

**SATYADHEESH**
सत्याधीश

UPSC WEEKLY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs • Week 33 • 10 Aug – 16 Aug 2026**50**

NOTES

49

STORIES MERGED

GS1 • 4

GS2 • 21

GS3 • 25

PAPER MIX

CONTENTS**Every note, grouped by paper****GS1 History • Society • Geography** 4 notes

History & Culture 2

Indian Society 2

GS2 Polity • Governance • Social Justice • IR 21 notes

Polity & Constitution 6

Governance 3

International Relations 12

GS3 Economy • S&T • Environment • Security 25 notes

Economy 14

Science & Technology 7

Environment & Ecology 1

Internal Security 3

HOW EACH NOTE READS

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

SHORT ON TIME?

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

History & Culture

2

MODERN INDIA & FREEDOM STRUGGLE

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7 REPORTS MERGED

13 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/103088

National Song Vande Mataram Sung Before National Anthem for First Time on Independence Day

WHY IN NEWS The Centre mandated that the National Song 'Vande Mataram' be sung before the National Anthem for the first time on Independence Day under a new amendment act.

ACT / BILL	Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 (amended in 2026)
FACT	Vande Mataram duration: approximately 3 minutes 10 seconds
FACT	Vande Mataram was adopted as the National Song on its 150th anniversary in 2026
POST	Bankim Chandra Chatterjee is the author of Vande Mataram

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of national symbols in fostering a sense of collective identity and unity among the diverse populace of India.

USE: National Identity Cultural Heritage Legislative Framework Symbolism National Integration

MODERN INDIA & FREEDOM STRUGGLE

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15 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/104827

The Mountbatten Plan: How June 3 sealed the Partition of India

WHY IN NEWS The Mountbatten Plan and the subsequent Indian Independence Act of 1947 are highlighted as the foundational legal and political framework for the partition of India.

POST	Lord Mountbatten served as the last Viceroy of India.
ACT / BILL	The Indian Independence Act of 1947 was the legislative instrument that ended British rule.
FACT	The Mountbatten Plan was proposed on June 3, 1947.

MAINS Q Discuss how the Mountbatten Plan and the Indian Independence Act of 1947 shaped the geopolitical and social landscape of the Indian subcontinent.

USE: Partition Decolonization Communal Violence Transfer of Power

Indian Society

2

POPULATION, DEMOGRAPHY & MIGRATION

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2 REPORTS MERGED

14 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/103890

The Population Census 2027, the first digital and caste-enumerating Census in independent

WHY IN NEWS The Population Census 2027 is significant as it marks the first digital and caste-enumerating census in independent India.

FACT	Population Census 2027 is the first digital census in independent India.
FACT	Housing Listing Operations (HLO) concluded on September 30, 2026.
FACT	Self-enumeration for the census is available from August 17 to August 31, 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of digital census enumeration and the inclusion of caste data in planning socio-economic development in India.

USE: Digital Census Demographic profiling Socio-economic planning Data integrity

Census 2027: India Expands Questionnaire to 40, Adding Caste Beyond 29 Categories

WHY IN NEWS The Census 2027 will expand its questionnaire to 40 questions, including a shift to recording caste information from all respondents beyond the previous 29 categories.

FACT | Census 2027 questionnaire expanded to 40 questions.

FACT | Caste information will be recorded from all respondents for the first time since Independence.

FACT | The new system moves beyond the previous 29 caste categories to an open-column approach.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of comprehensive caste data collection in the Census for inclusive policymaking and social justice in India.

USE: [Demographic data](#) [Inclusive policymaking](#) [Social justice](#) [Data-driven governance](#)

Polity & Constitution

6

PARLIAMENT & STATE LEGISLATURES

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5 REPORTS MERGED

10 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/100762

Lok Sabha Passes Tribunals Reforms Bill 2026 Amid Protests

WHY IN NEWS The Lok Sabha passed the Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026, which seeks to establish a National Tribunals Commission to ensure independence in tribunal appointments.

ACT / BILL	Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026 aims to establish a National Tribunals Commission.
FACT	The National Tribunals Commission will comprise a chairperson and four members (2 judicial, 2 technical).
BODY	The bill seeks to improve efficiency and independence in tribunal appointments.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of establishing an independent commission for tribunal appointments in ensuring the rule of law and judicial efficiency in India.

USE: Judicial independence Administrative efficiency Separation of powers Statutory bodies Rule of law

CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENTS & BASIC STRUCTURE

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2 REPORTS MERGED

12 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/101838

President Murmu Signs Bill Criminalizing Disruption of Vande Mataram, Stirring Debate

WHY IN NEWS President Droupadi Murmu gave assent to the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which criminalizes the disruption of singing Vande Mataram.

ACT / BILL	Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026
FACT	Vande Mataram is now legally protected from disruption similar to the National Anthem
POST	President Droupadi Murmu gave the final assent to the bill

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of national symbols in fostering collective identity and the legal implications of criminalizing the disruption of national songs.

USE: National Honour Legislative Assent Collective Identity Public Order Symbolism

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, DPSP & DUTIES

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13 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/103099

Supreme Court to Hear 2003 Case on Press Freedom vs. Legislative Privileges in 2026

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court scheduled a seven-judge Constitution Bench to decide if legislative privileges can override the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression.

CONSTITUTION	Article 19(1)(a) guarantees the freedom of speech and expression to all citizens.
BODY	A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court consists of at least five judges.
FACT	The case was referred to a seven-judge bench in December 2004 due to its legal complexity.

MAINS Q Examine the conflict between parliamentary/legislative privileges and the fundamental right to freedom of speech. Can privileges be used to curtail democratic dissent?

USE: Constitutional Bench Legislative Privileges Freedom of Speech Judicial Review Democratic Dissent

Supreme Court to Hear MP Rahim's Petition on Unconstitutional Facial Recognition Use Against Protesters

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court is hearing a petition by MP A.A. Rahim challenging the use of facial recognition technology and mass surveillance against protesters as a violation of constitutional rights.

S&T	Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) uses biometric data to identify individuals in real-time or from stored images.
BODY	The Supreme Court of India has the power of judicial review to strike down executive actions that violate Fundamental Rights.
FACT	The petition highlights the involvement of private agencies in hosting government-collected biometric data.

MAINS Q Critically examine the tension between state surveillance for public order and the fundamental right to privacy in a democratic setup.

USE: Right to Privacy Mass Surveillance Biometric Data Judicial Review Proportionality

Supreme Court rules direct communication essential for every arrest in India

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court ruled in Vihaan Kumar v. State of Haryana that direct communication of arrest grounds to the individual is mandatory to prevent arbitrary use of power.

CONSTITUTION	Article 22(1) guarantees the right to be informed of grounds of arrest and to consult a legal practitioner.
ACT / BILL	Section 50 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) mandates informing the person of the grounds of arrest.
POST	The Supreme Court is the highest judicial body in India, exercising judicial review over executive actions.

MAINS Q Critically examine the importance of procedural safeguards during arrest in ensuring the protection of fundamental rights against arbitrary state action.

USE: Arbitrary power Procedural safeguards Due process Judicial review Fundamental rights

Census Overhaul: Modi Approves Full Caste Enumeration for All Respondents

WHY IN NEWS The Registrar General of India notified a major overhaul in the Census methodology, including full caste enumeration for all respondents, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs.

ACT / BILL	Census Act, 1948: The primary legislation governing the conduct of the census in India.
BODY	Registrar General of India: The primary authority responsible for the census and demographic data collection.
FACT	Full caste enumeration: A shift from only enumerating Scheduled Castes and Tribes to including all respondents.
PLACE	Snow-bound areas: Ladakh, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand are the first regions for population enumeration.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of comprehensive caste enumeration in the Census for inclusive policy formulation and social justice in India.

USE: Demographic profiling Social justice Data-driven policy Inclusivity Census Act

BILLS, ACTS & ORDINANCES

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2 REPORTS MERGED

13 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/103400

The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 was passed to balance national mineral growth with federal rights over resources

WHY IN NEWS The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 was passed to balance national mineral growth with federal rights over resources.

ACT / BILL | Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026

FACT | The amendment applies only to major minerals; minor minerals remain under State control.

POST | G. Kishan Reddy is the Union Minister for Coal and Mines.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 in balancing industrial growth with federalism in India.

USE: federalism resource equity regulatory framework industrial growth

BILLS, ACTS & ORDINANCES

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15 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/104275

Information and Broadcasting ministry removes 12-minute ad cap for TV channels

WHY IN NEWS The Information and Broadcasting Ministry removed the 12-minute-per-hour advertisement cap for TV channels to adapt to the evolving digital broadcasting landscape.

BODY | Information and Broadcasting Ministry (IB) is the nodal ministry for television and radio regulations in India.

FACT | The number of TV channels in India has grown from 62 in 2006 to over 900 currently.

FACT | The previous advertisement cap was 12 minutes per hour of broadcast.

MAINS Q Discuss the impact of the removal of television advertisement caps on the regulatory framework of broadcasting and the competitiveness of traditional media against digital platforms.

USE: Regulatory framework Digital disruption Market competition Broadcasting policy

TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY & RTI

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16 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/105229

The CAG report, tabled in Parliament on August 12, found widespread non-compliance

WHY IN NEWS The CAG tabled a report highlighting widespread non-compliance with passenger amenities and hygiene standards at Indian railway stations between 2019-20 and 2023-24.

BODY | CAG: Constitutional body established under Article 148 to audit the accounts of the Union and State governments.

FACT | Audit Period: The report covers the period from 2019-20 to 2023-24.

FACT | Non-compliance: Over 89% of the 512 selected non-suburban grade stations were found deficient.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of the CAG in ensuring public accountability and infrastructure quality in public service delivery. How can the findings be used to improve railway amenities?

USE: public accountability audit findings infrastructure deficit sanitation standards transparency

INDIA & NEIGHBOURHOOD

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M

6 REPORTS MERGED

10 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/100541

Amid tensions over Sheikh Hasina's press event in Delhi, Dinesh Trivedi met

WHY IN NEWS India and Bangladesh are navigating strained diplomatic ties following the transition of power in Bangladesh and tensions over Sheikh Hasina's press event in Delhi.

BODY | BIMSTEC: Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation

BODY | BRICS: An intergovernmental organization comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa

FACT | Tarique Rahman is the current Prime Minister of Bangladesh

MAINS Q Discuss the evolving dynamics of India-Bangladesh relations in the wake of recent political transitions and their implications for regional security.

USE: sovereignty extradition bilateral ties regional stability geopolitical shift

INDIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS

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3 REPORTS MERGED

10 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/100712

The United States Senate approved the Lindsey Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran

WHY IN NEWS The US Senate approved the Lindsey Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, which allows for tariffs on third-country importers of Russian energy, potentially impacting India.

FACT | The Lindsey Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act allows for tariffs up to 100%.

PLACE | The US Senate is the upper house of the United States Congress.

FACT | The House is scheduled to finalize the bill on August 31.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of unilateral sanctions by major powers on the energy security and trade relations of neutral nations like India.

USE: Unilateral sanctions Energy security Trade barriers Geopolitical alignment Economic diplomacy

INDIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS

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2 REPORTS MERGED

12 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/101829

NASA Invites ISRO to Join Moon Base Program Near Lunar South Pole

WHY IN NEWS NASA invited ISRO to join its Moon Base programme near the lunar South Pole during the 9th India-U.S. Civil Space Joint Working Group meeting.

S&T | Artemis Accords: A multilateral agreement for cooperation in civil space exploration.

S&T | TRUST Initiative: A U.S.-India initiative focused on space cooperation.

POST | ISRO Chairman: V. Narayanan (as of the meeting date).

FACT | The Moon Base program is specifically targeting the lunar South Pole.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the Artemis Accords and bilateral space cooperation in establishing India as a leading global space power.

USE: Space Diplomacy Strategic Partnership Lunar Exploration Technological Collaboration

Iran, US in Strait of Hormuz Standoff; Talks Aim to Reopen Strait

WHY IN NEWS The standoff between Iran and the US over the Strait of Hormuz highlights the geopolitical tension regarding maritime security and the impact of economic sanctions.

- PLACE** | Strait of Hormuz: A strategic waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- FACT** | Iran seeks the lifting of US sanctions and the release of frozen assets as part of its demands.
- PLACE** | Oman and Pakistan are currently involved in mediation efforts to reopen the strait and facilitate peace talks.

MAINS Q Analyze the significance of the Strait of Hormuz in global energy security and discuss the implications of maritime blockades on international trade.

USE: Geopolitical standoff Maritime security Energy security Economic sanctions Diplomatic mediation

U.S. Report Names Pune-Gujarat-Chennai Belt in 'Great Transshipment Scam'

WHY IN NEWS The White House released a report naming India's Pune-Gujarat-Chennai belt as a hub for illegal transshipment to help China evade U.S. tariffs.

- FACT** | The U.S. imposed a 10% tariff on India for failing to curb forced labor imports.
- PLACE** | The Pune-Gujarat-Chennai belt was specifically identified as a transshipment hub.
- FACT** | The report identifies over 40 countries associated with illegal transshipment risks.

MAINS Q Discuss the impact of trade-related allegations and tariff impositions on India's 'Make in India' initiative and its bilateral trade relations with the United States.

USE: Trade Evasion Supply Chain Integrity Tariff Imposition Geopolitical Friction Transshipment

Turkey, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia Sign Mutual Defence Pact Mirroring NATO's Article 5

WHY IN NEWS Turkey, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia signed a mutual defence pact where an attack on one member is considered an attack on all, mirroring NATO's Article 5.

- INTL. ORG** | NATO Article 5: A collective defense clause stating that an attack against one member is an attack against all.
- FACT** | Signatories of the new pact: Turkey, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia.
- S&T** | The pact emphasizes cooperation in the defense industry for technological and military advancement.

MAINS Q Analyze the implications of emerging trilateral defense pacts in West Asia and Central Asia on regional security architecture and India's 'Neighborhood First' policy.

USE: Collective Defense Regional Security Defense Diplomacy Strategic Alignment Geopolitical Realignment

India Suspends Indus Waters Treaty with "Terror-Harboring" Pakistan on Independence Eve

WHY IN NEWS President Droupadi Murmu announced the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan due to cross-border terrorism.

- INTL. ORG** | Indus Waters Treaty (IWT): A water-sharing treaty between India and Pakistan signed in 1960.
- FACT** | Operation Sindoor: A military operation cited by the President regarding the fight against terrorism.
- POST** | President Droupadi Murmu: The current President of India.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of suspending the Indus Waters Treaty on India-Pakistan bilateral relations and regional water security.

USE: bilateral relations water diplomacy cross-border terrorism sovereignty

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman of Bangladesh will visit India for bilateral talks

WHY IN NEWS PM Tarique Rahman of Bangladesh is scheduled to visit India for bilateral talks to reset strained ties and revive stalled infrastructure projects.

PLACE	Agartala-Akhaura rail-link: Connects Northeast India with Bangladesh.
FACT	India extended \$8 billion in Lines of Credit to Bangladesh between 2009–2019.
POST	Dinesh Trivedi: Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh.
BODY	BRICS: A multi-national forum where Dhaka preferred a bilateral meeting over a multilateral interaction.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of infrastructure connectivity in strengthening India's 'Neighborhood First' policy with Bangladesh.

USE: Neighborhood First Cross-border connectivity Lines of Credit Strategic autonomy Bilateral diplomacy

India Races to Match China: IAC-2 Awaits Approval as Fujian Nears 2026 Operational Capabilities

WHY IN NEWS India is accelerating the development of its third aircraft carrier (IAC-2) to counter China's Fujian carrier, which is expected to be operational by 2026.

FACT	India currently operates two aircraft carriers: INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant.
FACT	China's Fujian carrier is expected to reach full operational capability by 2026.
S&T	Aircraft carriers are used for power projection and maritime presence.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of aircraft carriers in India's maritime strategy to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

USE: Power projection Maritime security Strategic autonomy Indo-Pacific Naval supremacy

India, Russia Discuss Deep Cooperation Along Strategic Arctic Route NSR

WHY IN NEWS India and Russia are discussing deeper cooperation on the Northern Sea Route (NSR) to enhance Arctic maritime connectivity and trade.

PLACE	Northern Sea Route (NSR): A maritime route along the Russian Arctic coast connecting and Europe.
FACT	INSTC: A multi-modal network connecting India, Iran, Afghanistan, and Russia.
FACT	Chennai-Vladivostok: A proposed maritime corridor connecting India's eastern coast to the Russian Far East.

MAINS Q Discuss the strategic and economic significance of the Northern Sea Route for India's maritime connectivity and its role in diversifying trade routes.

USE: Strategic autonomy Maritime connectivity Arctic geopolitics Trade diversification Multimodal transport

US to warn 35 countries to choose between US-led AI initiative and China's framework

WHY IN NEWS The US State Department is pressuring 35 countries to choose between the US-led 'Pax Silica' initiative and China's AI framework to secure technological hegemony.

S&T	Pax Silica: A US-led initiative aimed at establishing standards and leadership in Artificial Intelligence.
FACT	35 countries are currently signatories of the US 'AI Opportunity Statement'.
S&T	Critical minerals and semiconductors are identified as key resources in the global AI race.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of 'technological decoupling' and the emergence of competing AI frameworks on global governance and international trade.

USE: technological decoupling strategic autonomy semiconductor diplomacy digital hegemony

Putin Orders Russia to Target NATO and EU from Within in Secret Meeting

WHY IN NEWS Reports suggest Russia is planning a dual-track strategy to destabilize NATO and the EU from within while seeking to annex Moldova.

INTL. ORG | NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a collective defense alliance.

PLACE | Moldova: A landlocked country in Eastern Europe bordering Romania, Ukraine, and the Black Sea.

FACT | Russia has conducted strikes on Ukrainian hydroelectric plants affecting Moldova's water and electricity.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of hybrid warfare and infrastructure sabotage on European security and the collective defense mechanisms of NATO.

USE: [hybrid warfare](#) [collective defense](#) [infrastructure sabotage](#) [geopolitical destabilization](#)

Economy

14

CAPITAL MARKETS & SEBI

P

2 REPORTS MERGED

12 Aug · Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/101748

SEBI Allows FPIs to Trade in Non-Agricultural Commodity Derivatives, Sets Strict Unwinding Rules

WHY IN NEWS SEBI issued a circular allowing Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to trade in non-cash settled non-agricultural commodity derivatives to enhance market liquidity.

- BODY** | SEBI: Securities and Exchange Board of India, the regulator for securities and commodity markets.
- FACT** | FPIs: Foreign Portfolio Investors are permitted to trade in non-cash settled non-agricultural commodity derivatives under the new framework.
- FACT** | T-3 Rule: FPIs must voluntarily square off or roll over positions by the close of market hours on the day preceding the tender period, or face automatic transfer.
- FACT** | CDAC: Commodity Derivatives Advisory Committee provided deliberations for this regulatory shift.

MAINS Q Discuss how deepening institutional participation in commodity derivatives can enhance price discovery and market liquidity in the Indian economy.

USE: liquidity price discovery institutional participation market depth regulatory safeguards

INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT & MSMEs

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2 REPORTS MERGED

12 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/102506

NCDC's mandate expands to direct loans and grants for cooperatives without extra funding

WHY IN NEWS The Rajya Sabha passed the National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, expanding the NCDC's mandate to provide direct loans and grants to cooperatives.

- ACT / BILL** | National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026
- BODY** | NCDC: A statutory body established to provide credit and support to cooperative societies
- FACT** | The amendment allows for direct financial assistance without extra government funding

MAINS Q Discuss how the expansion of the NCDC's mandate can strengthen the cooperative movement and contribute to rural industrial development in India.

USE: cooperative movement financial autonomy industrial goods streamlined assistance

INFRASTRUCTURE (ENERGY, PORTS, ROADS, RAILWAYS)

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12 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/102576

Under new NHAI rules, ambulances on National Highways must reach accidents within

WHY IN NEWS NHAI issued new rules mandating strict response timelines for ambulances on National Highways to reduce mortality from road accidents.

- BODY** | NHAI: National Highways Authority of India
- FACT** | Penalty of up to Rs 10,000 per incident for non-compliance with response timelines
- S&T** | NHAI Care Dashboard and GPS tracking are used for real-time monitoring of ambulance movements
- FACT** | Ambulance must reach the hospital within 1 hour of alert acceptance

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of establishing strict service-level benchmarks in emergency medical services to improve road safety and reduce mortality rates in India.

USE: Golden Hour Service-level benchmarks Real-time monitoring Accountability Road safety

Bank credit growth accelerates to 19.4% in June 14, 2024

WHY IN NEWS Bank credit growth hit a multi-year high of 19.4% in June 2024, reflecting robust credit demand and significant FCNR-B inflows.

- FACT** | Bank credit growth reached 19.4% in June 2024, the fastest pace in recent years.
- FACT** | FCNR-B (Foreign Currency Non-Resident Bank) deposits accounted for \$36.72 billion of the \$41 billion inflows by July 31.
- FACT** | Outstanding bank credit as of July 2024: Rs 220.8 lakh crore.
- FACT** | FCNR-B scheme introduced in June is expected to run until September 30, 2026.

MAINS Q Analyze the implications of accelerating bank credit growth and rising FCNR-B inflows on India's monetary stability and MSME development.

USE: credit growth FCNR-B MSME lending liquidity monetary stability

The Securities and Exchange Board of India plans to allow companies

WHY IN NEWS SEBI is proposing to expand the eligibility of companies for SME platform IPOs to increase investor participation and reduce costs for issuers.

- BODY** | SEBI: The primary regulator for the securities and capital markets in India.
- FACT** | Proposed market value limit for SME platform IPOs: Rs 4,000 crore.
- FACT** | Current market value limit for SME platform IPOs: Rs 5 billion.
- S&T** | Underwriting: A process where a financial institution guarantees the sale of issued securities.

MAINS Q Discuss how simplifying the IPO process for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) can contribute to deepening the Indian capital markets and fostering entrepreneurship.

USE: Capital formation Market liquidity Ease of doing business Investor participation Regulatory overhaul

Bill Strips States of Mineral Tax Power, Leaving 11 Affected Regions in Fiscal Limbo

WHY IN NEWS The Lok Sabha passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, which restricts states' power to tax mineral rights, impacting federal fiscal autonomy.

- ACT / BILL** | Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026
- FACT** | The bill affects 11 states including Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh.
- FACT** | The bill nullifies mineral tax arrears dating back to 2005.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, on the fiscal federalism and revenue-sharing dynamics between the Centre and States.

USE: Fiscal Federalism Revenue Autonomy Mineral Rights Centralization Resource Governance

Sebi Proposes Credit Risk-o-Meter with Six Color Codes to Simplify Ratings for Investors

WHY IN NEWS Sebi proposed a 'Credit Risk-o-Meter' to simplify complex credit ratings for debt securities to enhance investor protection.

- BODY** | SEBI: Statutory body regulating the securities and commodity markets in India
- FACT** | The proposed Credit Risk-o-Meter uses six distinct color codes to represent risk levels
- FACT** | Sebi requested public comments on the proposal until September 3

MAINS Q Discuss how simplifying credit rating disclosures can enhance investor protection and transparency in the Indian debt market.

USE: Transparency Investor Protection Debt Securities Risk Assessment Market Regulation

Youth Unemployment Soars to 16.2%, Young Women Face 20.7% Job Hunt Struggles

WHY IN NEWS The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) reported a significant spike in youth unemployment, highlighting a widening gender and urban-rural divide in the job market.

- FACT** | Youth unemployment rate in India reached 16.2% in June 2026.
- FACT** | Urban youth unemployment (18.2%) is higher than rural youth unemployment (15.1%).
- FACT** | Female youth unemployment (20.7%) is significantly higher than male youth unemployment (14.6%).
- BODY** | Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) is the primary source for unemployment data in India.

MAINS Q Analyze the factors contributing to the widening gender and urban-rural gap in youth unemployment in India and suggest measures to enhance inclusive job creation.

USE: structural unemployment gender disparity demographic dividend skill mismatch inclusive growth

SEBI Allows OBPPs to Offer Products Regulated by RBI IRDAI IFSCA PFRDA

WHY IN NEWS SEBI has expanded the scope for Online Bond Platforms (OBPPs) to offer products regulated by multiple financial bodies, aiming to deepen the capital markets.

- BODY** | SEBI: Securities and Exchange Board of India, regulates the securities market.
- BODY** | IRDAI: Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India.
- BODY** | IFSCA: International Financial Services Centres Authority.
- BODY** | PFRDA: Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority.
- FACT** | Sections 54EC and 85 of tax acts relate to tax-saving bonds and capital gains.

MAINS Q Discuss how the expansion of Online Bond Platforms (OBPPs) can enhance retail participation in the Indian debt market and the regulatory challenges involved.

USE: Capital Market Regulatory Framework Financial Inclusion Asset Allocation Compliance

Defence budget soars to ₹7.85 lakh crore, R&D gets 90% boost: Rajnath Singh

WHY IN NEWS Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced a significant hike in the defence budget and R&D allocation to bolster self-reliance in manufacturing.

- FACT** | Defence budget for 2026–27: ₹7.85 lakh crore
- FACT** | Defence R&D allocation increase: 90%
- FACT** | Defence exports reached an all-time high of ₹38,424 crore
- FACT** | Domestic production in FY 25–26: ₹1.78 lakh crore

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of increasing R&D and domestic manufacturing in achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in the defence sector.

USE: self-reliance modernization R&D procurement reforms strategic autonomy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the 'Sapta Dhara' framework at Red Fort

WHY IN NEWS PM Modi unveiled the 'Sapta Dhara' framework on Independence Day 2026 as a seven-point roadmap to achieve the goal of a developed India (Viksit Bharat) by 2047.

- FACT** | Sapta Dhara framework aims for a developed India by the year 2047.
- FACT** | The framework includes 'Green and Blue Economy' as key pillars of development.
- FACT** | Manufacturing goal: Establishing India as a trusted global supply chain partner.
- FACT** | Agriculture focus: Enhancing access to global markets through Free Trade Agreements (FTAs).

MAINS Q Discuss how the 'Sapta Dhara' framework can position India as a global manufacturing and supply chain hub while ensuring sustainable growth in the green and blue economies.

USE: Viksit Bharat Value chain Global competitiveness Sustainable development Soft power

RBI to close FCNR(B) swaps a month earlier due to gush

WHY IN NEWS The RBI announced the closure of the swap facility for FCNR(B) deposits for new mobilizations after August 31, impacting foreign currency deposit management.

- BODY** | RBI: The Reserve Bank of India is the central bank of India.
- FACT** | FCNR(B) deposits accounted for \$52.30 billion out of a total \$56.84 billion in foreign inflows as of August 13.
- FACT** | The swap facility for FCNR(B) deposits will be available for swaps availed until September 11, 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of FCNR(B) deposits in managing India's external debt and the role of the RBI in regulating foreign currency liquidity.

USE: liquidity management foreign currency deposits monetary policy external debt capital flows

According to the Maddison Project Database 2023, India's GDP per capita fell

WHY IN NEWS The Maddison Project Database 2023 highlights India's long-term GDP per capita trajectory, showcasing the impact of colonial history and post-1990s reforms.

- FACT** | India's GDP per capita was 32% of the global average in 1940.
- FACT** | India's projected GDP growth rate for 2026 is 6.4%.
- FACT** | Maddison Project Database is a primary source for historical GDP data.

MAINS Q Analyze the factors that contributed to the stagnation of India's GDP per capita during the colonial period and the role of 1990s reforms in its recovery.

USE: GDP per capita economic trajectory structural reforms growth indicators historical analysis

Taxpayers get immunity: I-T Department launches 60% tax FAST-DS for hidden foreign wealth

WHY IN NEWS The Income Tax Department launched the FAST-DS scheme to encourage small taxpayers to voluntarily disclose hidden foreign assets in exchange for immunity from prosecution.

BODY	Income Tax Department: Responsible for administering direct taxes in India.
FACT	FAST-DS Scheme: Effective tax rate for voluntary disclosure is 60%.
FACT	FAST-DS Scheme: Disclosure window is open until December 31, 2026.
ACT / BILL	Black Money Act: The primary legislation under which penalties and prosecutions for undisclosed foreign assets are governed.

MAINS Q Discuss how voluntary disclosure schemes like FAST-DS can enhance tax compliance and curb money laundering in India.

USE: voluntary disclosure tax compliance money laundering revenue mobilization immunity

Science & Technology

7

Magnetic snaps power 93% of corona's heat, debunking energy loss mystery

WHY IN NEWS Astrophysicists using data from India's Aditya-L1 mission discovered that magnetic snaps power 93% of the solar corona's heat, solving a long-standing energy loss mystery.

S&T	Aditya-L1: India's first dedicated space-based observatory to study the Sun.
FACT	Magnetic snaps and reconnection account for 93% of the solar corona's heat.
S&T	Solar Corona: The outermost layer of the Sun's atmosphere, which remains millions of degrees hotter than the surface.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of India's Aditya-L1 mission in advancing solar physics and its implications for understanding space weather and its impact on Earth.

USE: Solar Physics Aditya-L1 Magnetic Reconnection Space Weather Astrophysics

DRDO faces PMO-directed reforms to become leaner and compete in AI by 2026

WHY IN NEWS The PMO has directed reforms for the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to streamline operations and enhance competitiveness in AI and autonomous systems by 2026.

BODY	DRDO: Defence Research and Development Organisation, the primary R&D wing of the Ministry of Defence.
S&T	Key focus areas for DRDO reforms include AI, semiconductors, and autonomous systems.
FACT	The target year for the completion of these structural reforms is 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced by India's defense R&D ecosystem in achieving self-reliance in emerging technologies like AI and semiconductors.

USE: innovation ecosystem self-reliance structural reforms dual-use technology R&D efficiency

Indian Army gets 84 loiter munition systems in ₹1,577 crore 'Buy Indian' deal

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Defence signed contracts with TASL and NIBE for 84 loiter munition systems to enhance the Indian Army's precision-strike capabilities.

- S&T | Loiter munitions are autonomous systems capable of hovering over a target area before striking.
- FACT | The systems provide precision-strike capabilities up to a range of 100 km.
- FACT | The contract includes 60% overall indigenous content under the 'Buy Indian' category.
- POST | The Ministry of Defence (MoD) is the nodal ministry for defense procurement in India.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the 'Buy Indian' initiative in achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in the defense sector and its impact on India's strategic autonomy.

USE: precision-strike indigenous content Atmanirbhar Bharat defense procurement strategic autonomy

Modi unveils AI training for one crore youth, sports hunt for 10 million kids

WHY IN NEWS PM Modi announced a massive AI skill training initiative for one crore youth and a nationwide sports talent hunt to enhance human capital and technological readiness.

- FACT | Target: AI skill training for 1 crore (10 million) youth within one year.
- FACT | Nuclear Energy Target: 100 GW by the year 2047.
- FACT | Sports Talent Hunt: Targeted at children aged 5 to 15 years.
- S&T | Focus areas include semiconductor manufacturing and AI skill development.

MAINS Q Discuss how the integration of Artificial Intelligence and skill development can drive India's goal of becoming a global manufacturing and technology hub.

USE: Human Capital Digital Literacy Technological Sovereignty Skill India Nuclear Energy

Modi aims for 100 GW nuclear energy by 2047 in ambitious Independence Day speech

WHY IN NEWS PM Modi announced a target of 100 GW of nuclear energy by 2047 in his Independence Day speech to drive India's energy transition.

- FACT | Nuclear energy target: 100 GW by 2047
- S&T | AI training target: 1 crore youth
- S&T | Focus on semiconductor manufacturing expansion

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of nuclear energy in achieving India's net-zero goals and the challenges in scaling up nuclear capacity to 100 GW by 2047.

USE: Energy Transition Decarbonization Nuclear Infrastructure Strategic Autonomy Technological Advancement

NASA Invites ISRO to Join 'Moon Base' Program Near South Pole

WHY IN NEWS NASA invited ISRO to join the 'Moon Base' program near the lunar south pole as part of the Artemis Accords partnership.

- S&T** | Artemis Accords: A multilateral agreement for cooperation in civil space exploration.
- S&T** | Lunar South Pole: Targeted for exploration due to the presence of water-ice deposits in permanently shadowed craters.
- POST** | ISRO: Indian Space Research Organisation, the national space agency of India.
- FACT** | Construction of the Moon Base is planned to commence around the year 2030.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of international cooperation in space exploration and the strategic importance of lunar south pole resources for future human habitation.

USE: Space Diplomacy Lunar Exploration Artemis Accords Technological Collaboration

India Navy nears Rs 70,000 crore deal with Germany for six advanced submarines

WHY IN NEWS The Indian Navy is nearing a ₹70,000 crore deal with Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems to build six advanced submarines under Project 75(I).

- S&T** | Project 75(I): A major submarine procurement programme by the Indian Navy.
- FACT** | Estimated deal value: ₹70,000 crore.
- BODY** | Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL): A prominent public sector shipyard in Mumbai.
- S&T** | Air-independent propulsion: Technology allowing submarines to operate for extended periods without surfacing.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the 'Make in India' initiative in the defence sector and its role in enhancing India's maritime security and self-reliance.

USE: Strategic Autonomy Indigenization Maritime Security Technology Transfer Project 75(I)

Environment & Ecology

1

The CAG report, tabled in Parliament on Wednesday, revealed that the Green

WHY IN NEWS The CAG report highlighted a significant shortfall in the Green India Mission's (GIM) forest cover targets, revealing systemic issues in implementation and monitoring.

- SCHEME** | Green India Mission (GIM): A government initiative to enhance forest/tree cover and improve ecosystem services.
- BODY** | CAG: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is the supreme audit institution of the country.
- FACT** | GIM shortfall: 97.57% discrepancy between target (1.4 million hectares) and achievement (0.03 million hectares).

MAINS Q Critically analyze the challenges in implementing large-scale afforestation schemes in India and suggest measures to ensure better convergence and monitoring.

USE: ecosystem services convergence accountability afforestation audit evaluation

BORDER MANAGEMENT

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2 REPORTS MERGED

11 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/101541

Reports claim Chinese troops crossed the Line of Actual Control (LAC)

WHY IN NEWS Reports of Chinese troops crossing the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh sparked diplomatic friction, highlighting the ongoing tensions in the India-China border management.

- PLACE** | Upper Subansiri is a district in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- FACT** | LAC (Line of Actual Control) is the de facto border between India and China.
- POST** | Randhir Jaiswal serves as the Spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges of managing the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and its implications on India's bilateral relations with China.

USE: [sovereignty](#) [bilateral ties](#) [de-escalation](#) [border management](#) [strategic stability](#)

TERRORISM & INSURGENCY (J&K, NORTH-EAST)

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13 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/103214

UN report attributes Red Fort explosion to AQIS

WHY IN NEWS A UN Security Council report attributed a deadly explosion at the Red Fort to Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), highlighting evolving regional terror tactics.

- PLACE** | Red Fort: A historic fort in Old Delhi, India, and a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- FACT** | AQIS: Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, a regional affiliate of Al-Qaeda.
- BODY** | UN Security Council: The primary organ of the UN responsible for maintaining international peace and security.

MAINS Q Discuss the evolving tactics of regional terror groups like AQIS and the challenges they pose to internal security and regional stability in South Asia.

USE: [asymmetric warfare](#) [transnational terrorism](#) [regional stability](#) [intelligence gathering](#) [counter-terrorism](#)

LEFT-WING EXTREMISM

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M

2 REPORTS MERGED

15 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/104436

Supreme Court urges Kuki, Meitei groups to remove blockades on Manipur highways

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court intervened in the Manipur ethnic conflict, urging Kuki and Meitei groups to remove highway blockades to restore essential services.

- PLACE** | Manipur: A North-Eastern state of India currently facing ethnic conflict between Kuki and Meitei groups.
- FACT** | National Highway 2: A key arterial route in Manipur currently facing blockades.
- POST** | Chief Justice of India (CJI): The highest judicial authority in India, currently held by Surya Kant (as per the article).

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in maintaining internal security and ensuring the flow of essential services in regions plagued by ethnic violence, with reference to the Manipur crisis.

USE: [internal security](#) [ethnic conflict](#) [essential services](#) [judicial intervention](#) [human rights](#)



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