



SATYADHEESH

सत्याधीश

UPSC DAILY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs • 22 August 2026

48

NOTES

2

STORIES MERGED

GS2 • 14

GS3 • 34

PAPER MIX

CONTENTS

Every note, grouped by paper

GS2 Polity • Governance • Social Justice • IR

14 notes

Polity & Constitution	3
Governance	1
Social Justice	5
International Relations	5

GS3 Economy • S&T • Environment • Security

34 notes

Economy	15
Agriculture	2
Science & Technology	9
Environment & Ecology	4
Disaster Management	1
Internal Security	3

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.

Polity & Constitution

3

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

P

M

22 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/110772](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/110772)

Supreme Court Upholds Hanging as Constitutional Execution Method

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court upheld hanging as a constitutional method of execution, rejecting a PIL challenging its validity under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

ACT / BILL	Section 354(5) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) deals with the methods of execution.
BODY	The Supreme Court of India is the highest judicial body and the final arbiter on constitutional validity.
FACT	The court ruled that there is no conclusive evidence that lethal injection is a more humane alternative to hanging.

MAINS Q Critically examine the constitutional validity and ethical implications of capital punishment and the methods of execution in India.

USE: Constitutional validity Capital punishment Judicial review Article 21 Human rights

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

P

M

22 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/111368](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/111368)

The Supreme Court set aside an NGT order against the Art of Living Foundation regarding Yamuna floodplain damage, directing the DDA to refund ₹5 crore

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court set aside an NGT order against the Art of Living Foundation regarding Yamuna floodplain damage, directing the DDA to refund ₹5 crore.

BODY	NGT: National Green Tribunal was established to handle environmental protection and conservation cases.
BODY	DDA: Delhi Development Authority is the principal agency for land and infrastructure development in Delhi.
FACT	The Supreme Court directed a refund of ₹5 crore to the Art of Living Foundation.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of the judiciary in balancing the rights of civil society organizations with environmental conservation mandates in India.

USE: Judicial Review Environmental Jurisprudence Public Interest Regulatory Oversight

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, DPSP & DUTIES

P

M

22 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/111075](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/111075)

Patna High Court Blocks Religious Procession for Public Order Reasons

WHY IN NEWS Patna High Court restricted a religious procession in Bihar, emphasizing that the right to practice religion is subject to public order and societal norms.

CONSTITUTION	Article 25: Guarantees freedom of conscience and free profession, practice, and propagation of religion.
CONSTITUTION	Article 19(1)(b): Guarantees freedom of assembly and procession.
FACT	The court ruled that restrictions on religious processions are permissible in the interest of public order and security.

MAINS Q Discuss the balance between the fundamental right to freedom of religion and the state's power to maintain public order and societal harmony.

USE: Reasonable restrictions Public order Harmonious construction Judicial review Societal norms

Justice B.V. Nagarathna: Overturning 1978 Judgment Could Empower Corporations, Hurt Workers

WHY IN NEWS Justice B.V. Nagarathna issued a dissent in a nine-judge bench ruling regarding the definition of 'industry' under the Industrial Relations Code 2020, warning of potential erosion of labor rights.

ACT / BILL	Industrial Relations Code (IRC) 2020: A consolidated labor law replacing older statutes like the Industrial Disputes Act 1947.
BODY	Supreme Court of India: The nine-judge bench is interpreting the scope of 'industry' for labor protections.
FACT	1978 Bangalore Water Supply Judgment: Established a broad definition of 'industry' to protect worker welfare.

MAINS Q Critically analyze the impact of redefining 'industry' on the bargaining power between corporations and workers in the era of liberalization.

USE:

bargaining power

labor welfare

judicial precedent

industrial relations

liberalization

Experts Push for Yoga and Ayurveda in Public Health Centers

WHY IN NEWS Experts and Ministry of AYUSH officials advocated for the integration of Yoga and Ayurveda with modern medicine to provide holistic mental healthcare in public health centers.

BODY	Ministry of AYUSH: Responsible for the promotion and development of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy.
FACT	AYUSH facilities are being co-located within public health centers to promote integrative medicine.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of integrating traditional Indian medicine (AYUSH) with modern healthcare systems to achieve holistic health outcomes in India.

USE:

integrative medicine

holistic care

AYUSH

public health infrastructure

traditional therapies

Education Minister lays foundation for KP School in Shivamogga, says 1,000 KPS will be built in Karnataka

WHY IN NEWS Karnataka government announced the construction of 1,000 new public schools with funding support from the Asian Development Bank to address infrastructure gaps.

BODY	Asian Development Bank (ADB): A multilateral development bank providing loans for infrastructure and education projects.
FACT	Karnataka faces a shortage of 75,000 teachers, leading to a planned recruitment of 15,000 new hires.
PLACE	Shivamogga: The location of the first school being constructed under the new initiative.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in achieving universal quality education in India, focusing on infrastructure gaps and teacher shortages in rural states.

USE:

educational infrastructure

human resource development

multilateral funding

universal access

teacher recruitment

Karnataka Records 81.9% HPV Vaccination Coverage, Lowest AEFI Rate

WHY IN NEWS Karnataka reported high HPV vaccination coverage (81.9%) with a significantly low Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI) rate, highlighting success in public health monitoring.

- FACT | Karnataka HPV vaccination coverage: 81.9% as of August 20, 2026
- FACT | Madhya Pradesh achieved 100% HPV vaccination coverage
- S&T | HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccine is primarily used to prevent cervical cancer
- FACT | AEFI stands for Adverse Event Following Immunization

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of robust immunization programs and real-time monitoring of Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) in achieving universal healthcare goals in India.

USE: [immunization coverage](#) [AEFI monitoring](#) [preventive healthcare](#) [public health surveillance](#) [maternal health](#)

Tamil Nadu Orders Joyalukkas Kalyan Jewellers to Supply 128499 Gold Rings

WHY IN NEWS Tamil Nadu government launched the 'Thaimaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam' scheme to provide gold rings to newborns in government hospitals.

- SCHEME | Thaimaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam: A Tamil Nadu state scheme to provide gold rings to newborns.
- FACT | Total rings to be supplied: 128,499.
- FACT | Total estimated cost of the scheme: ₹755.83 crore.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of state-sponsored welfare schemes in improving maternal and child health outcomes in India.

USE: [welfare schemes](#) [social justice](#) [maternal health](#) [public health infrastructure](#)

Droupadi Murmu, the President of India, will confer National Teachers Awards

WHY IN NEWS President Droupadi Murmu is set to confer the National Teachers Awards to recognize exceptional contributions to the education sector.

- POST | The President of India is the highest conferring authority for National Teachers Awards.
- BODY | The Department of School Education and Literacy manages the selection process for these awards.
- FACT | The awards recognize teachers from 27 States and 7 Union Territories.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of recognizing and incentivizing the teaching profession in improving the quality of primary and secondary education in India.

USE: [pedagogical excellence](#) [human resource development](#) [educational equity](#) [professional recognition](#)

INDIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS P

22 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/110857

India's Dr S Jaishankar to visit Russia for 27th IRIGC-TEC session on Aug 23

WHY IN NEWS External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is visiting Russia to co-chair the 27th IRIGC-TEC session to bolster bilateral cooperation in trade, science, and technology.

BODY	IRIGC-TEC: A bilateral body for cooperation in trade, economic, scientific, technological, and cultural sectors between India and Russia.
POST	S. Jaishankar: Current Minister of External Affairs of India.
POST	Sergey Lavrov: Current Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia.
FACT	The session scheduled for August 2026 is the 27th iteration of the IRIGC-TEC.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the IRIGC-TEC in strengthening India's strategic and economic ties with Russia amidst a changing global order.

USE: Strategic autonomy Bilateral cooperation Geopolitical dynamics Economic diplomacy

INDIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS P

22 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/110638

India-U.K. Defence Consultative Group meets to review cooperation in New Delhi

WHY IN NEWS The 25th India-U.K. Defence Consultative Group (DCG) met in New Delhi to review bilateral cooperation in defence industry and R&D under the Vision 2035 framework.

FACT	The 25th India-U.K. Defence Consultative Group (DCG) meeting was held in New Delhi.
S&T	The cooperation focuses on defence industry and research and development (R&D).
FACT	The cooperation is guided by the India-U.K. Vision 2035 and the 10-year Defence Industrial Roadmap.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of bilateral defence industrial roadmaps in enhancing India's strategic autonomy and technological capabilities in the contemporary global order.

USE: strategic autonomy defence industrialization bilateral cooperation R&D Vision 2035

REGIONAL & GLOBAL GROUPINGS (QUAD, BRICS, SCO, G20...) P

22 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/110942

BRICS Ministers Tour Thotlakonda as Mandaviya Plants Sapling for Mother Earth

WHY IN NEWS Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and BRICS representatives visited the Thotlakonda Buddhist heritage site in Andhra Pradesh during the BRICS Youth and Sports Ministers' meetings.

PLACE	Thotlakonda is a Buddhist heritage site located in Andhra Pradesh.
BODY	BRICS is an intergovernmental organization comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
SCHEME	Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam is a plantation drive initiated by the Government of India.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of cultural diplomacy in strengthening India's position within the BRICS framework.

USE: cultural diplomacy soft power multilateralism heritage preservation

U.S. Ambassador Gor wraps three-day tour in Srinagar, Leh highlighting U.S.-India partnership

WHY IN NEWS U.S. Ambassador Sergio Gor's visit to Srinagar and Leh signals a shift in U.S. policy towards recognizing Jammu & Kashmir as an integral part of India.

- POST** | Sergio Gor: U.S. Ambassador to India and special envoy to South and Central Asia
- PLACE** | Thiksey Monastery: Located in Leh, Ladakh
- FACT** | The visit occurred on August 21, 2026

MAINS Q Discuss the evolving dynamics of the U.S.-India strategic partnership in the context of regional security and territorial integrity.

USE: strategic partnership bilateral ties territorial integrity diplomatic engagement

Rashtrapati Bhavan withdraws email on Bangladesh PM visit

WHY IN NEWS An email from Rashtrapati Bhavan regarding a rehearsal for a visit by Bangladesh PM Tarique Rahman caused confusion regarding the status of the visit.

- PLACE** | Rashtrapati Bhavan: The official residence of the President of India.
- POST** | Deputy Press Secretary: An official responsible for communicating presidential communications to the media.
- FACT** | Change of Guard Ceremony: A ceremonial event held at the Forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of India's diplomatic engagement with Bangladesh in the context of regional stability and 'Neighborhood First' policy.

USE: Neighborhood First Diplomatic Protocol Bilateral Relations Ceremonial Protocol

Economy

15

MONETARY POLICY, RBI & BANKING

P

2 REPORTS MERGED

22 Aug · Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/110723

Indian banks raise \$4.4 billion through foreign debt issuance this week

WHY IN NEWS Indian banks raised \$4.4 billion through foreign debt issuance to finance foreign currency non-resident deposits following RBI's support for forex inflows.

- FACT** | Total foreign debt issuance by Indian banks since June 5 reached \$12 billion.
- BODY** | Reserve Bank of India (RBI) provided special support for forex inflows.
- FACT** | MUFG projects an additional \$5 billion to \$7.5 billion in issuance by the end of the year.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of foreign debt issuance for Indian banks and its implications on the country's external debt profile and forex reserves.

USE: foreign debt forex inflows liquidity monetary policy external debt

GROWTH, INFLATION & MACRO INDICATORS

P

2 REPORTS MERGED

22 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/110492

Sugar prices surge: Odisha sees ₹64.72 per kg, 18 states under watch

WHY IN NEWS The Union Government is monitoring a significant surge in sugar prices across 18 states, with Odisha recording the highest price, leading to interventionist measures like stock limits and duty-free imports.

- FACT** | Odisha recorded the highest sugar price at ₹64.72 per kg as of August 2026.
- BODY** | The Ministry of Consumer Affairs is the nodal body for monitoring and stabilizing commodity prices.
- FACT** | The national average sugar price rose to ₹58.23 in 2026.
- FACT** | The government allowed duty-free import of raw sugar to stabilize domestic prices.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced by the Indian government in stabilizing essential commodity prices amidst climate-induced production volatility and fluctuating demand.

USE: price volatility supply-demand equilibrium interventionist policy commodity stabilization climate resilience

INFRASTRUCTURE (ENERGY, PORTS, ROADS, RAILWAYS)

P

M

22 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/111236

Elon Musk's Starlink Aims to Bridge India's Rural Internet Gap, 126.8 vs 48.3 Subscribers

WHY IN NEWS Elon Musk proposed Starlink's satellite internet to bridge India's rural digital divide, where per capita internet adoption lags significantly behind urban areas despite high mobile coverage.

- FACT** | India's total internet subscribers reached over 1.09 billion by March 2026.
- FACT** | Rural internet adoption is 48.3 subscribers per 100 people compared to 126.8 in urban areas.
- FACT** | Bihar, Jharkhand, and Uttarakhand report over 99% village mobile network coverage.
- BODY** | TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) is the body providing the subscriber data.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in bridging the rural-urban digital divide in India despite near-universal mobile network coverage. Suggest measures to enhance rural internet adoption.

USE: digital divide last-mile connectivity internet penetration digital literacy satellite internet

Sebi Proposes Curbs on Urgency-Based Messaging in Online Bond Ads

WHY IN NEWS Sebi issued a consultation paper to regulate online bond advertisements and curb misleading urgency-based messaging by influencers and digital platforms.

- BODY** | Sebi: The primary regulator for the securities and capital markets in India.
- FACT** | Sebi's consultation period for the proposed bond advertisement codes ends on September 11.
- S&T** | The proposal specifically addresses influencer-led promotions and digital/social media marketing of securities.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of SEBI in ensuring investor protection against predatory digital marketing and misinformation in the capital markets.

USE: investor protection market transparency regulatory framework asymmetric information digital governance

Indian Firms Pay Over \$23 per mmbtu for September LNG Cargoes Amid Supply Disruptions

WHY IN NEWS Indian state-backed firms (Gail, GSIPIC) are paying record-high spot prices for LNG due to supply disruptions in the Middle East and competition with European buyers.

- FACT** | LNG spot prices reached over \$23 per mmbtu for September cargoes.
- PLACE** | Strait of Hormuz: A critical maritime chokepoint for oil and gas transit.
- BODY** | Gail India and Gujarat State Petroleum Corp. are state-backed energy entities.
- FACT** | Qatar is the world's second-largest supplier of LNG.

MAINS Q Analyze the impact of geopolitical tensions in the Middle East on India's energy security and the economic implications of fluctuating LNG prices on the fertilizer industry.

USE: energy security spot market supply chain disruption geopolitical risk fertilizer industry

In its weekly report, Nuvama Institutional Equities noted that BSE's index option

WHY IN NEWS BSE index option premium volumes declined due to investor concerns over the newly introduced Closing Auction System (CAS) and subsequent regulatory actions by SEBI.

- FACT** | BSE index option premium volumes dropped 14% to Rs 15,600 crore by the week ending Friday.
- BODY** | SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) is the primary regulator of the securities market in India.
- FACT** | Average daily contracts fell by more than 8% during the reporting period.
- FACT** | The Closing Auction System (CAS) began implementation on August 3.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges and regulatory requirements associated with implementing a Closing Auction System in capital markets to ensure transparency and prevent market manipulation.

USE: market manipulation regulatory oversight liquidity transparency capital markets

Chief Justice coins "Nyaya-nomics," stressing trust in justice for economic growth

WHY IN NEWS CJI Surya Kant coined the term 'Nyaya-nomics' at the 11th BRICS+ Legal Forum to describe the synergy between the rule of law and economic growth.

POST	Surya Kant: Chief Justice of India (as of the article date)
BODY	Bar Association of India: Organised the 11th BRICS+ Legal Forum
FACT	Nyaya-nomics: A term coined to describe the marriage between the Rule of Law and favorable economic conditions

MAINS Q Discuss how the rule of law and judicial predictability act as the 'architecture' for sustainable economic growth in a developing economy like India.

USE: Rule of Law Predictability Transaction Costs Institutional Architecture Jurisprudence

India's BGAI entry could attract \$15-25B in 6-18 months

WHY IN NEWS India's potential inclusion in the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index (BGAI) is expected to attract \$15-25 billion in investment, highlighting the importance of market accessibility over sheer scale.

FACT	BGAI assets are estimated at US\$2.5 trillion.
FACT	India's potential currency-based weight in BGAI is estimated at 0.60% to 1.0%.
FACT	Dollar bonds constitute about 45% of the BGAI index.
FACT	China joined the BGAI in 2019.

MAINS Q Discuss how inclusion in global bond indices like BGAI can influence India's external borrowing and capital market stability.

USE: Capital Markets FPI Sovereign Bonds Market Accessibility Yield Stability

Indian bond yields surge 10 basis points in biggest weekly jump this fiscal year

WHY IN NEWS Indian government bond yields saw a significant weekly jump following the RBI's hawkish monetary policy minutes, signaling potential interest rate hikes.

BODY	RBI: The central bank of India responsible for monetary policy and managing inflation.
FACT	Basis points: A unit of measure for interest rates where 100 basis points equal 1%.
FACT	Bond Yields: The return an investor receives on a government bond, inversely related to bond prices.
S&T	Hawkish Policy: A monetary policy stance that favors higher interest rates to combat inflation.

MAINS Q Analyze how the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy stance influences bond yields and its subsequent impact on fiscal deficit management.

USE: monetary policy hawkish stance bond yields inflationary pressure fiscal deficit

RBI Forex Reserves Soar by \$9.905 Billion, Marking Seven Weeks of Gains

WHY IN NEWS The RBI reported a significant rise in India's forex reserves to \$716.90 billion, reflecting a seven-week streak of gains and policy extensions on deposit schemes.

- FACT** | India's forex reserves reached \$716.90 billion as of August 14.
- FACT** | Gold reserves within the forex stockpile stood at \$111.41 billion.
- BODY** | RBI (Reserve Bank of India) manages the nation's foreign exchange reserves.
- FACT** | FCNR-B (Foreign Currency Non-Resident Bank) deposit scheme deadline was advanced to August 31.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of maintaining robust foreign exchange reserves in stabilizing the Indian economy against global volatility.

USE: [Forex reserves](#) [Monetary stability](#) [Capital flows](#) [Liquidity management](#)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced a dedicated Yamanashi Desk at Invest U.P

WHY IN NEWS UP CM Yogi Adityanath announced a dedicated Yamanashi Desk and a ₹600-crore fund to boost MSME investment and cooperation with Japan.

- FACT** | A ₹600-crore fund was allocated by Yamanashi Governor Kotaro Nagasaki to support MSMEs.
- PLACE** | Yamanashi is a prefecture in Japan.
- FACT** | The initiative includes four MoUs on skills, technical training, tourism, and Japanese GCCs.

MAINS Q Discuss how state-level industrial initiatives and international partnerships can bolster the MSME sector and enhance regional economic growth in India.

USE: [MSME support](#) [Industrial cooperation](#) [Skill development](#) [Investment promotion](#) [State-level diplomacy](#)

Nagaland Signs Agreement for 20-MW Solar Plant with Tvaksas Renewable

WHY IN NEWS Nagaland government signed a power purchase agreement with Tvaksas Renewable to establish a 20-MW solar plant to meet state renewable energy targets.

- FACT** | Nagaland aims to increase generation capacity from 203MW to 482MW by 2034-35.
- PLACE** | Lapa Lampong village in Mon district is the site for the new solar plant.
- FACT** | The initial solar plant capacity is 20MW, with a planned expansion to 100MW.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of decentralised renewable energy projects in achieving India's energy security and promoting regional economic development.

USE: [renewable energy](#) [decentralised power](#) [energy security](#) [infrastructure development](#)

The Telangana government, working with SBI Capital Markets (SBI Caps), aims

WHY IN NEWS The Telangana government is seeking a ₹13,500 crore soft loan via SBI Caps and GIFT City to acquire Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase I after an IRFC loan was blocked by the Ministry of Railways.

- BODY** | IRFC (Indian Railway Finance Corporation) is a special purpose vehicle for financing railway projects.
- PLACE** | GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tecity) is a designated International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Gujarat.
- FACT** | The proposed soft loan amount for HMR Phase I acquisition is ₹13,500 crore.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced by state governments in financing urban infrastructure projects and the role of specialized financial institutions in bridging the funding gap.

USE: infrastructure financing refinancing fiscal federalism public-private partnership capital investment

Trade unions blast Supreme Court for restricting workers' rights in industry definition

WHY IN NEWS Trade unions criticized a Supreme Court judgment narrowing the definition of 'industry' under the Industrial Relations Code, potentially reducing the scope of worker protections.

- BODY** | AITUC: All India Trade Union Congress is a major trade union federation in India.
- ACT / BILL** | Industrial Relations Code: A consolidated labor law aimed at simplifying labor regulations.
- FACT** | The judgment was delivered by a nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of narrowing the definition of 'industry' on labor rights and industrial peace in India's evolving economic landscape.

USE: labor rights industrial relations managerial interests collective bargaining constitutional mandates

Telangana plans State Logistics Policy 2.0, multi-modal park to cut costs

WHY IN NEWS Telangana government announced State Logistics Policy 2.0 and a multi-modal logistics park to reduce logistics costs and enhance infrastructure efficiency.

- SCHEME** | PM GatiShakti: A national master plan for multi-modal connectivity to optimize infrastructure.
- PLACE** | Manoharabad: Location identified for the new multi-modal logistics park in Telangana.
- FACT** | LEADS 2025: A framework discussed at the Southern Regional Workshop to enhance logistics and air cargo infrastructure.

MAINS Q Discuss how the development of multi-modal logistics parks and integrated infrastructure policies can enhance India's global competitiveness in the manufacturing and export sectors.

USE: logistics efficiency multi-modal connectivity infrastructure development cost optimization PM GatiShakti

Andhra CM N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurates 1.19 lakh acre irrigation project after 30-year wait

WHY IN NEWS Andhra Pradesh CM inaugurated the Veligonda irrigation project after a 30-year delay, highlighting the challenges of irrigation infrastructure and water management in the region.

- PLACE** | Veligonda project is located in Andhra Pradesh
- FACT** | The project covers an irrigation area of 1.19 lakh acres
- FACT** | The project provides drinking water to approximately 4 lakh people
- S&T** | El Nino is a climate pattern associated with rainfall deficits in parts of the world

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in implementing large-scale irrigation projects in India and suggest measures to ensure efficient water management in water-stressed regions.

USE: water scarcity irrigation infrastructure rehabilitation El Nino river linking

The Uttar Pradesh Dairy Department announced plans to organize dairy conclaves across

WHY IN NEWS The Uttar Pradesh Dairy Department announced a series of dairy conclaves to promote rural economic growth and awareness of welfare programs under the Nand Baba Dugdh Mission.

- SCHEME** | Nand Baba Dugdh Mission: A state-level initiative in Uttar Pradesh to promote dairy farming.
- FACT** | Dairy Policy-2022: The governing policy framework for dairy development in Uttar Pradesh.
- PLACE** | Lucknow, Meerut, Agra, and Bareilly: Key locations for the dairy conclaves and Mahotsav.

MAINS Q Discuss how strengthening the dairy sector can contribute to rural employment and economic empowerment for farmers in India.

USE: rural economy livelihood value chain cooperative movement socio-economic empowerment

Science & Technology

World's Oldest Commercial Nuclear Reactors Keep Humming at Tarapur at Rs 3.31 per Unit

WHY IN NEWS The Tarapur Atomic Power Station, India's first large-scale commercial nuclear plant, continues to operate as the world's oldest commercial reactor while undergoing life extension.

- S&T** | Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) is India's first large-scale commercial nuclear power station.
- FACT** | Tarapur currently produces electricity at a tariff of Rs 3.31 per unit.
- S&T** | TAPS was built in 1964 with equipment from General Electric and Bechtel.
- S&T** | Major global nuclear accidents including Three Mile Island (1979), Chernobyl (1986), and Fukushima (2011) influenced safety upgrades.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of nuclear energy in India's transition towards a low-carbon economy, highlighting the challenges of maintaining aging infrastructure and ensuring safety.

USE: energy security indigenization nuclear safety infrastructure longevity decarbonization

AI-generated sexual images spark debate on women's rights and tech regulation

WHY IN NEWS The rise of AI-generated non-consensual intimate imagery (deepfakes) has sparked a debate on tech regulation and the protection of women's agency against algorithmic misogyny.

- S&T** | Deepfakes: AI-generated synthetic media used to create realistic but fake images or videos.
- FACT** | 41% of images generated by Grok chatbot in January were identified as sexualized women.
- FACT** | 61 countries have reportedly put AI image-generation companies on notice for privacy violations.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges posed by AI-generated deepfakes to women's privacy and the necessity of robust legislative frameworks to regulate generative AI.

USE: [algorithmic misogyny](#) [non-consensual intimate content](#) [digital agency](#) [technological regulation](#) [privacy violations](#)

Robotic surgery saves eight-year-old with bile duct cancer in Vellore milestone

WHY IN NEWS CMC Vellore achieved a milestone in paediatric surgery by performing a robotic pylorus-preserving Whipple procedure to treat bile duct cancer in a child.

- S&T** | Robotic surgery: A form of minimally invasive surgery where a surgeon controls a robotic arm to perform precise movements.
- PLACE** | CMC Vellore: A prominent tertiary care hospital in Tamil Nadu known for medical research and surgery.
- FACT** | Pylorus-preserving Whipple procedure: A complex surgical technique used to treat tumors in the head of the pancreas or bile duct.

MAINS Q Discuss how the integration of robotic technology in surgery can improve healthcare outcomes in India, particularly in complex paediatric cases.

USE: [minimally invasive](#) [medical robotics](#) [paediatric oncology](#) [technological intervention](#)

India Aims for Third in Space Race, Thriving Startups Defy Budget Cuts

WHY IN NEWS India is positioning itself to become a top-three global space power by leveraging private sector growth and engineering talent despite budget constraints.

- FACT** | Global space economy projection: \$1 trillion
- S&T** | In-orbit servicing: A growing application in the space economy
- S&T** | ISRO: Space agency under the Department of Space, Ministry of New and Space Commission

MAINS Q Discuss the role of private sector participation and startups in achieving India's goal of becoming a global leader in the space economy.

USE: [Space Economy](#) [Private Sector Participation](#) [In-orbit Servicing](#) [Engineering Talent](#) [Strategic Autonomy](#)

Karnataka bans 'analogue paneer' masquerading as real for a year

WHY IN NEWS The Karnataka government banned 'analogue paneer' masquerading as real paneer to prevent public health risks and ensure compliance with FSSAI standards.

- BODY** | FSSAI: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India regulates food products and safety standards.
- FACT** | Analogue paneer is a non-standardised dairy analogue made with vegetable oil/fat instead of milk.
- PLACE** | Karnataka government issued the ban for a period of one year.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of stringent food safety regulations in protecting public health and ensuring consumer rights in a growing food processing industry.

USE: [public health](#) [regulatory compliance](#) [food safety](#) [consumer protection](#) [standardization](#)

Kyoto Team Maps Satellite Drag with Starlink Data, Verifying ESA's Swarm

WHY IN NEWS Researchers at Kyoto University used Starlink satellite data to map thermospheric density, providing a method to verify ESA's Swarm data and improve satellite collision risk models.

- S&T** | Starlink: A satellite constellation operated by SpaceX for global internet access.
- S&T** | ESA Swarm: A constellation of small satellites used to study Earth's magnetic field and ionosphere.
- FACT** | The study focused on thermospheric density at an altitude of 482 kilometres.
- S&T** | Tomography: A method used in this study to map 2D geographic variations in atmospheric density.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges of space debris management and the importance of accurate atmospheric modeling in ensuring orbital safety for satellite constellations.

USE: orbital mechanics thermospheric density satellite constellation space situational awareness tomography

AI Reveals High Mountain Asia Losing 24.2 Billion Tonnes of Groundwater Annually

WHY IN NEWS Researchers used an AI-powered model to reveal a massive annual groundwater loss of 24.2 billion tonnes in High Mountain Asia due to climate change and human activity.

- S&T** | AI-powered models are being utilized to monitor and predict groundwater depletion and climate impacts.
- FACT** | High Mountain Asia loses approximately 24.2 billion tonnes of groundwater annually.
- PLACE** | The Ganges-Brahmaputra, Indus, and Amu Darya basins are identified as critical areas of groundwater depletion.

MAINS Q Discuss how AI and machine learning can enhance climate change adaptation and resource management in transboundary water-stressed regions like High Mountain Asia.

USE: Groundwater depletion AI-driven modeling Climate change Transboundary water Resource sustainability

China's Chang'e-7 Set to Explore Lunar Ice in Shackleton Crater

WHY IN NEWS China's Chang'e-7 mission is scheduled to launch to explore lunar ice in the Shackleton Crater, highlighting the global race for lunar resources.

- S&T** | Chang'e-7: China's lunar mission to explore ice in the Shackleton Crater.
- S&T** | Shackleton Crater: Located at the lunar south pole, a primary site for potential water ice.
- FACT** | Launch window for Chang'e-7: August 24 to August 31.
- S&T** | Chandrayaan-3: India's mission that successfully landed near the lunar south pole.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of lunar exploration in the context of future space-based resource extraction and its implications for international space law.

USE: lunar exploration resource potential space race extraterrestrial resources

Karnataka launches ₹18,999 AI PC for students, farmers — first made in India

WHY IN NEWS Karnataka launched 'KEO', India's first home-made AI PC, to democratize AI access for students and farmers.

- S&T** | KEO: India's first home-made AI personal computer.
- BODY** | KEONICS: The agency responsible for developing the KEO PC in Bengaluru.
- FACT** | The KEO PC is priced at ₹18,999 to ensure affordability for students and farmers.

MAINS Q Discuss how the democratization of Artificial Intelligence through affordable hardware can bridge the digital divide and foster inclusive growth in rural India.

USE: Democratization of AI Digital Divide Inclusive Growth Make in India Technological Empowerment

CISF has initiated a green makeover of the Yamuna river in Delhi

WHY IN NEWS The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) initiated a river restoration project in Delhi to combat Yamuna riverbank erosion and improve habitat.

BODY	CISF: Central Industrial Security Force is a federal paramilitary force under the Ministry of Home Affairs
ENVIRONMENT	Vetiver grass is commonly used in bio-engineering for soil conservation and erosion control
PLACE	Ganga Vihar is located near Sarai Kale Khan in Delhi

MAINS Q Discuss the role of community-led and institutional interventions in the ecological restoration of riverine ecosystems in India.

USE: bio-engineering ecological restoration soil conservation habitat improvement riverine ecosystems

Central Empowered Committee meets Assam officials on Kaziranga mining ban compliance

WHY IN NEWS The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) is monitoring the Assam government's non-compliance with a 2019 Supreme Court order banning mining and construction near Kaziranga National Park.

PLACE	Kaziranga National Park is located in the state of Assam.
ENVIRONMENT	Kaziranga is a primary habitat for the one-horned rhinoceros.
BODY	The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) is a body constituted by the Supreme Court to monitor environmental compliance.
FACT	The Supreme Court order specifically covers the southern boundary and the Karbi Anglong district hill catchments.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in enforcing judicial orders regarding the protection of ecologically sensitive zones in India. Suggest measures to ensure effective environmental governance.

USE: Eco-Sensitive Zone Judicial Activism Environmental Compliance Biodiversity Conservation Regulatory Oversight

Conservationists Launch Project to Battle Invasive Plants in Khalingduar Reserve Forest

WHY IN NEWS Aaranyak launched a project in Khalingduar Reserve Forest to combat invasive alien plants (IAPs) to restore native vegetation and improve elephant habitats.

ENVIRONMENT	Lantana camara and Chromolaena odorata are identified as invasive alien plants (IAPs) in Indian forests.
PLACE	Khalingduar Reserve Forest is located under the Dhansiri Forest Division.
FACT	Biochar production is used as a method to manage biomass from cleared invasive plants.
BODY	Aaranyak is a Guwahati-based conservation organization.

MAINS Q Discuss the ecological impact of invasive alien plants on India's biodiversity and suggest measures for their effective management in protected areas.

USE: Invasive Alien Species Biodiversity Conservation Habitat Restoration Biochar Ecological Balance

Japan declares eradication of small Indian mongooses from Amami Oshima

WHY IN NEWS Japan's Ministry of the Environment declared the successful eradication of the invasive small Indian mongoose from the UNESCO World Heritage site of Amami Oshima.

ENVIRONMENT	Small Indian mongoose is an invasive species in Japan's Amami Oshima.
PLACE	Amami Oshima is a UNESCO World Heritage site in Japan.
FACT	The mongoose population in Amami Oshima peaked at around 10,000 by the year 2000.

MAINS Q Discuss the ecological impacts of invasive species on biodiversity and evaluate the importance of biosecurity measures in preserving native ecosystems.

USE: [invasive species](#) [biodiversity loss](#) [biosecurity](#) [ecological restoration](#) [UNESCO World Heritage](#)

Disaster Management

1

Floods in Assam Kill Over 100 Displace 700,000

WHY IN NEWS Severe monsoon floods in Assam and Nagaland caused over 100 deaths and displaced 700,000 people, highlighting the impact of heavy rainfall and river swelling.

PLACE	Dikhow River: A river in Assam that flows through the Sivasagar district.
FACT	Over 700,000 people were displaced and 2,700 villages were destroyed in the Assam floods.
ENVIRONMENT	Mining and deforestation are cited as key factors exacerbating flood severity in the region.

MAINS Q Analyze the factors contributing to the increasing frequency and severity of floods in Northeast India and suggest measures for disaster-resilient infrastructure.

USE: [disaster resilience](#) [riverine flooding](#) [ecological degradation](#) [mitigation strategies](#) [climate vulnerability](#)

Internal Security

3

India to Summon Hafiz Saeed via Diplomacy in 2025 Pahalgam Attack Case

WHY IN NEWS India is initiating a diplomatic process to summon Hafiz Saeed via court summons to declare him a Proclaimed Offender in the 2025 Pahalgam terror attack case.

FACT	Hafiz Saeed is a designated terrorist and a key figure in the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) organization.
BODY	Interpol: International Criminal Police Organization that facilitates cross-border law enforcement.
FACT	Proclaimed Offender: A legal status in India allowing a trial to proceed in the absence of an accused who has evaded summons.

MAINS Q Discuss the legal and diplomatic challenges India faces in prosecuting international terrorists who evade domestic jurisdiction.

USE: [Extradition](#) [Proclaimed Offender](#) [Transnational Terrorism](#) [Diplomatic Channels](#) [Jurisdictional Challenges](#)

Amit Shah meets officials to strengthen Siliguri Corridor security, establish 'Triangular Security Grid'

WHY IN NEWS Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed security measures for the Siliguri Corridor to establish a 'Triangular Security Grid' for enhanced border surveillance.

PLACE	Siliguri Corridor: A narrow strip of land connecting the Northeast region of India to the rest of the country.
FACT	The 'Triangular Security Grid' is a proposed framework to enhance border surveillance and inter-agency coordination.
POST	Amit Shah: Union Home Minister of India.

MAINS Q Discuss the strategic importance of the Siliguri Corridor in India's national security and evaluate the necessity of a multi-layered security grid in border management.

USE: [border management](#) [strategic depth](#) [inter-agency coordination](#) [surveillance](#) [national security](#)

Karnataka Cabinet Decides to Install AI Cameras and Jammers in Prisons

WHY IN NEWS The Karnataka State Cabinet approved the installation of AI-based surveillance cameras and signal jammers in prisons to prevent unauthorized communication by inmates.

S&T	AI-based surveillance: Uses machine learning algorithms to identify patterns or behaviors in real-time.
FACT	Signal jammers: Devices that block wireless signals (cellular, Wi-Fi, GPS) to prevent communication.
POST	Priyanka Kharge: Home Minister of Karnataka.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges of balancing prison security with the rights of the surrounding community in the context of technological surveillance.

USE: [surveillance](#) [technological intervention](#) [public safety](#) [correctional security](#) [signal interference](#)



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