

UPSC Weekly Current Affairs — Week 28 · 6 Jul – 12 Jul 2026

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Exam digest: the 50 most exam-relevant of 138 notes this period, grouped by GS paper and subject.

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GS1 · History · Society · Geography · 3

Indian Society

Urbanisation · Prelims + Mains · 10 Jul

Best of Both Sides: Beyond childcare, four barriers to female participation in cities

Why in news: The National Statistics Office reported a rise in female labor force participation in Indian cities, highlighting persistent structural barriers to gender parity in urban workforces.

Key facts: Female labor force participation in India's million-plus cities rose from 19.8% in 2017-18 to 27.2% in 2025. Despite this growth, a significant gender gap persists compared to male participation rates.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Female labor force participation in million-plus cities: 27.2% as of 2025
- **Fact:** Female labor force participation in million-plus cities: 19.8% in 2017-18
- **Body:** National Statistics Office (NSO) is the body responsible for reporting these labor statistics

Mains question: Analyze the structural and socio-economic barriers that hinder full female participation in urban labor markets despite rising participation trends in India.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/80839

Geography

Geophysical phenomena (earthquakes, cyclones, volcanoes) · Prelims · 11 Jul

India rains cause landslides in Uttarakhand Himachal Pradesh floods in Mizoram Tripura

Why in news: Heavy rainfall triggered landslides in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and flooding in Mizoram and Tripura, highlighting the vulnerability of the Himalayan and Northeast regions to extreme weather.

Key facts: Heavy rains caused landslides in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, leading to highway closures and school shutdowns. Flooding in Mizoram and Tripura necessitated evacuations, while a landslide threat was identified at the Sangla bridge in Kinnaur district.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Kinnaur district is located in the state of Himachal Pradesh
- **Place:** Mizoram and Tripura are states in the Northeastern region of India
- **Fact:** Landslides and flooding are common geological hazards in the Himalayan belt due to steep slopes and high rainfall

Mains question: Discuss the geological and climatic factors contributing to the increasing frequency of landslides and floods in the Himalayan region and suggest mitigation strategies.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/81264

Physical geography (landforms, oceans, climate) · Prelims · 12 Jul

In April 2024, scientists from the OHA-GEODAMS project observed the first direct

Why in news: Scientists from the OHA-GEODAMS project observed the first direct in-situ seafloor spreading event along the Southeast Indian Ridge in April 2024.

Key facts: The event involved earthquakes, seabed subsidence, and magma movement resulting in over 160 million cubic metres of lava creating new ocean floor. The findings were published in a Nature study on July 8, 2026.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Southeast Indian Ridge: A mid-ocean ridge located in the Indian Ocean where tectonic plates diverge.
- **S&T:** OHA-GEODAMS: A project utilizing in-situ instruments to monitor seafloor spreading and tectonic activity.
- **Fact:** Volume of lava: Over 160 million cubic metres of lava were created during the observed spreading event.

Mains question: Discuss the geological significance of mid-ocean ridge spreading in the context of plate tectonics and the formation of the Earth's oceanic crust.

Source: Times of India · satyadheesh.in/news/82033

GS2 · Polity · Governance · IR · 24

Polity & Constitution

Judiciary & landmark judgments · Prelims + Mains · 9 Jul

Can a UK-style judicial review mechanism save India from UAPA?

Why in news: The Supreme Court highlighted the low conviction rate and lack of fair judicial review under the UAPA, prompting a debate on adopting a UK-style judicial review mechanism.

Key facts: The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) was enacted in 1967 to combat terrorism and unlawful activities. The UK's Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission (POAC) serves as a model for independent review of organizations banned by the state.

Prelims pointers

- **Act / Bill:** UAPA: Enacted in 1967 to provide for the prevention of unlawful activities and terrorism.
- **Body:** POAC: A UK-based independent body that reviews the government's decision to proscribe organizations.
- **Fact:** UAPA is characterized by a historically low conviction rate despite high-profile arrests.

Mains question: Critically examine the need for a structured judicial review mechanism for proscribed organizations under the UAPA to balance national security with the principles of natural justice.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/80458

Parliament & state legislatures · Prelims + Mains · 11 Jul

On Friday, P.P

Why in news: The Joint Committee of Parliament met with Goa's Cabinet to discuss the operationalization of 'One Nation, One Election' by 2029 to mitigate economic losses.

Key facts: The Joint Committee of Parliament is examining Bills on simultaneous elections. The committee reported an estimated ₹7 lakh crore economic loss due to frequent elections and noted 99% support from consulted civil society stakeholders.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Estimated economic loss due to frequent elections: ₹7 lakh crore
- **Fact:** Target year for operationalizing 'One Nation, One Election': 2029
- **Body:** Joint Committee of Parliament: Body tasked with examining Bills on simultaneous elections

Mains question: Examine the constitutional and logistical challenges in implementing 'One Nation, One Election' in India. How does frequent electioneering impact the nation's fiscal health?

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/81106

Elections, ECI & electoral reforms · Prelims · 12 Jul

Election Commission of India Publishes Draft Voter Lists with 24 Lakh Deletions

Why in news: The Election Commission of India (ECI) published draft voter lists for five regions on July 11, 2026, involving the deletion of approximately 24 lakh names to ensure electoral roll integrity.

Key facts: The ECI published draft voter lists for Odisha, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. Out of 3.72 crore original electors, 24 lakh names were deleted due to migration, death, or duplicate entries.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Election Commission of India (ECI) is the constitutional body responsible for administering elections to Parliament and State Legislatures.
- **Fact:** Odisha recorded the highest deletions at 20.12 lakh names in the July 2026 draft list.
- **Fact:** Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu saw a 30% reduction in the voter list.
- **Fact:** Voters have a one-month window from July 11, 2026, to contest deletions before the final list publication on September 11, 2026.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of periodic electoral roll revision in ensuring the integrity of the democratic process and the challenges faced by the Election Commission in managing large-scale migrations.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/81789

Governance

Transparency, accountability & RTI · Prelims + Mains · 12 Jul

Century Club loses appeal, Karnataka High Court upholds 2017 order declaring it public authority

Why in news: The Karnataka High Court upheld the status of Century Club as a 'public authority' under the RTI Act, clarifying the scope of transparency for entities using government land.

Key facts: The Century Club in Bengaluru was granted 7.5 acres of land free of cost by the Maharaja of Mysuru in 1913. The State Information Commission declared it a public authority in 2017, a decision upheld by the High Court.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Century Club: A private club in Bengaluru operating on government-provided land since 1913.
- **Act / Bill:** RTI Act: Defines 'public authority' to include bodies owned, controlled, or substantially financed by the government.
- **Fact:** The club occupies 7.5 acres of land provided by the Maharaja of Mysuru.

Mains question: To what extent should private entities utilizing public resources be subject to the Right to Information Act? Discuss the balance between private autonomy and public accountability.

Social Justice

Health policy & public health · Prelims + Mains · 9 Jul

India adopts guidelines for dignified death of terminally ill patients

Why in news: The State government approved guidelines for withdrawing life support from terminally ill patients to ensure a dignified death, following a 2018 Supreme Court ruling.

Key facts: The guidelines mandate the use of Advance Medical Directives for patients who may lose decision-making capacity. They also require the formation of medical boards to review cases and obtain consent from nominated guardians before life support withdrawal.

Prelims pointers

- **Act / Bill:** Advance Medical Directive: A legal document where a patient specifies medical preferences for future incapacity.
- **Body:** Medical Boards: Bodies mandated to review and provide oversight for the withdrawal of life support.
- **Fact:** Supreme Court ruling on passive euthanasia and dignified death was issued in 2018.

Mains question: Discuss the ethical and legal implications of 'passive euthanasia' in India, focusing on the balance between the right to life and the right to a dignified death.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/80154

Health policy & public health · Mains · 9 Jul

NFHS-6 Omits Anemia, Sanitation, Clean Cooking Fuel Data

Why in news: The omission of anemia, sanitation, and clean cooking fuel data in the NFHS-6 survey hampers the evidence-based evaluation of India's public health and social development programs.

Key facts: The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is a large-scale health survey conducted in India. NFHS-6 is noted for omitting key indicators despite India having the highest number of anemic populations globally.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** NFHS: National Family Health Survey is a large-scale health survey conducted in India.
- **Fact:** India currently holds the highest number of anemic populations globally.

Mains question: How do data gaps in national health surveys impede the formulation of effective public health policies in India? Discuss with reference to anemia and sanitation.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/80171

Education policy · Prelims · 10 Jul

2,000 new Karnataka Public Schools in State

Why in news: The Karnataka government announced a plan to establish 2,000 Karnataka Public Schools to improve rural education access through a CSR-funded model.

Key facts: The Karnataka government plans to build 2,000 schools, with each school serving three gram panchayats. The first phase involves 800 schools at a cost of ₹10 crore to ₹15 crore each, funded via Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** The first phase of the Karnataka Public Schools project involves the construction of 800 schools.
- **Fact:** The estimated cost per school for the new Karnataka Public Schools is between ₹10 crore and ₹15 crore.
- **Body:** CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funds are the primary funding mechanism for the initial phase of this initiative.
- **Place:** The initiative targets rural areas where each school will serve three gram panchayats.

Mains question: Discuss how the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model and CSR funding can bridge the infrastructure gap in rural public education in India.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/80838

GER in higher education rises to 30%, female GER exceeds male GER

Why in news: The AISHE 2023-24 report reveals a record Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 30% in higher education, with female GER (31.2%) surpassing male GER (28.9%) for the first time.

Key facts: The All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2023-24 shows total enrolment reached 4.5 crore students, a 31.5% increase. Arts is the most popular undergraduate stream at 34%, while distance education accounts for 8% of total enrolment.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education reached 30% in 2023-24.
- **Fact:** Female GER (31.2%) exceeded male GER (28.9%) in the 2023-24 survey.
- **Fact:** Gender Parity Index (GPI) in higher education stands at 1.08 as of 2023-24.
- **Fact:** Arts constitutes 34% of total undergraduate enrolment, followed by Science at 15%.
- **Fact:** Distance education accounts for approximately 8% of total higher education enrolment.

Mains question: *Analyze the factors contributing to the rising female Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education and its implications for India's demographic dividend.*

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/81000

Drones slash TB diagnosis time to five days, cut costs from ₹9,451 to ₹91

Why in news: AIIMS Bibinagar study revealed that drone-based sputum transport significantly reduces TB diagnosis time and patient costs under the i-DRONE initiative.

Key facts: The study, published in the International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease on July 12, 2026, showed a reduction in diagnosis time from 15 days to 5 days. Patient expenditure dropped from ₹9,451 to ₹91 per test. The research was conducted under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) i-DRONE initiative.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** ICMR: Indian Council of Medical Research is the apex body for biomedical research in India.
- **Fact:** Drone-assisted TB diagnosis reduced patient costs from ₹9,451 to ₹91.
- **Fact:** Diagnosis time was reduced from 15 days to 5 days using drone transport.
- **Place:** AIIMS Bibinagar is the research site for the i-DRONE initiative.

Mains question: *Discuss how drone technology can bridge the healthcare delivery gap in remote areas of India while addressing the challenges of last-mile connectivity.*

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/82218

International Relations

57% of New Zealand's exports to India will be tariff-free, says PM Luxon ahead of Modi's visit

Why in news: PM Christopher Luxon announced that 57% of New Zealand's exports to India will be tariff-free ahead of PM Modi's visit to New Zealand.

Key facts: The two nations currently have a free trade agreement that eliminates 95% of tariffs on goods. Total bilateral trade between India and New Zealand reached \$2.4 billion in 2024.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Total trade between India and New Zealand reached \$2.4 billion in 2024
- **Fact:** Current free trade agreement eliminates 95% of tariffs on goods
- **Fact:** 57% of New Zealand's exports to India will be tariff-free from day one of the new arrangement

Mains question: *Examine how deepening bilateral trade agreements with nations like New Zealand contribute to India's objective of becoming a global manufacturing and export hub.*

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/80344

US strikes Iran for second night – is the peace process all over now? | US-Israel war on Iran News

Why in news: The United States launched a second night of airstrikes on Iran following Iranian attacks on commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz, threatening the stability of the interim peace agreement.

Key facts: The US launched airstrikes targeting Iranian cities and military sites in retaliation for maritime attacks in the Strait of Hormuz. Iran accused the US of violating a June interim peace agreement and the US threatened to seize the Kharg island oil-production hub.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic maritime chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman.
- **Place:** Kharg Island: A major Iranian oil and gas production and export hub.
- **Fact:** The interim peace agreement between the US and Iran was signed in June.

Mains question: Analyze the geopolitical implications of maritime insecurity in the Strait of Hormuz on global energy markets and regional stability in the Middle East.

Source: Al Jazeera · satyadheesh.in/news/80425

US Iran War news US Strike Targeted Bushehr Nuclear Plant Perimeter, Says Iranian Official

Why in news: The US conducted airstrikes on the perimeter of Iran's Bushehr nuclear plant, raising international concerns regarding nuclear safety and regional escalation.

Key facts: The US targeted the perimeter of the Bushehr nuclear plant, a military base, and a fishing pier in Iran. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) expressed concern over the safety of the facility following these strikes.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Bushehr: Province in Iran housing the country's only civilian nuclear power plant.
- **Body:** IAEA: International body responsible for nuclear safeguards and safety standards.
- **Fact:** The strikes occurred on a Thursday in the current calendar year.

Mains question: Discuss the implications of military actions near nuclear facilities on global non-proliferation norms and regional security stability in the Middle East.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/80524

Rainfall in eastern river basins down 20% since 1951: Study on water availability in Indus river system

Why in news: A study by Vimal Mishra and Urmin Vegad highlights a 20% decline in rainfall in eastern Indus basin rivers since 1951, providing a scientific basis for India to renegotiate the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan.

Key facts: The study compares precipitation trends between 1951 and 2024, noting a 20% decline in eastern rivers versus a 6% decline in western rivers. It identifies significant groundwater depletion in the Sutlej and Ravi sub-basins while noting better availability in the Chenab, Jhelum, and Indus basins.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Rainfall in eastern Indus basin rivers declined by 20% between 1951 and 2024.
- **Fact:** Western rivers of the Indus basin saw a 6% reduction in precipitation during the same period.
- **Place:** Sutlej and Ravi sub-basins are identified as areas with significant groundwater depletion.
- **Body:** Indus Waters Treaty (1960) governs the distribution of three perennial rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) and three tributaries (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej).

Mains question: Discuss how climate-induced hydrological changes in the Indus Basin necessitate a review of the Indus Waters Treaty to ensure equitable water sharing.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/80765

India, Australia strike deal on uranium exports, deepen ties across nuclear and maritime sectors

Why in news: India and Australia signed a landmark agreement on July 9, 2026, to facilitate the commercial supply of uranium from Australia to India for nuclear power projects.

Key facts: The pact was signed by PM Narendra Modi and PM Anthony Albanese on July 9, 2026. It covers three key sectors: civil nuclear energy, maritime security, and critical minerals. This follows the historic civil nuclear cooperation pact signed nearly 12 years prior.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Uranium supply agreement signed on July 9, 2026
- **Body:** Australia is a key supplier of uranium for India's civil nuclear power projects
- **Place:** The agreement aims to ensure peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region
- **Fact:** The pact covers three specific sectors: civil nuclear energy, maritime security, and critical minerals

Mains question: Examine how the deepening of India-Australia ties in the nuclear and maritime sectors contributes to the strategic stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/80794](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/80794)

A global crackdown and a chance for India

Why in news: The Royal Canadian Mounted Police launched 'Operation Hard Ball' to dismantle transnational crime syndicates, notably finding no evidence of Indian involvement in the Nijjar assassination.

Key facts: Operation Hard Ball is a collaborative effort between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and multiple international agencies. The investigation focused on transnational criminal networks and their reach into the Indian diaspora.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP): The national police service of Canada.
- **Fact:** Operation Hard Ball: A multi-agency international crackdown on transnational crime syndicates.
- **Post:** Hardeep Singh Nijjar: Identified as a Khalistani separatist involved in the assassination investigation.

Mains question: Examine how international cooperation in dismantling transnational crime syndicates can enhance India's internal security and bilateral relations with Western nations.

Source: Indian Express · [satyadheesh.in/news/80850](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/80850)

China captures first orbital rocket at sea, challenging US tech lead

Why in news: China successfully captured a Long March-10B booster at sea, marking a significant milestone in reusable rocket technology and challenging US dominance in space infrastructure.

Key facts: China utilized a net system to capture the Long March-10B orbital rocket booster over the South China Sea. This event signifies a shift toward industrial execution and scalable space technology to create a parallel ecosystem to Western space dominance.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Long March-10B: A Chinese orbital rocket booster designed for reusable technology.
- **Fact:** China's space strategy focuses on industrial execution and deployment scalability over pure scientific discovery.
- **Place:** South China Sea: The location where the first sea-based rocket capture occurred.

Mains question: Discuss how the emergence of parallel global technology ecosystems, particularly in space and AI, impacts the strategic autonomy of developing nations.

Source: NDTV · [satyadheesh.in/news/81242](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/81242)

Modi, Luxon elevate India-New Zealand ties to strategic partnership

Why in news: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and New Zealand PM Christopher Luxon elevated India-New Zealand relations to a strategic partnership with a roadmap to 2030.

Key facts: The leaders endorsed the 'India-New Zealand Strategic Partnership: Roadmap to 2030' and signed pacts on maritime cooperation, counter-terrorism, and Antarctic research. They committed to doubling

bilateral trade to NZ\$7 billion (approx. Rs 35,000 crore) by 2030.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Target bilateral trade volume: NZ\$7 billion (Rs 35,000 crore) by 2030
- **Body:** Strategic Partnership: A formal diplomatic status elevating bilateral cooperation beyond standard trade ties
- **Place:** Auckland: The location of the high-level meeting between the Indian and New Zealand leadership

Mains question: Discuss the significance of India's deepening strategic partnerships with middle powers like New Zealand in diversifying its global economic and security architecture.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/81259

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains · 11 Jul

Andrew Charlton, Australia's Assistant Minister, highlighted the significance of Prime Minister Narendra

Why in news: Australia's Assistant Minister Andrew Charlton highlighted the outcomes of PM Modi's third visit to Australia, which established a framework for trade, defence, and critical minerals.

Key facts: The visit concluded with a framework agreement at the Melbourne Cricket Ground focusing on supply chain resilience and technology sharing. Key areas of cooperation include cyber security, quantum computing, AI, and space, including support for India's Gaganyaan programme.

Prelims pointers

- **Intl. org:** Gaganyaan: India's first human spaceflight mission to send an astronaut into orbit.
- **Fact:** The PACTS framework focuses on supply chain resilience and technology sharing between India and Australia.
- **Place:** Melbourne Cricket Ground: Venue for the trade and defence framework agreement in Australia.

Mains question: Discuss how the deepening India-Australia partnership in critical minerals and space technology serves as a strategic counterweight to shifting dynamics in the Indo-Pacific region.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/81299

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains · 11 Jul

Iran's move stirs crude prices, risking global inflation and Gulf stability

Why in news: Escalating tensions between Iran and regional actors have caused volatility in global crude oil prices, threatening global inflation and the stability of the Strait of Hormuz.

Key facts: Iran is seeking to expand strategic influence over the Strait of Hormuz, a critical maritime chokepoint. The breakdown of the Washington-Tehran understanding has led to increased risk of regional conflict and potential supply disruptions in the Gulf region.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- **Fact:** India is highly vulnerable to crude price volatility due to its high reliance on crude oil imports.
- **S&T:** Crude oil price volatility directly impacts global inflation and trade deficits.

Mains question: Analyze the impact of geopolitical tensions in the Middle East on India's energy security and the global inflationary landscape.

Source: Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/81363

Policies of other countries affecting India · Prelims + Mains · 11 Jul

Modi's trip challenges China's "String of Pearls" in Indo-Pacific

Why in news: PM Modi's visit to Indonesia, Australia, and New Zealand signals India's proactive strategy to counter China's 'String of Pearls' and establish a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific.

Key facts: The visit focused on maritime security and economic partnerships across three key Indo-Pacific nations. India's strategy emphasizes the SAGAR initiative and the Quad framework to promote a rules-based maritime order.

Prelims pointers

- **Intl. org:** SAGAR: Security and Growth for All in the Region; an Indian maritime initiative.
- **Intl. org:** Quad: A strategic security dialogue between India, USA, Japan, and Australia.

- **Fact:** String of Pearls: A Chinese maritime strategy involving strategic infrastructure investments in ports across the Indian Ocean.

Mains question: *Examine how India's maritime diplomacy and the SAGAR initiative serve as a counter-strategy to China's 'String of Pearls' in the Indo-Pacific region.*

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/81368

Policies of other countries affecting India · Mains · 11 Jul

UN Rapporteurs Warn India Over Alleged Discrimination in Bengal Election Cleanup

Why in news: UN Special Rapporteurs expressed concern over alleged discrimination against minorities during the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in West Bengal.

Key facts: Three UN Special Rapporteurs (Nicolas Levrat, Irene Khan, and Nazila Ghanea) sent a formal communication to the Ministry of External Affairs and the Election Commission of India. The letter focuses on the potential wrongful exclusion of Bengali and Muslim electors due to administrative inconsistencies and biased AI systems.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** UN Special Rapporteurs are independent experts appointed by the UN Human Rights Council to monitor and report on human rights.
- **Fact:** The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is a process conducted by the Election Commission of India to clean up electoral rolls.
- **Post:** Nicolas Levrat, Irene Khan, and Nazila Ghanea are the specific Rapporteurs involved in the communication.

Mains question: *Discuss the challenges of ensuring inclusive electoral processes in India while addressing the complexities of identifying and managing illegal migration.*

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/81555

India's bilateral relations · Prelims · 12 Jul

Modi, Subianto inaugurate Rs 65 crore Prambanan temple restoration project in Indonesia

Why in news: PM Modi and President Prabowo Subianto inaugurated a joint Rs 65 crore conservation project for the UNESCO World Heritage Prambanan Temple in Indonesia.

Key facts: The project is a joint initiative between India and Indonesia led by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). It involves a 10-year restoration period with a total outlay of Rs 65 crore focusing on Pervara temples.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Archaeological Survey of India (ASI): The apex body for archaeological research and conservation in India.
- **Place:** Prambanan Temple: A 9th-century Hindu temple compound located in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
- **S&T:** LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging): A remote sensing technology used for high-precision 3D mapping and documentation of heritage sites.
- **Fact:** Project Outlay: Rs 65 crore over a 10-year duration.

Mains question: *How does cultural diplomacy and joint heritage conservation serve as a tool for strengthening India-Indonesia bilateral relations and soft power?*

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/81728

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains · 12 Jul

Iran attacked Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Qatar, and Oman after US Central Command

Why in news: Iran launched retaliatory strikes against Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Qatar, and Oman following US Central Command (CENTCOM) strikes, leading to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Key facts: Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz following the third round of US CENTCOM strikes within a single week. The escalation prompted Gulf nations to raise security levels and condemned the maritime blockade.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.

- **Body:** US Central Command (CENTCOM): A unified combatant command of the United States Armed Forces responsible for the Middle East.
- **Fact:** Iran attacked five specific Gulf nations: Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Qatar, and Oman.

Mains question: Analyze the geopolitical implications of the Strait of Hormuz's closure on global energy security and the maritime trade routes of the Middle East.

Source: Al Jazeera · satyadheesh.in/news/82051

India's bilateral relations · Prelims + Mains · 12 Jul

India Pauses Indus Waters Treaty, Plans 8.7 km Chenab-Beas Link Tunnel After Pahalgam Attack

Why in news: India has paused the Indus Waters Treaty and initiated the Chenab-Beas Link Tunnel project following the 2025 Pahalgam terror attack to reshape river water management.

Key facts: India plans an 8.7 km Chenab-Beas Link Tunnel to divert Chandra River water into the Beas basin. The Indus Waters Treaty originally allocated 80% of the Indus waters to Pakistan, with India retaining rights over eastern rivers.

Prelims pointers

- **Intl. org:** Indus Waters Treaty: Bilateral water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan signed in 1960.
- **Fact:** Chenab-Beas Link Tunnel: Planned length of 8.7 km for water diversion.
- **Place:** Chandra River: Source of water for the proposed diversion into the Beas basin.
- **Fact:** Water Allocation: Pakistan was allocated 80% of the Indus waters under the original treaty.

Mains question: Examine how the shift in India's stance on the Indus Waters Treaty reflects the intersection of national security concerns and hydro-diplomacy in the region.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/82080

GS3 · Economy · S&T · Environment · Security · 23

Economy

Growth, inflation & macro indicators · Prelims · 9 Jul

India Soars: FDI Jumps 43.6%, Leaps to 11th Global Rank

Why in news: India's FDI inflows surged by 43.6% to \$38.9 billion in 2025, making it the 11th largest global recipient.

Key facts: India attracted \$38.9 billion in FDI in 2025, significantly exceeding the global average growth rate of 6%. Outward FDI also reached a record high of \$35.7 billion in 2025.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** India's FDI inflow in 2025: \$38.9 billion
- **Fact:** India's outward FDI in 2025: \$35.7 billion
- **Fact:** India's global rank as FDI recipient in 2025: 11th
- **Fact:** Global average FDI growth rate: 6%

Mains question: Analyze the factors contributing to India's rising position in global FDI inflows and its implications for the country's industrial growth.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/80102

Monetary policy, RBI & banking · Prelims + Mains · 9 Jul

India's US Treasury holding hits a 6-year low amid gold push

Why in news: The RBI's holdings of US Treasuries have hit a 6-year low as the central bank pivots toward increasing gold reserves to diversify its portfolio.

Key facts: The RBI's US Treasury holdings fell below \$232 billion from their 2022 peak. India's gold reserves have reached 881 metric tonnes, reflecting a strategic shift toward precious metals over foreign currency assets.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** RBI's US Treasury holdings fell below \$232 billion from the 2022 peak.
- **Fact:** India's gold reserves currently stand at 881 metric tonnes.

- **S&T:** Gold is used by central banks as a hedge against currency volatility and geopolitical risks.

Mains question: Analyze the strategic reasons behind the Reserve Bank of India's shift from foreign currency assets like US Treasuries toward increasing gold reserves.

Source: Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/80219

Infrastructure (energy, ports, roads, railways) · Prelims + Mains · 9 Jul

Rs 1.47 Lakh Crore Per Year: Indian Metros Bleed Billions In Traffic Jams

Why in news: The Economic Survey 2025-26 highlighted the massive economic drain caused by traffic congestion in India's major metros, estimating a collective loss of Rs 1.47 lakh crore annually.

Key facts: The Economic Survey 2025-26 identifies traffic congestion as a primary urban crisis. In Delhi, workers lose up to Rs 25,900 annually in income penalties due to delays, while Bengaluru loses approximately Rs 11.7 billion in productive hours.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** India's four largest metropolises lose an estimated Rs 1.47 lakh crore annually due to traffic congestion.
- **Fact:** Bengaluru experiences lost productive hours amounting to approximately Rs 11.7 billion.
- **Fact:** Delhi workers face annual income penalties of up to Rs 25,900 due to traffic delays.

Mains question: Analyze how urban traffic congestion acts as a barrier to India's goal of becoming a \$5 trillion economy. Suggest structural shifts in urban planning to mitigate these losses.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/80507

Capital markets & SEBI · Prelims · 9 Jul

Value buyers lift India bonds; US-Iran war jitters, oil risks weigh

Why in news: Indian government bonds saw a rebound due to significant foreign bank investment in June 2024, despite volatility from US-Iran tensions and rising oil prices.

Key facts: Foreign lenders significantly increased investment in Indian bonds during June 2024. Investors showed specific interest in Fully Accessible Route (FAR) bonds, primarily driven by the potential for inclusion in global indices.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Fully Accessible Route (FAR): A mechanism allowing foreign portfolio investors to invest in Indian government securities without the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) limit.
- **Fact:** US Treasury Yields: A key global benchmark; rising yields in the US often lead to capital outflows from emerging markets like India.
- **Fact:** Oil Price Volatility: Driven by geopolitical tensions in the Middle East (e.g., US-Iran relations), impacting India's current account deficit.

Mains question: Analyze the factors influencing the volatility of Indian government bonds and the implications of global geopolitical tensions on India's capital markets.

Source: Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/80528

Industry, investment & MSMEs · Prelims · 10 Jul

Government waives import duty on inputs for manufacturing batteries, display assemblies

Why in news: The Union Finance Ministry exempted customs duty on 85 capital goods and specific inputs for lithium-ion cells and mobile phone components to boost domestic electronics manufacturing.

Key facts: The exemption applies to 85 capital goods for lithium-ion cell manufacturing and inputs for display assemblies and inductor-coil modules. The duty waiver is valid until March 2029 to lower production costs and encourage domestic value addition.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Exemption covers 85 specific capital goods for lithium-ion cell manufacturing.
- **Fact:** Duty waiver is valid until March 2029.
- **Fact:** Inputs exempted include display assemblies and inductor-coil modules for wireless charging.

Mains question: Discuss how fiscal incentives like import duty waivers contribute to India's goal of becoming a global electronics manufacturing hub.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/80648

The Assam government has allocated Rs 2,100 crore in the 2026-27 state

Why in news: The Assam government allocated Rs 2,100 crore in the 2026-27 state budget to develop an 'Airport City' near Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport.

Key facts: The project follows the Aerotropolis model to integrate commercial, industrial, and residential zones with aviation infrastructure. The Guwahati Satellite City Development Authority is the designated body for planning and execution, including a proposed bridge over the Brahmaputra River.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Assam government allocated Rs 2,100 crore for the Airport City project in the 2026-27 state budget
- **Place:** Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport is located in Guwahati, Assam
- **Body:** Guwahati Satellite City Development Authority is the body overseeing the project's planning and execution
- **Fact:** The project utilizes the Aerotropolis model to integrate urban growth with aviation hubs

Mains question: Discuss how the development of Aerotropolis models can serve as a catalyst for regional economic integration and urban decongestion in Northeast India.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/81049

One Tunnel, One Highway: Rs 14,115-Crore Bet To Transform UP, Delhi-NCR

Why in news: The Union Cabinet approved two major road projects worth Rs 14,115 crore to enhance connectivity and logistics efficiency in Delhi-NCR and Bundelkhand.

Key facts: The projects include an 8.1-km six-lane tunnel linking Dwarka Expressway with South Delhi and IGI Airport, and a 117.7-km Kanpur-Kabrai highway in Uttar Pradesh. The Kanpur-Kabrai highway is designed to reduce travel time from 3.5 hours to 90 minutes.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** Total approved budget for the two road projects is Rs 14,115 crore.
- **Place:** The Kanpur-Kabrai highway is located in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh.
- **Fact:** The tunnel project covers a distance of 8.1 km to link Dwarka Expressway with South Delhi and IGI Airport.

Mains question: Discuss how the expansion of high-speed road infrastructure and tunnel projects can act as a catalyst for regional economic integration and logistics efficiency in India.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/82072

NSE IPO eyed for better governance, paving way for MSCI, FTSE inclusion

Why in news: A report suggests an IPO for the National Stock Exchange (NSE) to enhance governance and transparency, aiming for inclusion in global indices like MSCI and FTSE.

Key facts: The NSE is one of India's primary stock exchanges. The proposed IPO aims to complete the 'trioka' of India's market structure alongside CDSL and BSE. Inclusion in MSCI and FTSE indices is expected to improve global access and market depth.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** NSE: National Stock Exchange of India, a premier stock exchange in India.
- **Body:** MSCI and FTSE: Global stock market indices used to track international investment flows.
- **Fact:** CDSL and BSE: Key components of India's capital market infrastructure alongside NSE.

Mains question: Discuss how improving corporate governance and transparency in domestic stock exchanges can enhance India's integration into global capital markets.

Source: Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/82076

Science & Technology

IT, AI, semiconductors & computing · Prelims + Mains · 10 Jul

Telegram and WhatsApp Face Government Scrutiny Over 'Username' Feature Amid Fraud Fears

Why in news: The IT Ministry is scrutinizing the 'username' feature on WhatsApp and Telegram due to risks of phishing, digital arrest scams, and impersonation.

Key facts: The 'username' feature allows users to communicate without sharing their mobile numbers. The IT Ministry issued notices to WhatsApp, Telegram, and Signal to address fraud risks and Telegram's role in pirated content dissemination.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** WhatsApp has approximately 50 crore users in India.
- **Body:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is the nodal ministry for regulating messaging platforms in India.
- **S&T:** Digital arrest scams and phishing are primary cyber-fraud categories identified by the government in this context.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges in regulating end-to-end encrypted messaging platforms while balancing user privacy and the need to curb cyber-fraud and impersonation.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/80930

Defence technology · Prelims + Mains · 11 Jul

Rajnath Singh commissions INS Mahendragiri, India's sixth indigenous stealth frigate with 75% local content

Why in news: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned INS Mahendragiri, the sixth Project 17A indigenous stealth frigate, into the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet to bolster maritime security and Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Key facts: INS Mahendragiri is a multi-mission stealth frigate with a full-load displacement of approximately 6,670 tonnes and a top speed of 28 knots. It features over 75% indigenous content and is equipped with BrahMos missiles and advanced electronic warfare suites.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** INS Mahendragiri is the sixth frigate commissioned under Project 17A.
- **Fact:** The warship has a full-load displacement of approximately 6,670 tonnes and a top speed of 28 knots.
- **Fact:** The vessel features over 75% indigenous content and is capable of being fitted with BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles.
- **Body:** Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) is the primary shipbuilder for this project.
- **Place:** The commissioning took place at the naval dockyard in Visakhapatnam.

Mains question: Discuss how the shift towards indigenous defense manufacturing under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative enhances India's maritime security and strategic autonomy.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/81398

Nuclear & new energy technology · Prelims · 12 Jul

World's Longest Hydrogen Train to Run 356 km Daily on Jind-Sonipat Section

Why in news: The Ministry of Railways sanctioned the operation of one of the world's longest hydrogen trainsets on the Jind-Sonipat section to promote green hydrogen in rail transport.

Key facts: The trainset can carry 682 passengers at a maximum speed of 75 km/h, covering 356 km daily using 300 kg of hydrogen. It features two driving power cars with integrated fuel cells and batteries generating 2400 kW of power, supported by a 3000-kg-capacity fueling facility at Jind.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Hydrogen fuel cells generate electricity through a chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen, emitting only water as a byproduct.
- **Fact:** The Jind-Sonipat hydrogen train project has a total estimated cost of Rs 136 crore.
- **Fact:** The train is capable of making two round trips daily, consuming 300 kg of hydrogen per trip.
- **Body:** The Ministry of Railways granted the operational sanction for the project on May 22, 2024.

Mains question: Discuss the potential of hydrogen fuel cell technology in decarbonizing the Indian railway network and the logistical challenges in establishing a nationwide hydrogen infrastructure.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/81830

Space technology (ISRO, missions) · Prelims · 12 Jul

On July 15, Dr Anil Menon, a NASA astronaut of Indian origin

Why in news: Dr. Anil Menon, a NASA astronaut of Indian origin, is scheduled to launch to the International Space Station (ISS) on July 15, 2024, highlighting India's growing human spaceflight footprint.

Key facts: Dr. Anil Menon, a former flight surgeon, will launch from Kazakhstan aboard the Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft. He will spend approximately eight months on the ISS conducting research before returning to Earth in 2027.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Soyuz MS-29: A Russian spacecraft used to transport crew to the International Space Station (ISS).
- **Post:** Dr. Anil Menon: NASA astronaut of Indian origin and former flight surgeon.
- **Fact:** Mission Duration: Dr. Menon is scheduled to remain on the ISS for approximately eight months, returning in 2027.
- **Place:** Kazakhstan: The primary launch site for the Soyuz spacecraft missions.

Mains question: Discuss the significance of India's growing participation in international human spaceflight missions and its implications for India's position in the global space economy.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/82054

IT, AI, semiconductors & computing · Prelims + Mains · 12 Jul

AI Development Outpaces Safety, Panel Warns

Why in news: The Independent International Scientific Panel on AI released a UN-commissioned report warning that rapid AI advancement is outstripping safety protocols and governance frameworks.

Key facts: The 40-member panel is co-chaired by Yoshua Bengio and Maria Ressa. The report identifies a 'compute divide' favoring the US and China and warns of concentration risks in the global AI ecosystem.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Independent International Scientific Panel on AI: A 40-member body commissioned by the UN to assess AI safety.
- **Fact:** Compute Divide: A term referring to the unequal distribution of high-performance computing power between nations.
- **Post:** Yoshua Bengio: Co-chair of the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI.

Mains question: Discuss the risks associated with the concentration of AI compute power and the necessity of international governance frameworks to ensure equitable technological distribution.

Source: Indian Express · satyadheesh.in/news/82095

Space technology (ISRO, missions) · Prelims · 12 Jul

ISRO Successfully Conducts Three Critical Gaganyaan Tests Ensuring Astronaut Safety

Why in news: ISRO successfully conducted three critical crew module system tests for the Gaganyaan mission to ensure astronaut safety during re-entry and splashdown.

Key facts: On July 12, 2026, ISRO tested three systems: a stored cold-gas-based uprighting system, the umbilical mechanism separation between crew and service modules, and the crew module's structural integrity during apex cover separation.

Prelims pointers

- **S&T:** Gaganyaan: India's first human spaceflight mission aimed at sending a crew of three to an orbit of 400 km.
- **S&T:** Cold-gas-based uprighting system: A mechanism used to orient the spacecraft in an upright position after landing in water (splashdown).
- **S&T:** ISRO: The space agency under the Department of Space, Ministry of Science and Technology.
- **Fact:** The tests were conducted on July 12, 2026, as part of the final mission readiness phase.

Mains question: Discuss the technological challenges and safety protocols involved in developing indigenous human spaceflight capabilities for India's Gaganyaan mission.

Environment & Ecology

Climate change & international agreements · Prelims + Mains · 9 Jul

Extreme Weather Patterns: Is Climate Change Writing India's Weather Map?

Why in news: Analysis of rising surface air temperatures and increased monsoon variability in India due to climate-induced moisture capacity changes.

Key facts: India's surface air temperature rose by 0.7°C between 1901 and 2018. Climate change is intensifying monsoon patterns by increasing atmospheric moisture capacity and causing shorter dry spells followed by intense rainfall bursts.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** India's surface air temperature rose by 0.7°C during the period 1901-2018.
- **S&T:** Climate change increases atmospheric moisture capacity, leading to more intense storm systems.
- **Environment:** Monsoon variability in India is characterized by shorter dry spells and intense rainfall bursts.

Mains question: Discuss how climate-induced changes in monsoon patterns necessitate a shift from traditional disaster management to climate-resilient urban infrastructure planning in India.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/80371

Species, protected areas & wetlands · Prelims + Mains · 10 Jul

NBWL rejects ₹10,000 crore Sharavathi project over habitat harm, sustainability doubts

Why in news: The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) expert committee rejected the ₹10,000 crore Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project in Karnataka due to ecological risks.

Key facts: The project is a ₹10,000 crore pumped storage initiative located in Karnataka. The NBWL expert committee recommended rejection based on habitat fragmentation, wildlife disturbance, and lack of technical/environmental sustainability.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** NBWL: National Board for Wildlife is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- **Fact:** Project Cost: The Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project is valued at ₹10,000 crore.
- **Place:** Location: The project is situated in the state of Karnataka.

Mains question: Analyze the conflict between large-scale renewable energy infrastructure and biodiversity conservation in India's ecologically sensitive zones.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/80940

Environmental laws, EIA & institutions · Prelims + Mains · 11 Jul

NGT orders fire safety audit of hazardous waste treatment facilities across Tamil Nadu

Why in news: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered a mandatory fire safety audit of industrial waste facilities in Tamil Nadu following a major fire at a hazardous waste facility in May 2024.

Key facts: The NGT Southern Bench directed the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Fire and Rescue Services Department to audit all industrial waste facilities. The order follows a significant fire incident at a Common Hazardous Waste Facility in Gummidipoondi in May 2024.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** National Green Tribunal (NGT): A specialized body for adjudication of environmental disputes and cases related to all issues under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- **Body:** Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB): A state-level body responsible for implementing pollution control measures and monitoring industrial waste.
- **Fact:** The NGT ordered the implementation of independent audit recommendations within a three-month timeframe from the order date in July 2026.

Mains question: Examine the institutional challenges in regulating hazardous waste management in India and suggest measures to ensure industrial safety and environmental compliance.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/81155

The delayed southwest monsoon has caused landslides in the Western Ghats, including

Why in news: Delayed southwest monsoon and intense rainfall triggered fatal landslides in the Western Ghats, highlighting ecological vulnerability and recurring disaster risks.

Key facts: Landslides occurred in Wayanad and Madikeri (Kodagu district) following a rain-deficient June. A retaining wall collapse at Garodi-Naguri in Mangaluru on July 1, 2024, also resulted in fatalities.

Prelims pointers

- **Place:** Western Ghats: A mountain range in Western India, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site and a biodiversity hotspot.
- **Fact:** Wayanad and Kodagu (Madikeri) are districts in the state of Kerala and Karnataka respectively, prone to landslide risks.
- **Environment:** Western Ghats: Part of the Sahyadri mountain range, characterized by high endemism and heavy monsoon-driven rainfall.

Mains question: Discuss the ecological and geological factors contributing to increasing landslide frequency in the Western Ghats and suggest measures for disaster-resilient infrastructure.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/82119

Delhi's Air Plunges to 'Poor' as Dust from Afghan Storms Hits AQI 261

Why in news: Delhi's AQI hit 261 due to transnational mineral dust from Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, highlighting the transboundary nature of air pollution.

Key facts: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) identified mineral dust from Afghan storms as the primary driver for the AQI spike. The air quality reached its highest level since April 17, 2024, without necessitating the immediate invocation of GRAP Stage-I.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** CAQM: Commission for Air Quality Management is a statutory body established to oversee air quality management in the NCR.
- **Fact:** Delhi AQI reached 261 on Sunday, the highest recorded since April 17, 2024.
- **Fact:** GRAP: Graded Response Action Plan is a set of emergency measures to be implemented based on AQI levels.

Mains question: Discuss the challenges in managing transboundary air pollution in the Indo-Gangetic Plain and suggest a multi-lateral framework for regional air quality governance.

Source: NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/82236

Kerala Water Authority launches ₹185 crore sewage project to clean Kochi canals

Why in news: The Kerala Water Authority (KWA) initiated a ₹185 crore sewage project in Kochi to mitigate canal pollution and improve urban sanitation.

Key facts: The project involves a 27-km sewage pipeline, a 5-MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), and 1,400 manholes. It utilizes Moving Bed Biofilm Reactor (MBBR) technology and is designed for a 30-year operational period.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Kerala Water Authority (KWA): State body responsible for water supply and sewerage management in Kerala
- **S&T:** MBBR (Moving Bed Biofilm Reactor): A fixed-film activated sludge process used for wastewater treatment
- **Fact:** Project Scope: 27-km pipeline, 5-MLD STP, and 1,400 manholes in Kochi
- **Place:** Kochi: Major port city in Kerala, Kerala's commercial hub

Mains question: Discuss the challenges of urban waste management in coastal cities and evaluate the role of decentralized sewage treatment in preserving aquatic ecosystems.

Source: The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/82275

Internal Security

Border management · Prelims + Mains · 10 Jul

Report abnormal population growth in border areas: Shah to SPs

Why in news: Union Home Minister Amit Shah directed Superintendents of Police (SPs) to report abnormal population growth in border areas caused by illegal migration to curb demographic changes.

Key facts: The government plans to fence 1,610 km of the India-Myanmar border at an estimated cost of ₹31,000 crore. A quadrangular security grid and a demography mission are being proposed to study and counter infiltration and radicalization patterns.

Prelims pointers

- **Fact:** India-Myanmar border length to be fenced: 1,610 km
- **Fact:** Estimated cost for India-Myanmar border fencing: ₹31,000 crore
- **Post:** Amit Shah: Union Home Minister of India
- **Place:** India-Myanmar border: Shared by India and Myanmar

Mains question: Discuss the security and demographic implications of illegal migration along India's porous borders and evaluate the effectiveness of physical fencing as a primary deterrent.

Source: The Hindu · [satyadheesh.in/news/80699](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/80699)

Terrorism & insurgency (J&K, North-East) · Prelims + Mains · 11 Jul

Centre committee justifies 'Satluj' ban, citing threat to sovereignty under IT Act

Why in news: A Central committee justified the ban on the film 'Satluj' under Section 69A of the IT Act, citing threats to India's sovereignty and integrity.

Key facts: The film 'Satluj', starring Diljit Dosanjh, was removed from the ZEE5 platform following its release. The committee's justification for the ban is based on the film's depiction of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra and an 'unbalanced' narrative.

Prelims pointers

- **Act / Bill:** Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000: Empowers the government to issue directions to block public access to information online.
- **Body:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY): The nodal ministry responsible for implementing IT Act regulations.
- **Fact:** The ban was specifically justified based on concerns regarding national sovereignty and integrity.

Mains question: Critically examine the balance between the state's power to regulate online content under Section 69A of the IT Act and the fundamental right to freedom of speech.

Source: NDTV · [satyadheesh.in/news/81354](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/81354)

Cyber security · Prelims + Mains · 11 Jul

Telegram loses court battle, government can block entire app overnight

Why in news: The Delhi High Court upheld the Government of India's authority to block the entire Telegram app to prevent exam-related cheating and illegal content leaks.

Key facts: The Delhi High Court ruled that the government can block entire applications if their architecture is susceptible to abuse. This decision shifts the burden onto tech companies to proactively design platforms that prevent illegal activities rather than just reacting to individual posts.

Prelims pointers

- **Body:** Telegram is a cloud-based instant messaging service known for its end-to-end encryption and large group capabilities.
- **Fact:** The Delhi High Court confirmed the government's power to block entire apps overnight based on architectural vulnerabilities.
- **Post:** The Government of India exercises blocking powers under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules.

Mains question: Discuss the legal and technical challenges in balancing the right to freedom of speech with the state's necessity to regulate encrypted messaging platforms to prevent cyber-crimes.

Source: Indian Express · [satyadheesh.in/news/81396](https://www.satyadheesh.in/news/81396)

Practice — Mains questions

1. Examine how the deepening of India-Australia ties in the nuclear and maritime sectors contributes to the strategic stability of the Indo-Pacific region. · GS2
2. Discuss the significance of India's deepening strategic partnerships with middle powers like New Zealand in diversifying its global economic and security architecture. · GS2
3. Analyze the geopolitical implications of maritime insecurity in the Strait of Hormuz on global energy markets and regional stability in the Middle East. · GS2
4. Analyze the geopolitical implications of the Strait of Hormuz's closure on global energy security and the maritime trade routes of the Middle East. · GS2
5. Discuss how the shift towards indigenous defense manufacturing under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative enhances India's maritime security and strategic autonomy. · GS3
6. Discuss how fiscal incentives like import duty waivers contribute to India's goal of becoming a global electronics manufacturing hub. · GS3
7. Examine how deepening bilateral trade agreements with nations like New Zealand contribute to India's objective of becoming a global manufacturing and export hub. · GS2
8. Discuss the technological challenges and safety protocols involved in developing indigenous human spaceflight capabilities for India's Gaganyaan mission. · GS3
9. Discuss the risks associated with the concentration of AI compute power and the necessity of international governance frameworks to ensure equitable technological distribution. · GS3
10. Examine how the shift in India's stance on the Indus Waters Treaty reflects the intersection of national security concerns and hydro-diplomacy in the region. · GS2
11. Discuss the geological significance of mid-ocean ridge spreading in the context of plate tectonics and the formation of the Earth's oceanic crust. · GS1
12. Discuss the potential of hydrogen fuel cell technology in decarbonizing the Indian railway network and the logistical challenges in establishing a nationwide hydrogen infrastructure. · GS3
13. How does cultural diplomacy and joint heritage conservation serve as a tool for strengthening India-Indonesia bilateral relations and soft power? · GS2
14. Discuss the legal and technical challenges in balancing the right to freedom of speech with the state's necessity to regulate encrypted messaging platforms to prevent cyber-crimes. · GS3
15. Examine how India's maritime diplomacy and the SAGAR initiative serve as a counter-strategy to China's 'String of Pearls' in the Indo-Pacific region. · GS2

Prelims quick revision

- **Fact:** Uranium supply agreement signed on July 9, 2026
- **Body:** Australia is a key supplier of uranium for India's civil nuclear power projects
- **Place:** The agreement aims to ensure peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region
- **Fact:** Target bilateral trade volume: NZ\$7 billion (Rs 35,000 crore) by 2030
- **Body:** Strategic Partnership: A formal diplomatic status elevating bilateral cooperation beyond standard trade ties
- **Place:** Auckland: The location of the high-level meeting between the Indian and New Zealand leadership
- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic maritime chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman.
- **Place:** Kharg Island: A major Iranian oil and gas production and export hub.
- **Fact:** The interim peace agreement between the US and Iran was signed in June.

- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- **Body:** US Central Command (CENTCOM): A unified combatant command of the United States Armed Forces responsible for the Middle East.
- **Fact:** Iran attacked five specific Gulf nations: Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Qatar, and Oman.
- **Fact:** INS Mahendragiri is the sixth frigate commissioned under Project 17A.
- **Fact:** The warship has a full-load displacement of approximately 6,670 tonnes and a top speed of 28 knots.
- **Fact:** The vessel features over 75% indigenous content and is capable of being fitted with BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles.
- **Fact:** Exemption covers 85 specific capital goods for lithium-ion cell manufacturing.
- **Fact:** Duty waiver is valid until March 2029.
- **Fact:** Inputs exempted include display assemblies and inductor-coil modules for wireless charging.
- **Fact:** Total trade between India and New Zealand reached \$2.4 billion in 2024
- **Fact:** Current free trade agreement eliminates 95% of tariffs on goods
- **Fact:** 57% of New Zealand's exports to India will be tariff-free from day one of the new arrangement
- **S&T:** Gaganyaan: India's first human spaceflight mission aimed at sending a crew of three to an orbit of 400 km.
- **S&T:** Cold-gas-based uprighting system: A mechanism used to orient the spacecraft in an upright position after landing in water (splashdown).
- **S&T:** ISRO: The space agency under the Department of Space, Ministry of Science and Technology.
- **S&T:** Independent International Scientific Panel on AI: A 40-member body commissioned by the UN to assess AI safety.
- **Fact:** Compute Divide: A term referring to the unequal distribution of high-performance computing power between nations.
- **Post:** Yoshua Bengio: Co-chair of the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI.
- **Intl. org:** Indus Waters Treaty: Bilateral water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan signed in 1960.
- **Fact:** Chenab-Beas Link Tunnel: Planned length of 8.7 km for water diversion.
- **Place:** Chandra River: Source of water for the proposed diversion into the Beas basin.
- **Place:** Southeast Indian Ridge: A mid-ocean ridge located in the Indian Ocean where tectonic plates diverge.
- **S&T:** OHA-GEODAMS: A project utilizing in-situ instruments to monitor seafloor spreading and tectonic activity.
- **Fact:** Volume of lava: Over 160 million cubic metres of lava were created during the observed spreading event.
- **S&T:** Hydrogen fuel cells generate electricity through a chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen, emitting only water as a byproduct.
- **Fact:** The Jind-Sonipat hydrogen train project has a total estimated cost of Rs 136 crore.
- **Fact:** The train is capable of making two round trips daily, consuming 300 kg of hydrogen per trip.
- **Body:** Archaeological Survey of India (ASI): The apex body for archaeological research and conservation in India.
- **Place:** Prambanan Temple: A 9th-century Hindu temple compound located in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

- **S&T:** LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging): A remote sensing technology used for high-precision 3D mapping and documentation of heritage sites.
- **Body:** Telegram is a cloud-based instant messaging service known for its end-to-end encryption and large group capabilities.
- **Fact:** The Delhi High Court confirmed the government's power to block entire apps overnight based on architectural vulnerabilities.
- **Post:** The Government of India exercises blocking powers under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules.
- **Intl. org:** SAGAR: Security and Growth for All in the Region; an Indian maritime initiative.
- **Intl. org:** Quad: A strategic security dialogue between India, USA, Japan, and Australia.
- **Fact:** String of Pearls: A Chinese maritime strategy involving strategic infrastructure investments in ports across the Indian Ocean.
- **Place:** Strait of Hormuz: A strategic waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- **Fact:** India is highly vulnerable to crude price volatility due to its high reliance on crude oil imports.
- **S&T:** Crude oil price volatility directly impacts global inflation and trade deficits.
- **Intl. org:** Gaganyaan: India's first human spaceflight mission to send an astronaut into orbit.
- **Fact:** The PACTS framework focuses on supply chain resilience and technology sharing between India and Australia.
- **Place:** Melbourne Cricket Ground: Venue for the trade and defence framework agreement in Australia.
- **S&T:** Long March-10B: A Chinese orbital rocket booster designed for reusable technology.
- **Fact:** China's space strategy focuses on industrial execution and deployment scalability over pure scientific discovery.
- **Place:** South China Sea: The location where the first sea-based rocket capture occurred.
- **Fact:** Estimated economic loss due to frequent elections: ₹7 lakh crore
- **Fact:** Target year for operationalizing 'One Nation, One Election': 2029
- **Body:** Joint Committee of Parliament: Body tasked with examining Bills on simultaneous elections
- **Fact:** Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education reached 30% in 2023-24.
- **Fact:** Female GER (31.2%) exceeded male GER (28.9%) in the 2023-24 survey.
- **Fact:** Gender Parity Index (GPI) in higher education stands at 1.08 as of 2023-24.
- **Fact:** Rainfall in eastern Indus basin rivers declined by 20% between 1951 and 2024.
- **Fact:** Western rivers of the Indus basin saw a 6% reduction in precipitation during the same period.
- **Place:** Sutlej and Ravi sub-basins are identified as areas with significant groundwater depletion.
- **Fact:** India-Myanmar border length to be fenced: 1,610 km
- **Fact:** Estimated cost for India-Myanmar border fencing: ₹31,000 crore
- **Post:** Amit Shah: Union Home Minister of India
- **Place:** Bushehr: Province in Iran housing the country's only civilian nuclear power plant.
- **Body:** IAEA: International body responsible for nuclear safeguards and safety standards.
- **Fact:** The strikes occurred on a Thursday in the current calendar year.
- **Fact:** India's four largest metropolises lose an estimated Rs 1.47 lakh crore annually due to traffic congestion.
- **Fact:** Bengaluru experiences lost productive hours amounting to approximately Rs 11.7 billion.
- **Fact:** Delhi workers face annual income penalties of up to Rs 25,900 due to traffic delays.

- **Act / Bill:** UAPA: Enacted in 1967 to provide for the prevention of unlawful activities and terrorism.
- **Body:** POAC: A UK-based independent body that reviews the government's decision to proscribe organizations.
- **Fact:** UAPA is characterized by a historically low conviction rate despite high-profile arrests.
- **Fact:** India's surface air temperature rose by 0.7°C during the period 1901-2018.
- **S&T:** Climate change increases atmospheric moisture capacity, leading to more intense storm systems.
- **Environment:** Monsoon variability in India is characterized by shorter dry spells and intense rainfall bursts.
- **Fact:** RBI's US Treasury holdings fell below \$232 billion from the 2022 peak.
- **Fact:** India's gold reserves currently stand at 881 metric tonnes.

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