Supreme Court: Gangsters Act misused in social media mob attack case

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court ruled that the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters Act was misused to prosecute individuals involved in a mob attack triggered by a social media post.

- BODY** | Supreme Court of India: The highest judicial body in India.
- FACT** | Uttar Pradesh Gangsters Act: A state-specific law designed to curb organized crime.
- FACT** | Judgment Date: June 21, 2025.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of using stringent anti-organized crime laws to address communal disturbances and the role of the judiciary in preventing the misuse of penal statutes.

USE: misuse of power judicial review organized crime communal harmony penal statutes

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

P

M

21 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/109896

Supreme Court Declares UP Gangsters Act "Stillborn," Quashes Case Against Two Advocates

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court quashed a case and declared the UP Gangsters Act 'stillborn' due to vague definitions of offences, highlighting the protection of civil liberties against arbitrary state action.

- BODY** | Supreme Court of India: The highest judicial body in India, headed by the Chief Justice of India.
- FACT** | UP Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act: Enacted in 1986 to curb organized crime.
- CONSTITUTION** | Article 21: Right to life and personal liberty, which the court emphasized must not be violated by vague penal laws.

MAINS Q Critically examine the necessity of clear definitions in penal legislation to prevent the arbitrary exercise of state power and protect individual liberties.

USE: Rule of Law Arbitrary Exercise Civil Liberties Judicial Review Vagueness Doctrine

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

P

2 REPORTS MERGED

21 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/110051

Supreme Court Slams Union Government for Delay in Honoring Police Officer Chouhan

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court expressed displeasure over the Union Government's delay in conferring a President's Gallantry Award on a police officer for an encounter over two decades ago.

- BODY** | Supreme Court of India: The highest judicial body in India, exercising judicial review.
- POST** | Union Home Secretary: A senior civil servant responsible for internal security and home affairs.
- FACT** | President's Gallantry Awards: Honors conferred by the President of India for bravery in the face of danger.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of the judiciary in ensuring administrative accountability and the timely execution of government honors and awards.

USE: judicial review administrative accountability executive delay gallantry awards

High Court Halts Cancellations in Jharkhand Recruitment Row Amid 25-Day Agitation

WHY IN NEWS The Jharkhand High Court stayed the state government's order to cancel appointments of Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) and JSSC-CGL recruits amidst a massive protest over recruitment irregularities.

- BODY** | Jharkhand High Court: The highest judicial authority in the state of Jharkhand.
- FACT** | The state government cancelled 22 examinations on August 18, 2026.
- FACT** | The stay covers appointments of Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) and JSSC-CGL recruits.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of the judiciary in ensuring transparency and accountability in public recruitment processes to prevent administrative irregularities.

USE: Judicial Review Administrative Accountability Transparency Public Trust Rule of Law

Karnataka IDs 1.08 crore voters for potential exclusion in electoral roll update

WHY IN NEWS Karnataka identified 1.08 crore voters as 'Absent, Shifted, Dead, Duplicate and Others' (ASDDO) during the electoral roll update, raising concerns over potential voter disenfranchisement.

- FACT** | ASDDO category in Karnataka accounts for nearly 20% (one-fifth) of the state's electorate.
- FACT** | Approximately 1.08 crore voters were identified for potential exclusion in the Karnataka electoral roll update.
- BODY** | The Electoral Roll is the official list of eligible voters maintained by the Election Commission of India.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in maintaining an accurate and inclusive electoral roll in a mobile population and the implications of voter exclusion on democratic representation.

USE: Universal Adult Suffrage Electoral Integrity Disenfranchisement Demographic Dynamics Administrative Accuracy

Karnataka Sends 43.80 Lakh Voter Discrepancy Notices, Mostly in Bengaluru

WHY IN NEWS The Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka issued over 43.80 lakh voter discrepancy notices to rectify errors in the electoral roll, highlighting the importance of data integrity in democratic processes.

- BODY** | Chief Electoral Officer (CEO): The highest-ranking official responsible for the conduct of elections in a state.
- FACT** | Total voter discrepancy notices issued in Karnataka: 43.80 lakh.
- FACT** | Bengaluru accounted for 24.05 lakh of the total discrepancy notices.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of maintaining an accurate and error-free electoral roll in ensuring the integrity of the democratic process in India.

USE: Electoral Integrity Data Accuracy Democratic Process Voter Awareness

In April 2026, the Governor of Punjab gave assent to the Jaagat

WHY IN NEWS The Governor of Punjab gave assent to the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, which criminalises sacrilege against the Guru Granth Sahib with severe penalties.

- ACT / BILL** | Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act: Provides for life imprisonment for sacrilege.
- FACT** | The law was enacted in April 2026 following a decade of agitation.

MAINS Q Discuss the tension between the protection of religious sentiments and the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression in the Indian constitutional framework.

USE: Freedom of Speech Secularism Legislative Intent Public Order Constitutional Morality

Shah urges joint talks to end southern water disputes at Mamallapuram meeting

WHY IN NEWS Union Home Minister Amit Shah advocated for joint ministerial and state-level talks to resolve long-standing inter-state water disputes during the 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting.

BODY	Southern Zonal Council: A statutory body for coordinating development and resolving issues among southern states.
BODY	Inter-State Council: Established under Article 263 of the Constitution to facilitate cooperation between states.
FACT	Ministry of Jal Shakti: The nodal ministry for water resources and management in India.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of federal institutions in resolving inter-state water disputes in India. How can collaborative governance ensure equitable resource distribution?

USE: Cooperative Federalism Inter-State Council Resource Allocation Conflict Resolution Water Governance

Governance

5

Supreme Court Creates Clean Slate for Future Labour Law Disputes Under New IRC

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court ruled that the historical definition of 'industry' will not automatically apply to the new Industrial Relations Code (IRC) 2020, ensuring a fresh legal framework for labour disputes.

ACT / BILL	Industrial Relations Code (IRC) 2020 replaces the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947
BODY	The Supreme Court's ruling provides a 'clean slate' for interpreting labour laws under the new code
FACT	The IRC 2020 is scheduled to be implemented/effective by November 2025

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the Supreme Court's ruling on the Industrial Relations Code 2020 in balancing industrial harmony with legal certainty for employers and workers.

USE: judicial interpretation industrial relations legal certainty labour reforms

Government Requests Surge, 2.44 Lakh Social Posts Removed in Five Months

WHY IN NEWS The Press Information Bureau reported that government departments requested the removal of 2.44 lakh social media posts in five months under the amended IT Intermediaries Rules.

ACT / BILL	IT Intermediaries Rules: Governs the obligations of social media intermediaries regarding content removal.
FACT	Takedown time reduction: From 36 hours to 3 hours under amended rules.
FACT	Source of requests: 82% of content removal requests came from state governments.
BODY	I4C: Government entity involved in reporting scams and cyber-related content.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges and implications of balancing freedom of speech with the government's power to mandate content removal under the IT Intermediaries Rules.

USE: Freedom of Speech Digital Governance Intermediary Liability Content Moderation Cyber Security

Delhi Master Plan 2047 Proposes Air Taxis and Rooftop Helipads

WHY IN NEWS The Delhi Master Plan 2047 was notified by the Centre, introducing air taxis and rooftop helipads as formal components of the city's future urban mobility and emergency response framework.

PLACE | Noida International Airport is located in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh.

FACT | Delhi Master Plan 2047 is the first framework to formally include air-based urban transport in Delhi's planning.

S&T | Air taxis and pods are proposed as modes for future urban mobility.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of advanced urban mobility and multimodal connectivity in addressing the logistical challenges of rapidly expanding metropolitan areas like Delhi.

USE: [urban mobility](#) [multimodal connectivity](#) [infrastructure development](#) [emergency response](#)

Bengaluru bans parking at junctions, mandates bus stops 75 meters from crossings

WHY IN NEWS Bengaluru Traffic Police introduced the Greater Bengaluru Parking Rules, 2026, to mitigate urban traffic congestion through spatial planning of parking and bus stops.

FACT | Bus stops must be located at least 75 meters away from junctions.

BODY | Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) identifies select stretches for peak-hour parking restrictions.

BODY | Parking Task Force is the approving body for autorickshaw stand relocations.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges of urban mobility management in rapidly expanding Indian cities and the role of spatial planning in reducing traffic congestion.

USE: [urban mobility](#) [spatial planning](#) [traffic congestion](#) [micro-level management](#) [public transport infrastructure](#)

Legislative Assembly Adopts Three Bills to Regulate Unauthorized Houses and Layouts

WHY IN NEWS The Karnataka Legislative Assembly adopted three bills to regulate unauthorized houses, penalize incomplete layouts, and enhance the powers of the BDA Commissioner.

FACT | There are 111,560 unauthorized houses in BDA layouts as per the Greater Bengaluru Area Development Minister.

FACT | The Commissioner's power to sanction funds for urgent works was increased to ₹5 crore.

ACT / BILL | BDA (Amendment) Bill, 2026: Focuses on regularizing unauthorized houses and revising charges based on property size.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in urban planning and the importance of legislative frameworks in regulating unauthorized constructions in rapidly expanding metropolitan areas.

USE: [urban governance](#) [regulatory framework](#) [infrastructure development](#) [unauthorized construction](#)

Cabinet Secretary unveils 23-point plan to boost sports, tech, and skills by 2047

WHY IN NEWS Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan unveiled a 23-point action plan to align ministries with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision through sports, skill development, and tech integration.

- POST** | Cabinet Secretary: The highest-ranking civil servant in the Government of India.
- FACT** | Viksit Bharat 2047: The government's vision to make India a developed nation by the centenary of independence.
- S&T** | Domestic digital platforms: Recommended for data safety and governance reforms.

MAINS Q Discuss how the integration of skill development and sports into the national education and governance framework can contribute to the 'Viksit Bharat 2047' objective.

USE: [Viksit Bharat](#) [human capital](#) [inter-departmental coordination](#) [skill integration](#) [digital sovereignty](#)

Karnataka invests ₹2,500 crore with ADB to transform 500 government schools

WHY IN NEWS Karnataka signed an agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to invest ₹2,500 crore in upgrading 500 government schools into Karnataka Public Schools.

- BODY** | ADB: Asian Development Bank is a regional development bank providing loans and technical assistance.
- FACT** | Total investment for the school transformation project is ₹2,500 crore.
- FACT** | The project aims to upgrade 500 government schools into Karnataka Public Schools by 2029-30.
- FACT** | Each upgraded school is planned to accommodate a minimum of 1,200 students.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of Public-Private-Partnerships and multilateral funding in improving the quality of public education in India.

USE: [multilateral funding](#) [educational infrastructure](#) [digital divide](#) [human capital formation](#) [public-private synergy](#)

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the Supreme Court that the Union government

WHY IN NEWS The Solicitor General informed the Supreme Court that the Union government cannot grant grace marks to students due to discrepancies in the CBSE's On-Screen Marking (OSM) evaluation system.

- BODY** | CBSE: Central Board of Secondary Education is the national-level board of education in India.
- POST** | Solicitor General: The highest-ranking law officer in the Government of India.
- FACT** | The pass percentage affected by the OSM irregularities was reported at 85.2%.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges of implementing automated evaluation systems in large-scale examinations and suggest measures to ensure transparency and student equity.

USE: [transparency](#) [accountability](#) [technological integrity](#) [educational equity](#) [remedial measures](#)

The IC3 Institute's Student Well-Being Pulse Report, launched at the 10th Annual

WHY IN NEWS The IC3 Institute released the Student Well-Being Pulse Report highlighting a sharp decline in student mental health and happiness from Grade 8 to Grade 12 in India.

- FACT** | Overall student wellbeing in India dropped from 62% (Grade 8) to 43% (Grade 12).
- FACT** | The report surveyed a sample size of 8,515 students across India.
- PLACE** | The report was launched at the 10th Annual IC3 Conference and Expo in Mumbai.

MAINS Q Discuss the factors contributing to the declining mental well-being of students in higher secondary education in India and suggest measures to address it.

USE: mental health holistic education academic pressure student well-being socio-emotional learning

NCSC raises concerns over rejection of NAMASTE scheme applications

WHY IN NEWS The NCSC expressed concern over the rejection of applications under the NAMASTE scheme, which aims to mechanize sanitation and provide subsidies to workers.

- SCHEME** | NAMASTE: National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem scheme aims to eliminate manual scavenging.
- BODY** | NCSC: National Commission for Scheduled Castes is a constitutional body under Article 338.
- FACT** | Proposed outlay for NAMASTE expansion: ₹498.73 crore (2026–2031).
- POST** | The NAMASTE scheme falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the NAMASTE scheme in addressing the issue of manual scavenging in India. What challenges exist in its implementation?

USE: manual scavenging mechanization social justice livelihood security marginalized communities

International Relations

7

The United States has imposed new sanctions against the International Criminal Court

WHY IN NEWS The US imposed sanctions on the International Criminal Court (ICC) following the issuance of an arrest warrant for Benjamin Netanyahu, sparking a diplomatic rift with the UN and EU.

- INTL. ORG** | ICC: An intergovernmental organization and treaty-based body responsible for prosecuting individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.
- FACT** | The ICC is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands.
- INTL. ORG** | The UN and EU have officially condemned the US sanctions against the ICC.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of unilateral sanctions by major powers on the independence and functionality of international judicial bodies like the ICC.

USE: sovereignty multilateralism judicial independence international law sanctions

Bangladesh's 78-Year-Old President Sworn In as India Congratulates and Ties Deepen

WHY IN NEWS Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was sworn in as the 23rd President of Bangladesh, marking a significant shift in the country's leadership and deepening India-Bangladesh bilateral ties.

POST	Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir: 23rd President of Bangladesh
PLACE	Bangabhaban: Official residence of the President of Bangladesh
FACT	India-Bangladesh bilateral cooperation areas include energy, technology, connectivity, youth affairs, health, and education
BODY	BNP: Bangladesh Nationalist Party

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of India-Bangladesh bilateral relations in the context of regional connectivity and security in South Asia.

USE: bilateral ties regional connectivity strategic partnership diplomatic relations

Pakistan protests US envoy's J&K remarks; India stands firm

WHY IN NEWS Pakistan protested against US Ambassador Sergio Gor's remarks describing Jammu and Kashmir as an 'important part of India', which the MEA dismissed while reaffirming J&K and Ladakh as integral parts of India.

POST	Sergio Gor: Current US Ambassador to India
FACT	US Level 4 'do not travel' advisory currently active for J&K/Ladakh
FACT	J&K and Ladakh are Union Territories of India

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of international diplomatic recognition of India's internal territorial integrity in the context of the Kashmir issue.

USE: territorial integrity diplomatic protest sovereignty bilateral relations

Bangladesh, led by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's aide, expresses interest

WHY IN NEWS Bangladesh expressed interest in joining the 'Mecca Pact' with Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Turkey, potentially impacting regional security dynamics and India's neighborhood relations.

PLACE	Mecca Pact: A collective defense agreement involving Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Turkey.
FACT	Bangladesh is currently seeking membership in the Mecca Pact to strengthen regional security.
PLACE	Tarique Rahman: Current political leadership in Bangladesh involved in the pact negotiations.

MAINS Q Analyze the implications of Bangladesh's potential entry into the Mecca Pact on India's 'Neighborhood First' policy and regional security architecture.

USE: Regional Security Strategic Alignment Neighborhood First Collective Defense Geopolitical Shift

On August 22 and 23, Visakhapatnam will host the BRICS Youth Ministers'

WHY IN NEWS Visakhapatnam is hosting the BRICS Youth and Sports Ministers' Meetings to foster cooperation on youth development and sports among member nations.

BODY	BRICS: An acronym for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
PLACE	Visakhapatnam: A major port city and industrial hub in Andhra Pradesh, India.
FACT	The meetings involve delegations from 11 member countries including Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and UAE.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of BRICS as a platform for South-South cooperation and its role in shaping global governance and youth development.

USE: multilateralism South-South cooperation diplomatic outreach youth empowerment

Old Video Shows Moment When Ship With 21 Indian Sailors Came Under Iran's Attack In Hormuz

WHY IN NEWS India's maritime workforce faces heightened security risks in the Strait of Hormuz due to escalating geopolitical tensions between the US, Israel, and Iran.

- FACT** | Indians account for 12.2% of the global seafarer workforce.
- PLACE** | Strait of Hormuz: A strategic maritime chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman.
- FACT** | Indian government issued a directive to shipowners to avoid the Strait of Hormuz due to heightened security risks.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the Strait of Hormuz in global maritime trade and the implications of geopolitical tensions on India's maritime security and seafarer safety.

USE: maritime security geopolitical tensions chokepoint blue economy seafarer safety

Japan's Defence Minister briefs Modi on deepening 'Make in India' defence ties

WHY IN NEWS Japan's Defence Minister briefed PM Modi on deepening defence cooperation under the 'Make in India' initiative to strengthen the Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

- POST** | Shinjiro Koizumi: Current Defence Minister of Japan
- FACT** | Special Strategic and Global Partnership: A key bilateral framework between India and Japan
- FACT** | Make in India: Initiative to encourage manufacturing and defence production in India

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of India-Japan defence cooperation in the context of the 'Make in India' initiative and regional security dynamics.

USE: Strategic Partnership Defence Cooperation Manufacturing Hub Bilateral Ties Security Architecture

Economy

12

GROWTH, INFLATION & MACRO INDICATORS

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2 REPORTS MERGED

21 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/109536

India Allows 10 Lakh Tonnes Duty-Free Raw Sugar Imports to Curb Prices

WHY IN NEWS The Government of India allowed duty-free imports of 10 lakh tonnes of raw sugar to stabilize rising retail prices and manage supply-side shocks.

- FACT** | Import quota: 10 lakh tonnes of raw sugar.
- FACT** | Retail sugar prices increased by approximately 13% year-on-year.
- FACT** | Stockholding limit: Capped at 15 days' consumption for bulk consumers.
- BODY** | Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) oversees sugar and food processing regulations.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of import-export policies and stockholding regulations in ensuring food security and price stability in the Indian agricultural market.

USE: Tariff Rate Quota Price Stabilization Stockholding Limits Supply-side Management Inflationary Pressure

INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT & MSMEs

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M

21 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/110275

Apple could expand MacBook, iPad manufacturing in India under Rs 62,500-crore scheme

WHY IN NEWS Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) to encourage global giants like Apple to expand high-end electronics manufacturing in India.

- SCHEME** | Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) has a budget of Rs 62,500 crore
- FACT** | The scheme targets the development of three Indian smartphone brands within 14 months
- POST** | Ashwini Vaishnaw is the Union Minister for Electronics and IT

MAINS Q Discuss how the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme can transform India into a global electronics manufacturing hub and enhance domestic supply chain resilience.

USE: Electronics ecosystem Supply chain resilience Design and R&D Global competitiveness Manufacturing hub

INFRASTRUCTURE (ENERGY, PORTS, ROADS, RAILWAYS)

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21 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/110356

AERA slashes Bengaluru airport passenger fees by 33% to ₹300

WHY IN NEWS AERA reduced passenger fees at Bengaluru airport by 33% to align charges with commissioned infrastructure using a new revenue formula.

- BODY** | AERA (Airports Economic Regulatory Authority) is the body responsible for regulating tariffs at airports.
- FACT** | Passenger fees at Bengaluru airport were reduced by 33% to ₹300.
- INTL. ORG** | IATA (International Air Transport Association) is a global trade association for the airline industry.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of independent regulatory bodies in ensuring fair pricing and infrastructure development in the aviation sector.

USE: regulatory framework tariff order infrastructure alignment transparency aviation economy

Digital Divide: 40,552 Women Struggle with India's Payment System Due to Trust Issues

WHY IN NEWS A Yugantar study highlights that trust and social norms, rather than just technology access, are the primary barriers for low-income women in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh adopting digital payments.

- FACT** | The study surveyed 40,552 women across urban, semi-urban, and rural areas.
- S&T** | UPI (Unified Payments Interface) is a real-time payment system developed by NPCI.
- PLACE** | The study specifically focused on the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

MAINS Q Discuss how socio-cultural barriers and trust deficits hinder the financial inclusion of women in India's digital economy. Suggest measures to bridge this digital divide.

USE: [digital divide](#) [financial inclusion](#) [socio-cultural norms](#) [trust deficit](#) [gendered barriers](#)

AI tax model nets ₹743.43 crore in six months, draws national interest

WHY IN NEWS Andhra Pradesh's AI-led GST administration model successfully detected ₹743.43 crore in revenue over six months, prompting interest from other states for replication.

- FACT** | Andhra Pradesh's AI-led GST model detected ₹743.43 crore in revenue in six months.
- S&T** | The system utilizes data integration and automated reports for tax scrutiny and litigation management.
- BODY** | The model was showcased at the 6th National Co-ordination Meeting.

MAINS Q Discuss how the integration of Artificial Intelligence in tax administration can enhance fiscal transparency and revenue collection in India.

USE: [Fiscal Transparency](#) [Data Integration](#) [Revenue Leakage](#) [E-governance](#) [Predictive Analytics](#)

AI reshapes India's IT services sector contracts as clients demand more for less

WHY IN NEWS The Indian IT sector is facing a significant downturn and structural shift due to the disruptive impact of Artificial Intelligence on traditional business models.

- FACT** | India's IT industry valuation: \$315 billion
- FACT** | Nifty IT Index: Dropped by 20% in the current year
- S&T** | AI impact: Shift from billable hours to performance-based pricing models

MAINS Q Discuss the impact of Artificial Intelligence on India's IT services sector and the resulting challenges regarding employment and industrial competitiveness.

USE: [disruptive technology](#) [structural shift](#) [productivity gains](#) [automation](#) [industrial competitiveness](#)

ISRO's Former Chief S Somnath Appointed To RBI Board

WHY IN NEWS S. Somanath, former ISRO Chairman, was appointed as a part-time, non-official director on the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Central Board.

- BODY** | RBI Central Board: The apex decision-making body of the Reserve Bank of India.
- POST** | S. Somanathan: Former Chairman of ISRO and Chancellor of Chanakya University.
- FACT** | Director tenure: The appointment for S. Somanathan and Anand Mahindra is for a four-year term.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of including non-official directors from diverse sectors like space and industry in the RBI Central Board for effective monetary policy.

USE: [Monetary Policy](#) [Governance](#) [Expertise](#) [Central Board](#) [Institutional Framework](#)

Telecoms ordered to limit new SIMs to nine per subscriber by November 30

WHY IN NEWS The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) issued a directive to limit new SIM cards to nine per subscriber to curb misuse and enhance security.

- BODY** | Department of Telecommunications (DoT): The nodal body for telecom regulations in India.
- S&T** | Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP): A platform used by DoT to verify subscriber data and SIM limits.
- FACT** | The prescribed limit for mobile connections per subscriber is set at nine.
- FACT** | Telecom operators must complete the implementation of these technical measures by November 30.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of regulating mobile connections in India to ensure national security and curb cybercrime.

USE: National Security Cybercrime Digital Governance KYC Compliance Regulatory Framework

RBI's Move Sends Bond Yields Soaring 15-17 Basis Points to 6.52%

WHY IN NEWS Bond yields surged to 6.52% following the RBI's premature closure of the FCNR(B) scheme, reflecting market sensitivity to monetary policy shifts.

- BODY** | RBI: The central bank of India responsible for monetary policy and managing the FCNR(B) scheme.
- FACT** | Bond yields reached 6.52% following the reduction in the FCNR(B) scheme duration.
- FACT** | HDFC Bank raised \$1.75 billion through three- and five-year dollar bonds.
- S&T** | FCNR(B): Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) scheme allows non-residents to deposit funds in foreign currency.

MAINS Q Analyze how the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy stance and liquidity management tools influence bond yields and capital market stability in India.

USE: monetary policy bond yields liquidity management hawkish stance capital markets

Sebi scraps notarisation for foreign investors, speeds up onboarding instantly

WHY IN NEWS Sebi has eliminated the requirement for notarisation, apostillisation, or consularisation of Power of Attorney (PoA) documents for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to expedite onboarding.

- BODY** | Sebi: The primary regulator for the securities and capital markets in India.
- FACT** | FPI: Foreign Portfolio Investors are entities that invest in Indian financial assets like stocks and bonds.
- S&T** | Apostillisation: A form of authentication for documents to be used in countries that are members of the Hague Convention.
- FACT** | The new rule regarding digitally signed PoA documents came into effect immediately.

MAINS Q Discuss how the simplification of regulatory compliance and the adoption of technology can enhance India's position as a preferred destination for global capital.

USE: Regulatory Ease Capital Market Digital Onboarding Compliance Hurdles Ease of Doing Business

88% of individual traders lose ₹91,685 crore as Sebi curbs speculation

WHY IN NEWS A study revealed that 88% of individual traders lost ₹91,685 crore in FY26 following SEBI's regulatory measures to curb speculative trading.

- BODY** | SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) is the primary regulator for the securities market in India.
- FACT** | Individual trader participation fell from 1 crore in FY25 to 88 lakh in FY26.
- FACT** | New entrants dropped by 40% while exits surged to nearly 46 lakh in the reported period.

MAINS Q Discuss the impact of regulatory measures on retail participation in capital markets and the challenges of protecting small investors from speculative risks.

USE: speculative trading market integrity retail participation regulatory oversight financial inclusion

Dubai Chambers CEO Signs MoUs with NASSCOM and FKCCI for AI Collaboration

WHY IN NEWS Dubai Chambers signed MoUs with NASSCOM and FKCCI to foster collaboration in Agentic AI and boost trade/investment between Dubai and India.

- FACT** | Dubai investments in India totaled \$9.3 billion between 2016 and 2025.
- FACT** | Dubai investments created 55,274 jobs in India during the 2016–2025 period.
- S&T** | Agentic AI refers to AI systems capable of autonomous goal-oriented actions.
- BODY** | NASSCOM: India's premier trade body for the technology and business process management industry.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of India-UAE economic cooperation in the era of emerging technologies like Agentic AI for India's growth.

USE: Agentic AI bilateral investment technological collaboration job creation trade synergy

Environment & Ecology

3

'Most Intense' In Over A Century: How This Year's El Nino May Impact World

WHY IN NEWS Climate scientists warn that the current El Niño cycle may be the strongest on record, potentially making 2027 the hottest year ever recorded.

- S&T** | ENSO: El Niño–Southern Oscillation is a natural climate cycle involving the warming of surface waters in the tropical Pacific.
- FACT** | Nino 3.4 region: An imaginary box in the Pacific used to monitor sea surface temperatures for El Niño tracking.
- ENVIRONMENT** | El Niño mechanism: Occurs when trade winds ease, allowing warm water to move eastward and rise to the surface.
- FACT** | Current anomaly: Sea surface temperatures are currently 2.6°C above the 30-year average.

MAINS Q Discuss how extreme climatic phenomena like El Niño exacerbate the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on global biodiversity and food security.

USE: ENSO anthropogenic climate change thermal anomaly climate resilience meteorological forecasting

El Niño could make 2027 hottest year on record, warns Met Office

WHY IN NEWS The Met Office warned that a developing El Niño event could make 2027 the hottest year on record, impacting global weather patterns including Indian monsoons.

S&T | El Niño: A climate pattern characterized by the warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.

FACT | Current sea surface temperatures are reported to be over 2°C above normal.

ENVIRONMENT | El Niño impacts include suppressed hurricane activity in the Atlantic and altered monsoon patterns in Asia.

MAINS Q Discuss the impact of El Niño and La Niña on India's monsoon patterns and suggest measures to mitigate the risks of extreme climate variability.

USE: [climate variability](#) [monsoon dynamics](#) [extreme weather](#) [mitigation strategies](#)

Court Grants Two Weeks for Further Debate on Regulating Construction Near Pallikaranai Marshland

WHY IN NEWS The Madras High Court is deliberating on the regulation of construction activities near the Pallikaranai marshland, balancing ecological preservation with urban development.

PLACE | Pallikaranai marshland is a significant wetland ecosystem located in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

BODY | National Green Tribunal (NGT) is the primary body for adjudicating environmental disputes in India.

BODY | National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) provides technical support for coastal and wetland management.

FACT | The current uniform 1 km ban was previously imposed by the National Green Tribunal.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in balancing rapid urban infrastructure development with the preservation of critical wetland ecosystems in India.

USE: [Zone of Influence](#) [Wetland Conservation](#) [Sustainable Development](#) [Regulatory Framework](#) [Ecological Balance](#)

Internal Security

1

Mumbai Police Seek Interpol Help to Serve Orders on 26/11 Accused Including Saeed, Lakhvi

WHY IN NEWS Mumbai Police requested the Union Home Ministry to use Interpol to serve court orders against 26/11 attack accused, including Hafiz Saeed and Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi.

BODY | Interpol: International Criminal Police Organization providing global police cooperation.

ACT / BILL | BNSS 2023: The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

FACT | Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT): A Pakistan-based militant organization involved in the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced by Indian law enforcement agencies in prosecuting cross-border terrorists and the significance of international cooperation in counter-terrorism.

USE: [cross-border terrorism](#) [extra-territoriality](#) [judicial cooperation](#) [prosecution in absentia](#) [counter-terrorism](#)



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