

**SATYADHEESH**
सत्याधीश

UPSC DAILY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs • 25 August 2026**46**

NOTES

2

STORIES MERGED

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PAPER MIX

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HOW EACH NOTE READS

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

SHORT ON TIME?

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

Indian Society

1

URBANISATION

M

25 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/113254](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/113254)**Urban dogs thrive on garbage, study calls for waste management overhaul**

WHY IN NEWS A study by NCBS highlights how urban waste and intentional feeding drive the street dog crisis, necessitating a shift in waste management and urban planning to ensure multi-species coexistence.

S&T | National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) is a premier research institute in India.

FACT | The study identifies 'food subsidies' (garbage and intentional feeding) as key drivers of urban dog population dynamics.

PLACE | The study focuses on tropical urban environments in India.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges of managing urban stray dog populations in India. How can integrated waste management and urban planning contribute to multi-species coexistence?

USE: Multi-species coexistence Food subsidies Urban planning Zoonotic diseases Waste management

Polity & Constitution

8

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

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M

25 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/113611](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/113611)

Supreme Court Rules Police Can't Investigate Prenatal Sex Selection Cases

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court clarified the investigative jurisdiction for offences under the PCPNDT Act, ruling that only the 'Appropriate Authority' can investigate such cases.

ACT / BILL | PCPNDT Act, 1994: Prohibits prenatal sex determination and selection.

FACT | The Supreme Court ruled that police do not have the power to investigate PCPNDT Act violations.

BODY | Appropriate Authority: The designated body responsible for investigating offences under the PCPNDT Act.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the Supreme Court's ruling on the PCPNDT Act in ensuring the effective implementation of laws against female foeticide.

USE: jurisdictional clarity procedural law gender justice statutory interpretation

PARLIAMENT & STATE LEGISLATURES

P

M

25 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/113101](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/113101)

Modi's 2029 mega-election plan hinges on Parliament approval by 2028

WHY IN NEWS The Joint Parliamentary Committee is reviewing the 'One Nation, One Election' bills to synchronize Lok Sabha and State Assembly polls by 2029.

ACT / BILL | Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024: Proposed to synchronize Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections.

BODY | Joint Parliamentary Committee: Body tasked with reviewing the feasibility of the 'One Nation, One Election' initiative.

FACT | Target Year: The government aims for simultaneous elections to be operational by 2029.

MAINS Q Critically analyze the constitutional and federal implications of the 'One Nation, One Election' initiative on India's parliamentary democracy.

USE: Federalism Simultaneous Elections Constitutional Amendment Democratic Decentralization Logistical Efficiency

ELECTIONS, ECI & ELECTORAL REFORMS

P

25 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/113751](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/113751)

Election Commission of India Initiates Special Intensive Revision Notice Phase

WHY IN NEWS The Election Commission of India (ECI) initiated a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) phase to rectify electoral roll discrepancies and improve voter data accuracy.

BODY | Election Commission of India (ECI) is the constitutional body responsible for administering elections in India.

FACT | The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) phase occurred between August 17 and October 10, 2026.

FACT | Discrepancies in electoral rolls include incorrect age differences and missing signatures.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of maintaining an accurate and inclusive electoral roll in ensuring the integrity of the democratic process in India.

USE: electoral integrity voter disenfranchisement administrative transparency data accuracy

Lok Adalat settles 1,712 cases, resolves ₹240.94 crore in three days

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court conducted a Special Lok Adalat to resolve a significant backlog of cases, highlighting the role of ADR in reducing judicial pendency.

- BODY** | Lok Adalats are statutory bodies established under the Voluntary Arbitration Act, 1940 (now Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987).
- FACT** | The Special Lok Adalat settled 1,712 cases in three days as part of Samadhan Samaroh 2026.
- BODY** | Lok Adalats provide a forum for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and their awards are binding.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of Lok Adalats in reducing judicial pendency and promoting consensual dispute resolution in the Indian legal system.

USE: Alternative Dispute Resolution Judicial Pendency Consensual Settlement Legal Services Authorities

Supreme Court Notices 20 Rebel Trinamool MPs

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court issued notices to 20 rebel Trinamool Congress MPs regarding the Speaker's role and parliamentary procedures.

- BODY** | The Speaker of the Lok Sabha is the presiding officer of the Lower House of Parliament.
- CONSTITUTION** | Anti-defection laws are governed by the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
- FACT** | The notice was issued to 20 rebel MPs from the Trinamool Congress.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the Speaker's powers in maintaining parliamentary discipline and the implications of party-rebellion on the anti-defection law.

USE: Parliamentary democracy Anti-defection Speaker's authority Constitutional morality Legislative discipline

Election chief urges students to verify info before sharing, clarifies EVM safety

WHY IN NEWS Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar clarified the technical security of EVMs and urged students to combat misinformation on social media.

- S&T** | EVMs: Electronic Voting Machines used in Indian elections are standalone devices without internet/wireless connectivity.
- BODY** | Election Commission of India (ECI): The constitutional body responsible for administering election processes in India.
- FACT** | Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs): The primary manufacturers of EVMs in India.

MAINS Q Discuss the measures taken by the Election Commission of India to ensure the integrity of the electoral process in the era of digital misinformation.

USE: democratic integrity misinformation technological security voter awareness electoral transparency

Manipur High Court hears plea to prioritize NRC over census amid protests

WHY IN NEWS The Manipur High Court is hearing a PIL regarding the prioritization of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) over the Census exercise due to local protests.

BODY	The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is the nodal ministry for the National Register of Citizens (NRC).
FACT	The Census of India is conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India.
PLACE	Manipur is a state in Northeast India.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in conducting a nationwide census in regions with demographic sensitivities and the role of the judiciary in balancing administrative priorities.

USE: Demographic transition Judicial activism Administrative hurdles Identity politics

Karnataka electoral rolls drop to 4.46 crore after removing 1.07 crore names

WHY IN NEWS Karnataka's Chief Electoral Officer announced a significant reduction in the state's electoral rolls following the removal of over 1 crore names marked as ASDDO.

FACT	Karnataka's revised electoral roll stands at 4.46 crore voters.
FACT	ASDDO category includes absent, shifted, duplicate, dead, and other ineligible voters.
BODY	The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) is the authority responsible for preparing and maintaining electoral rolls.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of maintaining accurate electoral rolls in ensuring the integrity of the democratic process and the challenges faced in identifying ineligible voters.

USE: electoral integrity voter disenfranchisement data purification democratic process

Governance

2

MY Bharat youth volunteer recruitment extended until August 27, 2026

WHY IN NEWS The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports extended the recruitment for the National Youth Corps (NYC) under the MY Bharat portal to August 2026.

SCHEME	MY Bharat: A digital platform for youth engagement and volunteerism in India
BODY	Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports: The nodal ministry for youth development schemes
FACT	National Youth Corps (NYC) stipend: ₹5,000 per month for one-year service

MAINS Q Discuss the role of volunteerism and youth engagement in nation-building and social development in India.

USE: nation-building youth empowerment volunteerism human resource development

Karnataka caps compensation for delayed services at ₹500, bars civil court jurisdiction

WHY IN NEWS The Karnataka legislature adopted the Sakaala Services (Amendment) Bill 2026 to streamline citizen services and cap compensation for delayed service delivery.

ACT / BILL	Karnataka Sakaala Services (Amendment) Bill 2026
FACT	Compensation for delayed services capped at ₹500 per application
BODY	Sakaala Services is a state-run initiative for citizen-centric service delivery
FACT	The bill bars civil court jurisdiction over compensation claims for delayed services

MAINS Q Discuss how streamlining public service delivery through statutory frameworks and capping compensation can enhance administrative efficiency and transparency in Indian governance.

USE: administrative efficiency statutory remedy transparency citizen-centric judicial oversight

India Abandons Plans for Front-of-Package Warning Labels on Food

WHY IN NEWS FSSAI abandoned plans for front-of-package warning labels on food products following industry pushback, leading to a Supreme Court review amid rising obesity concerns.

- BODY** | FSSAI: The primary regulatory body for food safety and standards in India.
- FACT** | Lancet study: Predicts 450 million Indians could be obese or overweight by 2050.
- FACT** | Global context: Approximately 20 nations have adopted interpretive front-of-package labels.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of food labeling regulations in addressing the growing public health crisis of obesity in India. How can the state balance industry interests with consumer rights?

USE: public health transparency regulatory pushback obesity consumer rights

Fewer than One in Twelve Schools Offer Vocational Subjects; NITI Aayog Seeks Change

WHY IN NEWS NITI Aayog proposed integrating vocational education into mainstream schooling to address the low percentage of schools offering vocational subjects and the mismatch between graduate qualifications and employment.

- FACT** | Graduate unemployment in India is currently at 13%.
- FACT** | Only 8.25% of graduates are employed in jobs aligned with their qualifications.
- BODY** | NITI Aayog is the nodal body proposing the integration of apprenticeships into mainstream schooling.
- FACT** | Fewer than one in twelve secondary schools currently offer vocational subjects.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in aligning the Indian education system with market demands and suggest measures to enhance vocational training in secondary schools.

USE: Employability Skill Gap Vocational Education Human Capital Structural Unemployment

Health Ministry proposes amendments to cut red tape for medical device makers

WHY IN NEWS The Union Health Ministry proposed amendments to the Medical Devices Rules, 2017 to reduce regulatory hurdles and compliance costs for manufacturers.

- ACT / BILL** | Medical Devices Rules, 2017: Governs the manufacturing and sale of medical devices in India.
- FACT** | A six-month transition period is provided for label modifications under the proposed amendments.
- BODY** | Union Health Ministry: The nodal ministry responsible for medical device regulations in India.

MAINS Q Discuss how simplifying regulatory frameworks for medical devices can enhance India's healthcare infrastructure while ensuring patient safety and quality standards.

USE: Regulatory compliance Ease of Doing Business Traceability Quality standards

Caste bias robs Mamta of water, locals 'cleanse' pump after use

WHY IN NEWS A report highlights how caste-based discrimination and water scarcity in Bundelkhand's drought-prone region disproportionately affect Dalit communities like the Valmiki.

PLACE	Bundelkhand: A semi-arid region spanning parts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
SCHEME	Jal Jeevan Mission: Government initiative to provide tap water to every rural household.
FACT	Bundelkhand temperatures have been recorded nearing 48°C in recent summers.
ENVIRONMENT	Bundelkhand plateau: Characterized by rocky terrain with low groundwater storage capacity.

MAINS Q Discuss how intersectional vulnerabilities, such as caste and climate change, exacerbate water insecurity for marginalized communities in India's drought-prone regions.

USE:
 intersectional vulnerability
water insecurity
caste hierarchy
climate change
social exclusion

Tamil Nadu launches ₹107-crore project to become rabies-free, tackles street dogs

WHY IN NEWS Tamil Nadu government launched a ₹107-crore project to eliminate rabies through street dog capture and animal birth control programs.

FACT	Total budget for the rabies-free project in Tamil Nadu is ₹107 crore.
PLACE	Polpet and Kanniyakumari are locations for new multi-level parking facilities.
FACT	The project includes the restoration of 30 water bodies in town panchayats.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in managing zoonotic diseases like rabies in urban areas and the role of public-private partnerships in animal birth control.

USE:
 Zoonotic diseases
Animal Birth Control
Public Health Infrastructure
Urban Governance

Karnataka suspends Amazon, Instamart, BigBasket food licenses for toxic datura sales

WHY IN NEWS The Karnataka Food Safety and Drugs Administration Department suspended food licenses of major e-commerce platforms for selling toxic datura products under FSSAI licenses.

BODY	FSSAI: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, the apex body for food safety standards in India.
FACT	Datura: A toxic plant whose fruits and seeds are prohibited for human consumption in food products.
PLACE	Karnataka Food Safety and Drugs Administration: State-level regulatory body for food and drug safety.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in regulating food safety and quality on e-commerce platforms and suggest measures to ensure consumer protection.

USE:
 regulatory oversight
consumer protection
food safety standards
e-commerce governance

Tamil Nadu Minister Announces Career Advancement Scheme for Teachers, 6,000 Vacancies to Be Filled

WHY IN NEWS Tamil Nadu Higher Education Minister announced a Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) and a plan to fill 6,000 teacher vacancies to improve the state's higher education infrastructure.

FACT	6,000 teacher vacancies to be filled in three phases in Tamil Nadu
POST	P. Viswanathan is the Higher Education Minister of Tamil Nadu
BODY	Periyar Institute of Emerging Technologies is a new institution at Anna University

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of teacher career advancement schemes and filling vacancies in strengthening the higher education ecosystem in India.

USE:
 human resource development
educational infrastructure
career progression
institutional capacity

INDIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS

P

M

2 REPORTS MERGED

25 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/113091

India's Jaishankar meets Putin in Moscow to boost trade, energy ties

WHY IN NEWS External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met President Putin in Moscow to strengthen bilateral cooperation in trade, energy, and nuclear collaboration.

- FACT** | India and Russia are key partners in energy and nuclear collaboration.
- POST** | S. Jaishankar serves as the Minister of External Affairs of India.
- FACT** | Trade between India and Russia saw a rise in the current year after a decline in the previous year.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of India's continued engagement with Russia in the context of its energy security and strategic autonomy.

USE: strategic autonomy bilateral cooperation energy security trade dynamics

INDIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS

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M

25 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/113477

President Donald Trump's administration plans to expand US secondary sanctions targeting Iran's

WHY IN NEWS The US administration plans to expand secondary sanctions on Iran's economy, impacting global trade and India's energy imports.

- FACT** | China buys nearly 90% of Iran's oil exports.
- BODY** | US Treasury Department oversees the imposition of secondary sanctions.
- PLACE** | UAE suspended trade with Iran following missile attacks.
- FACT** | India resumed importing Iranian crude after a seven-year halt.

MAINS Q Discuss the impact of US secondary sanctions on India's energy security and its strategic autonomy in navigating the Iran-USA-China geopolitical triangle.

USE: Secondary sanctions Strategic autonomy Energy security Geopolitical pressure Trade compliance

INDIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS

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25 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/113355

Xi Jinping Set to Visit India: First Trip in Seven Years, Marks Improved Relations

WHY IN NEWS Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to visit India for the BRICS summit, marking his first visit in seven years and signaling a potential thaw in India-China relations.

- INTL. ORG** | BRICS: An intergovernmental organization comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- FACT** | India-China border length: Approximately 3,800 km (2,400 miles).
- PLACE** | New Delhi: Host city for the upcoming BRICS summit.
- FACT** | Xi Jinping's delegation size: Expected to be around 400 officials, doubling the 2019 size.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges and opportunities in normalizing India-China bilateral relations while managing persistent border disputes and regional security concerns.

USE: bilateral ties strategic stability border diplomacy multilateralism geopolitical thaw

Doval, Wang Talk Border Stability Despite Differences in Beijing

WHY IN NEWS National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks in Beijing to institutionalize border stability and operationalize a boundary delimitation Expert Group.

- POST | Ajit Doval: National Security Advisor (NSA) of India
- POST | Wang Yi: Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China
- FACT | BRICS Summit: Scheduled for September 12, 2026, in India
- BODY | Expert Group for boundary delimitation: Proposed mechanism for operationalizing border stability

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of institutionalizing border stability and diplomatic communication in managing the India-China relationship amidst structural differences.

USE: [strategic stability](#) [bilateral diplomacy](#) [border delimitation](#) [de-escalation](#) [institutional framework](#)

Piracy Soars: 29 Attacks in 5 Months, 12 Hijackings Off Somalia

WHY IN NEWS A surge in piracy incidents off the coast of Somalia and near the Strait of Hormuz has led to the hijacking of ships carrying Indian seafarers, threatening maritime trade routes.

- FACT | 29 piracy incidents and 12 hijackings recorded off Somalia between April and August 2026.
- PLACE | Strait of Hormuz: A critical maritime chokepoint for global oil and trade.
- POST | Indian Navy: Responsible for maritime security and anti-piracy operations in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges posed by maritime piracy in the Indian Ocean Region and evaluate the measures India can take to ensure the safety of its seafarers and trade routes.

USE: [maritime security](#) [blue economy](#) [chokepoint](#) [sovereign interests](#) [supply chain disruption](#)

UN panel blasts India over hate crimes against Bengali-speaking Muslims, tribal violence

WHY IN NEWS The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) criticized India for alleged hate crimes against Bengali-speaking Muslims and violence against tribal communities.

- BODY | CERD: A UN body established to monitor the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.
- FACT | CERD's mandate includes monitoring racial profiling and extrajudicial killings by state actors.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges India faces in ensuring the protection of marginalized communities from communal violence and law enforcement excesses in the context of international human rights standards.

USE: [Racial profiling](#) [Extrajudicial killings](#) [Human rights](#) [Marginalized communities](#) [Institutional accountability](#)

Putin Pledges Fertilizer Boost, Set for Meet with Modi in Bishkek

WHY IN NEWS Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian PM Narendra Modi are scheduled to meet at the SCO forum in Bishkek to discuss trade recovery and fertilizer supplies.

- PLACE | Bishkek is the capital of Kyrgyzstan.
- BODY | SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance.
- BODY | BRICS is an intergovernmental organization comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- FACT | The BRICS summit is scheduled to take place in New Delhi on September 12-13.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of Russia-India trade relations in the context of global supply chain shifts and food security.

USE: [strategic partnership](#) [trade turnover](#) [food security](#) [multilateralism](#)

US Ambassador Tours Hyderabad Plant, Pushes for Expanded US-India Defence Cooperation

WHY IN NEWS US Ambassador Sergio Gor visited a Tata-Lockheed Martin plant in Hyderabad to emphasize expanding aerospace and defense cooperation between the US and India.

- FACT** | C-130J Super Hercules is a multi-mission transport aircraft used by both US and Indian forces.
- POST** | Sergio Gor is the current US Ambassador to India.
- FACT** | TASL's MRO facility is scheduled to open in December 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss how the deepening of aerospace and defense partnerships between India and the US contributes to India's goal of becoming a global manufacturing hub.

USE: Strategic Partnership Defense Cooperation Aerospace Manufacturing MRO Services Technology Transfer

Russia Assures India of Fertiliser Supply as Delhi Spends 56% of Annual Subsidy

WHY IN NEWS Russia assured India of uninterrupted fertiliser supply during EAM S. Jaishankar's meeting with President Putin to mitigate supply risks from Middle East conflicts.

- FACT** | India's annual fertiliser subsidy budget is Rs 1.77 lakh crore.
- FACT** | India spent 56% of its annual fertiliser subsidy in less than five months.
- BODY** | **FACT** (Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore) and RCF (Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers) are major Indian fertiliser producers.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced by India's fertiliser subsidy regime amidst global supply chain disruptions and rising international prices.

USE: fiscal deficit supply chain disruption food security subsidy regime input costs

Economy

3

CAPITAL MARKETS & SEBI

P

2 REPORTS MERGED

25 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/113360

SIP assets triple to ₹14.83 lakh crore, driving long-term investment growth

WHY IN NEWS The surge in Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) assets to ₹14.83 lakh crore highlights a structural shift toward retail-led long-term wealth creation in India.

- FACT | SIP assets reached ₹14.83 lakh crore as of March 2024.
- FACT | Mutual fund assets grew at an 18.6% CAGR since March 2021.
- FACT | AUM share of smaller cities (B30 markets) rose to 18.8%.
- FACT | Passive fund AUM quadrupled between 2021 and 2024.

MAINS Q Analyze the factors driving the growth of retail participation in capital markets and its implications for India's long-term economic stability.

USE: financial inclusion capital formation retail participation wealth creation passive investing

INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT & MSMEs

P

25 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/113717

Tamil Nadu to launch PSU for mining, set up UAV monitoring unit

WHY IN NEWS Tamil Nadu government announced the creation of a new PSU and a UAV-based monitoring unit to regulate mining and curb illegal extraction.

- ACT / BILL | Companies Act 2013: The primary legislation governing the formation and regulation of companies and PSUs in India.
- FACT | UAV and Satellite Technology: Utilized for real-time monitoring and detection of illegal mining activities.
- PLACE | Gunduperumbedu and Vellarai lakes: Locations identified for the establishment of plant fossil parks in Tamil Nadu.

MAINS Q Discuss how the integration of advanced technology like UAVs and satellite monitoring can enhance the governance of mineral resources and curb illegal mining in India.

USE: Public Sector Undertaking Real-time monitoring PPP Model Resource Governance Digital Infrastructure

CAPITAL MARKETS & SEBI

P

25 Aug · Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/113256

India Gains Weight in MSCI Emerging Markets Benchmarks

WHY IN NEWS India's weight in MSCI Emerging Markets benchmarks increased due to stable market performance relative to South Korea and Taiwan.

- FACT | iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Ex China ETF saw a 116-basis-point increase in India's weight.
- FACT | Amundi MSCI Emerging Ex China UCITS ETF saw a 113-basis-point increase.
- FACT | Xtrackers MSCI Emerging Markets UCITS ETF saw a 99-basis-point increase.
- FACT | India's weight declined by 540-to-998 basis points in the previous 12 months.

MAINS Q Discuss the factors influencing India's position in global emerging market benchmarks and its implications for Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI).

USE: capital markets benchmarks portfolio investment market volatility emerging economies

MSP, PROCUREMENT, PDS & FOOD SECURITY

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M

25 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/113031](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/113031)

India Lifts Wheat Export Ban to Boost Farmers' Income, Increase Domestic Prices

WHY IN NEWS The Indian government lifted the wheat export ban on August 24, 2026, to stabilize domestic prices and support farmer incomes amidst record production.

- FACT** | India's wheat production reached a record 120.65 million tonnes in 2025–26
- FACT** | FCI buffer stocks for wheat are approximately 49 million tonnes
- BODY** | Food Corporation of India (FCI) is the primary agency for maintaining buffer stocks

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges of balancing wheat export policies with domestic food security and the need to ensure remunerative prices for farmers.

USE: Price Stabilization Buffer Stocks Food Security Agri-Economics Export Policy

MSP, PROCUREMENT, PDS & FOOD SECURITY

P

25 Aug · NDTV · [satyadheesh.in/news/113413](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/113413)

Centre to sell onions at Rs 35 per kg in Delhi-NCR from Wednesday

WHY IN NEWS The Centre is intervening in the onion market by selling onions at a subsidized rate of Rs 35 per kg in Delhi-NCR to curb a 59% year-on-year price hike.

- BODY** | NCCF: National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Ltd is a multi-state cooperative federation.
- FACT** | Onion retail prices in Delhi-NCR are being capped at Rs 35 per kg via government intervention.
- FACT** | All-India average retail price of onion rose by 59% year-on-year as of August 2024.
- PLACE** | Nashik, Maharashtra is a major hub for onion production and supply.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of buffer stocks and government intervention in ensuring food security and price stability in the Indian agricultural market.

USE: Price Stabilization Buffer Stock Food Security Supply Chain Management Market Intervention

CROPPING PATTERNS & IRRIGATION

P

25 Aug · The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/113184](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/113184)

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Signals 102 Taluks Heading for Drought Declaration

WHY IN NEWS Karnataka's Deputy CM signaled a drought declaration for 102 taluks due to severe rainfall deficiency, highlighting the impact on agricultural output.

- FACT** | 102 taluks in Karnataka are being considered for drought declaration.
- FACT** | Only 71% of the targeted agricultural area has been sown due to water scarcity.
- FACT** | Drinking water is currently being supplied via tankers to 872 locations in the affected regions.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced by agrarian economies in India during periods of severe rainfall deficiency and the role of state-centre cooperation in drought management.

USE: rainfall deficiency drought management agrarian distress federalism resource scarcity

Fishermen Reap 30-40 Tonnes of Hilsa, Backing INCOIS's HiFA Forecast System

WHY IN NEWS Fishermen in West Bengal successfully utilized INCOIS's HiFA machine learning system to harvest 30–40 tonnes of Hilsa fish, demonstrating the role of AI in blue economy management.

- BODY** | INCOIS: Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, provides ocean information and forecasts.
- S&T** | HiFA: A machine learning-based forecasting system for Hilsa fish availability.
- FACT** | Hilsa fish: A major commercial fish species in the Bay of Bengal and coastal West Bengal.

MAINS Q Discuss how the integration of machine learning and real-time data analytics can enhance the sustainability of India's blue economy and support small-scale fisheries.

USE: Blue Economy Machine Learning Precision Fishing Sustainable Fisheries Data-driven Governance

Science & Technology

9

DRDO missile tech transferred to Indian firms by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

WHY IN NEWS Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the transfer of DRDO's conventional missile technology to private Indian manufacturers to bolster the Aatmanirbharta initiative.

- BODY** | DRDO: Defence Research and Development Organisation is the primary R&D wing of the Ministry of Defence.
- FACT** | The technology transfer covers all conventional missile systems developed by DRDO.
- POST** | Rajnath Singh is the current Union Minister of Defence.

MAINS Q Discuss how the integration of private sector firms into the defence manufacturing ecosystem can achieve the objectives of the Aatmanirbharta Abhiyan.

USE: Aatmanirbharta indigenous production technology transfer defence ecosystem import substitution

Rajesh Kumar Singh, Defence Secretary, outlined plans to reform India's defence acquisition

WHY IN NEWS Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh outlined reforms under DAP 2026 and DFP 2026 to streamline procurement and R&D for faster indigenous defence production.

- S&T** | AMCA: Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft, a key indigenous fighter project.
- S&T** | P-75I: India's project for building indigenous conventional submarines.
- POST** | Defence Secretary: The senior-most civil servant in the Ministry of Defence.
- FACT** | DAP 2026 and DFP 2026: Frameworks aimed at faster procurement and flexible financing.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of streamlining defence acquisition and R&D processes in achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in the defence sector.

USE: indigenous production R&D procurement reform strategic autonomy technological edge

Cow gut enzyme CRhAB breaks superbug shields, revives antibiotic power

WHY IN NEWS Scientists at IISc Bengaluru discovered the cow gut enzyme CRhAB, which can break down biofilms of antibiotic-resistant superbugs.

S&T | CRhAB: An enzyme derived from cow gut that breaks down bacterial biofilms.

S&T | *Acinetobacter baumannii* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*: Examples of 'superbugs' prone to hospital-acquired infections.

BODY | IISc Bengaluru: The primary research institution involved in this biotech discovery.

MAINS Q Discuss the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the role of biotechnology in developing novel therapies to combat superbugs.

USE: Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Biofilms Superbugs Biotechnology Enzyme Therapy

NASA's GODLAS Achieved 10-Foot Precision in 1964, Revolutionizing Earth Studies

WHY IN NEWS NASA's GODLAS system, the precursor to modern satellite laser ranging, is highlighted for its role in revolutionizing Earth's shape and ice sheet measurements.

S&T | GODLAS: A system used for satellite laser ranging to measure distances with high precision.

S&T | Explorer 22: The spacecraft used to record the first successful laser returns in 1964.

S&T | ICESat and ICESat-2: NASA missions used to measure ice-sheet elevations with millimetre accuracy.

FACT | GODLAS achieved 10-foot precision, significantly higher than the 250-foot precision of contemporary radar.

MAINS Q Discuss how advancements in satellite laser ranging and remote sensing technologies contribute to monitoring climate change and monitoring cryospheric changes.

USE: remote sensing cryosphere satellite laser ranging climate monitoring

Civil Aviation Minister considers random drug tests for all pilots after Air India incident

WHY IN NEWS The Civil Aviation Ministry is considering mandatory random drug testing for all commercial pilots following a safety incident involving a pilot testing positive for marijuana.

BODY | DGCA: The regulatory body for civil aviation safety in India.

FACT | Current mandate: Dope testing is currently required for 10% of pilots.

FACT | Air India and Air India Express have already initiated mandatory testing for their pilots.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of stringent safety protocols and regular health monitoring in the aviation sector to ensure passenger safety and operational integrity.

USE: Aviation Safety Regulatory Framework Operational Integrity Risk Mitigation

NASA-Funded Tech Turns Plastic into Protein-Rich Cookies "μBites"

WHY IN NEWS Researchers at SIU Carbondale developed a NASA-funded technology to convert PET plastic and agricultural waste into protein-rich cookies (‘μBites’) to address food security and waste management.

S&T | PET: Polyethylene terephthalate, a common plastic polymer used in bottles and packaging.

S&T | Biotechnology: The process uses 'programmed yeasts' to facilitate the conversion of waste into edible components.

FACT | The project is funded by NASA and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

MAINS Q Discuss how advancements in biotechnology and waste-to-food conversion can contribute to achieving global food security and sustainable waste management.

USE: Circular Economy Biotechnology Food Security Waste Management Sustainable Innovation

First liquid-fueled rocket flew 41 feet before crashing in 1926

WHY IN NEWS The historical milestone of Robert H. Goddard's first liquid-fueled rocket flight is highlighted as a foundational moment in modern space exploration.

S&T | Robert H. Goddard: Pioneer of modern rocketry and the first to launch a liquid-fueled rocket.

FACT | The 'Nell' rocket was the first liquid-fueled rocket, launched in 1926.

POST | NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre is named in honor of Robert H. Goddard.

MAINS Q Discuss the evolution of rocketry from early experimental flights to modern space exploration and its significance in global technological advancement.

USE: technological breakthrough aerospace engineering innovation space exploration

Dust from quarries threatens ₹27,000 crore Tata semiconductor project in Assam

WHY IN NEWS Environmental activists warned that dust from nearby stone quarries threatens the cleanroom standards of the ₹27,000 crore Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test (TSAT) facility in Assam.

FACT | The Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test (TSAT) project is valued at ₹27,000 crore.

PLACE | The TSAT facility is being established in the state of Assam.

S&T | Semiconductor manufacturing requires 'cleanroom' standards to prevent dust contamination.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges of balancing large-scale industrial infrastructure projects with environmental conservation and public health in ecologically sensitive zones.

USE: Cleanroom standards Industrial pollution Environmental impact Sustainable development Regulatory oversight

Elon Musk said in a podcast with The Economist that China produces

WHY IN NEWS Elon Musk highlighted the massive electricity requirements for AI, coinciding with India's goal to reach 10 GW of data centre capacity by 2030.

- FACT** | India's projected data centre IT load by 2030: 16 GW
- FACT** | Projected electricity demand for data centres by 2030: 10 GW
- FACT** | India's share of global data consumption: 20%
- FACT** | India's share of global data centres: <5%
- BODY** | NITI Aayog: Body responsible for the 16 GW IT load assessment

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with India's ambition to become a global AI and data centre hub, with specific focus on energy infrastructure and environmental sustainability.

USE: Digital Infrastructure Energy Intensity AI Ecosystem Power Utilization Sustainable Development

Environment & Ecology

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Antarctica releasing more mercury into ocean due to melting glaciers, study finds

WHY IN NEWS A PNAS study highlights that melting Antarctic glaciers are significantly accelerating the release of mercury into the ocean, posing risks to marine ecosystems and human health.

- S&T** | Mercury (Hg) is a heavy metal and a potent neurotoxin that bioaccumulates in marine food chains.
- FACT** | Antarctic glacier melt has increased mercury release by 550% according to the PNAS study.
- PLACE** | The Antarctic Peninsula is a key region for monitoring glacial retreat and polar environmental changes.

MAINS Q Discuss the impact of melting polar ice caps on global marine ecosystems and human health, with special reference to the release of heavy metals like mercury.

USE: bioaccumulation heavy metals glacial retreat marine ecosystem climate feedback

Global Sea Surfaces Hit Record 21.1°C, Oceans Set to Keep Heating Until January

WHY IN NEWS Copernicus Climate Change Service reported record-breaking global sea surface temperatures of 21.1°C, highlighting the impact of El Niño and anthropogenic climate change.

- FACT** | Record global sea surface temperature: 21.1°C (69.98°F)
- S&T** | Copernicus Climate Change Service: European Union's Earth observation program
- ENVIRONMENT** | El Niño: A climate pattern involving the warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean

MAINS Q Discuss the impact of rising ocean temperatures on marine biodiversity and coastal economies. Suggest measures to mitigate the effects of anthropogenic climate change.

USE: anthropogenic climate change marine biodiversity El Niño oceanic warming climate resilience

SECURITY FORCES & AGENCIES P

25 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/113309

NSG launches first Mahila Commando course, training women in hostage rescue and combat skills

WHY IN NEWS The NSG launched its first Mahila Commando Conversion Course to train women from State and Central forces in specialized counter-terror and hostage rescue skills.

BODY | NSG: National Security Guard is a counter-terrorism unit under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

FACT | The Mahila Commando Conversion Course duration is 12 weeks.

PLACE | The training is being conducted at the NSG facility in Manesar, Haryana.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of integrating women into specialized counter-terrorism units and the challenges faced in their operational deployment.

USE: [counter-terrorism](#) [gender mainstreaming](#) [tactical intervention](#) [internal security](#)



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