



SATYADHEESH

सत्याधीश

UPSC WEEKLY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs • Week 34 • 17 Aug – 23 Aug 2026

50

NOTES

37

STORIES MERGED

GS2 • 30

GS3 • 20

PAPER MIX

CONTENTS

Every note, grouped by paper

GS2 • Polity • Governance • Social Justice • IR

30 notes

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Governance	3
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GS3 • Economy • S&T • Environment • Security

20 notes

Economy	11
Science & Technology	5
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HOW EACH NOTE READS

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

SHORT ON TIME?

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

Polity & Constitution

12

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

P

M

17 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/106441

Are courts precluded from granting fair, just compensation in nuclear accident: SC asks Centre

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court questioned the constitutionality of a proposed cap on nuclear accident compensation and potential conflicts of interest in the Atomic Energy Regulatory Body (AERB).

- BODY** | AERB: Atomic Energy Regulatory Body is the statutory body responsible for regulating safety and radiation protection in India's nuclear power sector.
- FACT** | The proposed liability cap under the SHANTI Act is ₹3,000 crore.
- POST** | Chief Justice Surya Kant presided over the bench hearing the plea regarding nuclear accident compensation.

MAINS Q Critically examine the balance between industrial liability caps and the protection of fundamental rights in the context of nuclear safety regulations in India.

USE: Liability Cap Fundamental Rights Regulatory Oversight Nuclear Safety Judicial Review

CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENTS & BASIC STRUCTURE

P

M

2 REPORTS MERGED

17 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/106574

President Droupadi Murmu has approved the bill renaming Kerala as Keralam

WHY IN NEWS President Droupadi Murmu gave assent to the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, renaming the state of Kerala to Keralam.

- CONSTITUTION** | Article 3 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to alter the name, boundaries, or areas of any state.
- CONSTITUTION** | The First Schedule of the Constitution contains the names of the States and Union Territories.
- FACT** | The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, was the legislative vehicle for the name change.

MAINS Q Discuss the constitutional provisions and the federal implications involved in the alteration of state names and boundaries in India.

USE: Constitutional Amendment Federalism State Autonomy Legislative Process

ELECTIONS, ECI & ELECTORAL REFORMS

P

M

2 REPORTS MERGED

18 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/107051

The Supreme Court emphasized in a judgment that the Election Commission

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to eliminate black money's influence on elections to preserve the rule of law and voter choice.

- BODY** | Election Commission of India (ECI) is the constitutional body responsible for administering elections in India.
- FACT** | The court directed investigations into criminal cases related to ill-gotten funds to be completed within one year.
- PLACE** | Bellary district, Karnataka, was the site of the specific black money seizure case cited in the plea.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in curbing the influence of black money to ensure a free and fair electoral process.

USE: Rule of Law Electoral Integrity Transparency Political Funding Judicial Activism

Gyanesh Kumar launches Electoral Literacy Clubs 2.0 in Patna

WHY IN NEWS Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar launched Electoral Literacy Clubs 2.0 to promote voter awareness and democratic trust among youth.

- BODY** | Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is the head of the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- FACT** | Electoral Literacy Clubs 2.0 aims to reach 15 lakh schools and 1,420 universities.
- FACT** | The initiative focuses on building electoral literacy and trust in the democratic process.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of electoral literacy in strengthening grassroots democracy and ensuring informed participation in the Indian electoral process.

USE: electoral literacy democratic process voter awareness digital outreach grassroots democracy

Supreme Court Grills Delhi Police Over Facial Recognition Use in Protests

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court examined the proportionality and legality of Delhi Police using Facial Recognition Systems (FRS) during protests, highlighting the tension between public safety and the right to privacy.

- S&T** | FRS (Facial Recognition Systems) use biometric data to identify individuals in real-time or from images.
- FACT** | Delhi Police identified 2,873 individuals with criminal records using FRS during the protests.
- POST** | Tushar Mehta serves as the Solicitor General of India.

MAINS Q Critically analyze the challenges posed by the use of Facial Recognition Systems (FRS) by law enforcement agencies in the context of the Right to Privacy.

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

The Supreme Court agreed to use Article 142 to quash FIRs

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court invoked Article 142 to quash FIRs against students protesting NEET-UG, highlighting the judiciary's power to ensure justice in exceptional cases.

- CONSTITUTION** | Article 142: Grants the Supreme Court the power to pass any decree or order necessary for doing complete justice.
- BODY** | Supreme Court of India: The highest judicial body in the country, exercising original, appellate, and advisory jurisdiction.
- FACT** | 2,873 individuals with criminal records were identified among the protesters by the Solicitor General.

MAINS Q Discuss the scope and limitations of the Supreme Court's extraordinary powers under Article 142 in balancing the right to protest with the maintenance of public order.

USE: Complete justice Judicial review Extraordinary jurisdiction Right to protest Public order

NMC proposes single ID for doctors to practice across India, renewals every five years

WHY IN NEWS The National Medical Commission (NMC) proposed a draft amendment to create a unified national registration system for doctors to facilitate seamless practice across India.

- BODY** | NMC: National Medical Commission is the apex body regulating medical education and practice in India.
- FACT** | License renewal: Proposed mandatory renewal every five years to maintain active status.
- BODY** | Ethics and Medical Registration Board: The body designated to hear appeals regarding medical registration.

MAINS Q Discuss how a unified national registration system for medical practitioners can improve healthcare delivery and professional accountability in India.

USE: Regulatory framework Professional mobility Standardization Accountability Unified registration

Supreme Court: Caste slur in closed room not a public offense, cancels charges

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court clarified the scope of the SC/ST Act by ruling that casteist slurs in a closed room do not constitute a public offense.

ACT / BILL | Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989

BODY | Supreme Court of India

FACT | The court distinguished between private disputes and public offenses under the SC/ST Act.

MAINS Q Discuss the judicial interpretation of 'public view' in the context of the SC/ST Act and its implications for protecting the dignity of marginalized communities.

USE: Judicial Interpretation

Public Order

Scheduled Castes and Tribes Act

Rule of Law

Due Process

Amit Shah Announces High Court Bench in Ladakh, Amid Local Demands for Safeguards

WHY IN NEWS Union Cabinet announced the establishment of a High Court Bench of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court in Ladakh to enhance judicial accessibility.

PLACE | Ladakh is a Union Territory of India.

BODY | The High Court Bench in Ladakh will be an extension of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

FACT | The announcement was made by Home Minister Amit Shah on August 20, 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of establishing judicial benches in Union Territories like Ladakh in ensuring the effective delivery of justice and upholding constitutional safeguards.

USE: judicial infrastructure

access to justice

constitutional safeguards

administrative efficiency

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

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

BODY | Supreme Court of India: The highest judicial body in India.

FACT | Uttar Pradesh Gangsters Act: A state-specific law designed to curb organized crime.

FACT | Judgment Date: June 21, 2025.

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

USE: misuse of power

judicial review

organized crime

communal harmony

penal statutes

Supreme Court Upholds Hanging as Constitutional Execution Method

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

ACT / BILL | Section 354(5) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) deals with the methods of execution.

BODY | The Supreme Court of India is the highest judicial body and the final arbiter on constitutional validity.

FACT | The court ruled that there is no conclusive evidence that lethal injection is a more humane alternative to hanging.

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

USE: Constitutional validity

Capital punishment

Judicial review

Article 21

Human rights

Justice Sanjay Karol, Known As Chachaji In Supreme Court, Retires

WHY IN NEWS The retirement of Justice Sanjay Karol highlights judicial recognition of homemakers' economic contributions and the judiciary's role in social justice.

- POST** | Justice Sanjay Karol served as Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, and Patna High Courts.
- FACT** | The Supreme Court increased homemakers' compensation to ₹63 lakh in a June 2026 judgment.
- BODY** | Amicus Curiae: A neutral third party appointed by the court to provide expert advice.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of recognizing non-market economic contributions, such as homemaking, in the judicial framework of India.

USE: [judicial activism](#) [economic contribution](#) [gender equality](#) [social justice](#)

Governance

3

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

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

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

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

USE: [Freedom of Speech](#) [Digital Governance](#) [Intermediary Liability](#) [Content Moderation](#) [Cyber Security](#)

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

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

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

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

USE: [judicial interpretation](#) [industrial relations](#) [legal certainty](#) [labour reforms](#)

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

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

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

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

USE: bargaining power labor welfare judicial precedent industrial relations liberalization

Social Justice

2

Supreme Court Grills NTA Over NEET-UG Leaks, Questions Nilekani Task Force

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court questioned the National Testing Agency (NTA) over NEET-UG paper leaks and the lack of continuity in implementing reforms across different task forces.

BODY	NTA: National Testing Agency is the autonomous body responsible for conducting major entrance exams like NEET and JEE.
POST	Nandan Nilekani: Former Chairman of UIDAI and current head of the task force for exam reforms.
FACT	The Supreme Court's observations were made on August 19, 2026, regarding the NEET-UG examination.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in ensuring the integrity of large-scale competitive examinations in India and suggest measures to institutionalize technological reforms.

USE: institutional memory technological integrity accountability standardization systemic reform

Few know: Supreme Court allowed passive euthanasia in 2018

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court's 2018 ruling on passive euthanasia and 'living wills' is being highlighted due to a lack of public awareness and infrastructure for palliative care.

BODY	AIIMS: A premier public medical research and tertiary care hospital in New Delhi.
FACT	Passive Euthanasia: The withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment (e.g., ventilators) to allow a patient to die naturally.
FACT	Living Will: A legal declaration by a person specifying what medical treatments they do or do not want in the event of terminal illness.

MAINS Q Discuss the ethical and legal challenges associated with 'living wills' and passive euthanasia in India. How can the state improve palliative care infrastructure?

USE: Right to Life Palliative Care Living Will Passive Euthanasia Bioethics

Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Pakistan sign 'big first step' defence pact, US hails

WHY IN NEWS Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan signed the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement to formalize a collective defence commitment, impacting regional security dynamics.

- FACT | The Mecca Joint Defence Agreement was signed on August 7 in Jeddah.
- S&T | The agreement is modeled after NATO's Article 5, which mandates collective defence.
- PLACE | Jeddah is the location where the pact was signed.

MAINS Q Analyze the implications of the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement on the geopolitical stability of the Middle East and the security architecture of South Asia.

USE:

Collective Defence

Geopolitical Realignment

Regional Stability

Security Architecture

China Allegedly Encroaches on Arunachal Pradesh, Threatening India-China Relations Ahead of BRICS Summit

WHY IN NEWS Alleged Chinese encroachment in Arunachal Pradesh has escalated tensions between India and China, potentially impacting the upcoming BRICS summit.

- PLACE | Arunachal Pradesh: A state in Northeast India bordering China, Bhutan, and Myanmar.
- BODY | BRICS: An intergovernmental organization comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- FACT | The border dispute involves the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China.

MAINS Q Analyze the impact of border disputes on India's strategic autonomy and its ability to foster multilateral cooperation within the BRICS framework.

USE:

sovereignty

strategic autonomy

border management

bilateral tensions

geopolitical stability

BRICS Slams EU Carbon Plan as "Unilateral and Discriminatory" at Delhi Meet

WHY IN NEWS BRICS nations collectively opposed the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) at the 12th Environment Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi, highlighting concerns over trade equity and climate finance.

- INTL. ORG | BRICS: An intergovernmental organization comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (plus new members).
- S&T | CBAM: A carbon tax on carbon-intensive products imported into the EU.
- FACT | The meeting was the 12th Environment Ministers' Meeting of BRICS.

MAINS Q Discuss how unilateral trade measures like the EU's CBAM impact the climate goals and economic interests of developing nations in the Global South.

USE:

Trade Protectionism

Climate Justice

Global South

Carbon Border Adjustment

Climate Finance

Syria Unveils Tons of Nuclear Material to UN Probe Amid IAEA Praise

WHY IN NEWS Syria disclosed tons of nuclear material to the IAEA during a UN probe, highlighting the role of international monitoring in non-proliferation.

- BODY** | IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency, an autonomous organization within the United Nations framework.
- S&T** | Nuclear Safeguards: Measures taken to verify that nuclear materials are not diverted to weapons.
- FACT** | Syria disclosed material from the Bashir Al-Assad era to the UN probe.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the IAEA's role in global nuclear non-proliferation and the challenges of monitoring nuclear materials in conflict-affected regions.

USE: Non-proliferation Nuclear Safeguards IAEA Transparency Global Security

India demands UN Security Council reforms, criticizes delays in appointing chairs

WHY IN NEWS India criticized the UN Security Council's lack of transparency in terrorist listing/de-listing and called for structural reforms to prevent the body from being used for narrow political interests.

- BODY** | UNSC: The United Nations Security Council is the primary international body responsible for maintaining international peace and security.
- FACT** | 1267 Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee: A specific UNSC body tasked with implementing sanctions against Al-Qaida and associated individuals/entities.
- BODY** | Permanent Mission to the UN: The diplomatic mission representing India's interests at the United Nations.

MAINS Q Critically analyze the challenges faced by the UN Security Council in maintaining objectivity in counter-terrorism measures and suggest ways to enhance its transparency.

USE: transparency disguised veto counter-terrorism sanctions regime multilateralism

India, Singapore Ministers Eye Deeper Ties: ISMR Discusses Digital, Economic Growth

WHY IN NEWS Indian ministers met with Singapore's PM Lawrence Wong during the 4th India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) to deepen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

- PLACE** | Singapore: A key ASEAN partner for India's 'Act East' policy
- FACT** | 4th India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) held in August 2026
- BODY** | Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: A high-level bilateral framework between India and Singapore

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and Singapore in the context of India's 'Act East' policy and digital economy goals.

USE: Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Act East Policy Digital Diplomacy Bilateral Cooperation Connectivity

India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Aligns MAHASAGAR with Japan's FOIP During New Delhi Meeting

WHY IN NEWS Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met with Japanese counterparts to align India's MAHASAGAR vision with Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) initiative.

- POST** | Rajnath Singh is the current Union Minister of Defence of India
- FACT** | MAHASAGAR: India's maritime vision for the Indian Ocean Region
- FACT** | FOIP: Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific initiative
- PLACE** | Kumamoto: Prefecture in Japan recently affected by an earthquake

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of aligning India's MAHASAGAR vision with Japan's FOIP initiative in ensuring a rules-based maritime order in the Indo-Pacific region.

USE: maritime security strategic alignment Indo-Pacific bilateral cooperation maritime domain awareness

Top US Diplomat Arrives In Ladakh, 1st Such Visit Since Galwan Clashes

WHY IN NEWS US Ambassador Sergio Gor visited Ladakh and met J&K Chief Minister, reaffirming the US stance on India's sovereignty over Kashmir amidst ongoing LAC tensions.

- POST** | Sergio Gor: US Ambassador to India and Special Envoy to South and Central Asia
- FACT** | Galwan Clashes (June 2020): Resulted in the death of 20 Indian Army soldiers
- PLACE** | Ladakh: Became a separate Union Territory in 2019
- FACT** | US support: Provided real-time intelligence and high-altitude gear to India post-2020 clashes

MAINS Q Analyze the significance of the US-India strategic partnership in the context of border security and regional stability in the Himalayas.

USE: strategic partnership sovereignty status quo diplomatic signaling defense cooperation

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

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

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

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

USE: sovereignty multilateralism judicial independence international law sanctions

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

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

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

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

USE: Strategic autonomy Bilateral cooperation Geopolitical dynamics Economic diplomacy

U.S. Accuses India and 39 Others of Helping China Evade Tariffs, Costing \$28B

WHY IN NEWS The U.S. accused India and 39 other nations of facilitating Chinese transshipment to evade tariffs, potentially leading to trade penalties and increased manufacturing costs.

FACT	The U.S. estimated a \$28 billion loss in tariff revenue due to transshipment scams.
PLACE	India, Mexico, and Vietnam were identified as primary enablers of the transshipment scam.
FACT	The report 'The Great Transshipment Scam' was released on July 24, 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of transshipment practices on global trade dynamics and India's position in the global manufacturing supply chain.

USE: Transshipment Tariff Evasion Trade Diplomacy Supply Chain Integrity Trade Barriers

Border Stability, De-escalation On Agenda As National Security Advisor Ajit Doval Heads To China, To meet Chinese foreign Minister Wang Yi

WHY IN NEWS National Security Advisor Ajit Doval is visiting Beijing for the 25th round of Special Representatives' talks to address the border dispute and normalize India-China ties.

POST	Ajit Doval serves as the National Security Advisor (NSA) of India.
PLACE	Galwan Valley is a high-altitude pass in the Ladakh region, site of the 2020 clash.
FACT	This marks the 25th round of Special Representatives' talks between India and China.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the Special Representatives' mechanism in managing the India-China border dispute and its implications for regional stability.

USE: de-escalation bilateral diplomacy border management strategic stability disengagement

India's Goyal Leads 200-member Delegation to Japan to Boost Trade Ties

WHY IN NEWS Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is leading a 200-member business delegation to Japan to strengthen trade ties and discuss investment in high-tech sectors.

FACT	Japan aims to invest 10 trillion yen over a decade in India.
PLACE	Nagoya and Osaka are major industrial and commercial hubs in Japan.
S&T	Semiconductors and AI are key focus areas for the India-Japan trade discussions.
BODY	Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) is the primary trade framework being reviewed.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of India-Japan economic cooperation in the context of global supply chain diversification and technological advancement.

USE: Trade Deficit FDI Supply Chain Diversification Strategic Partnership Technology Transfer

Economy

11

EXTERNAL SECTOR, TRADE & FDI P

18 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/107451

India's Exports Soar to Record \$44.24 Billion in July, Electronics Surge 57.4%

WHY IN NEWS India's merchandise exports hit a record \$44.24 billion in July, driven by a surge in electronics and engineering goods despite rising freight costs.

- FACT | India's merchandise exports in July reached a record \$44.24 billion.
- FACT | Electronics exports jumped 57.4% to approximately \$5.9 billion in July.
- FACT | Exports to China increased by 64.57% year-on-year to \$2.2 billion.
- FACT | Engineering goods exports rose 17.7% to \$12.24 billion.
- FACT | Exports to the Middle East rose 8.6% to \$5.7 billion.

MAINS Q Discuss the factors contributing to the growth of India's merchandise exports and the challenges posed by global geopolitical disruptions on maritime trade.

USE: merchandise exports value-added products market diversification freight costs geopolitical disruption

INFRASTRUCTURE (ENERGY, PORTS, ROADS, RAILWAYS) P

2 REPORTS MERGED

18 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/107828

Government offers 200 standard cubic metres of cheaper gas to speed up PNG adoption

WHY IN NEWS The Indian government announced a subsidy of 200 standard cubic metres of cheaper APM gas to city-gas distributors to accelerate domestic Piped Natural Gas (PNG) adoption.

- FACT | Incentive: 200 standard cubic metres of cheaper gas per new domestic-PNG connection.
- FACT | Payback period reduction: From 10 years to approximately 3 years.
- FACT | Mechanism: Administered Price Mechanism (APM) natural gas.
- FACT | Implementation: Incentives to be rolled out in two tranches over six months starting September 1, 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the Administered Price Mechanism (APM) and government subsidies in accelerating the transition to Piped Natural Gas (PNG) in India.

USE: Administered Price Mechanism Piped Natural Gas Energy Transition Infrastructure Development Fiscal Incentives

MONETARY POLICY, RBI & BANKING P M

19 Aug · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/108111

RBI Proposes Faster Floating-Rate Loans, Resetting Interests Every Three Months

WHY IN NEWS The RBI proposed a draft to shorten the reset cycle of floating-rate home loans from annually to every three months to enhance interest rate transmission.

- BODY | RBI: The central bank of India responsible for monetary policy and banking regulation.
- FACT | Proposed reset frequency: Every three months (previously annual).
- FACT | Applicability: Specifically targets home loans; excludes personal and auto loans.
- FACT | Migration deadline: Existing borrowers to migrate by April 1, 2029, without additional fees.

MAINS Q Discuss how the RBI's proposal to shorten the interest rate reset cycle for home loans contributes to more efficient monetary policy transmission in India.

USE: monetary policy transmission floating-rate loans interest rate cycle liquidity management consumer protection

Sebi Chairman Announces Overhaul of IPO Rules for SMEs, Targets Costly Underwriting Systems

WHY IN NEWS SEBI Chairman announced a review of SME IPO rules to address inefficient and costly underwriting systems and reform portfolio management services.

- BODY** | SEBI: Securities and Exchange Board of India is the primary regulator for the securities market in India.
- FACT** | SME Platform: A dedicated platform for small and medium enterprises to list on stock exchanges.
- S&T** | Portfolio Management Services (PMS): A professional management of an individual's investment portfolio.

MAINS Q Discuss how streamlining IPO regulations for SMEs can enhance the ease of doing business and deepen the Indian capital markets.

USE: Capital formation Regulatory overhaul Market efficiency Ease of doing business

RBI Keeps Policy Rate Unchanged at 5.25% Amid Inflation Concerns

WHY IN NEWS The RBI Monetary Policy Committee kept the policy rate unchanged at 5.25% due to persistent inflation risks and projected headline inflation peaks.

- FACT** | RBI Policy Rate: 5.25% as of the August meeting.
- FACT** | Projected headline inflation peak: 5.9% in Q3 2026-27.
- FACT** | Projected core inflation: 4.3% for FY27.
- POST** | Sanjay Malhotra: Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced by the RBI in balancing inflation control with economic growth in a volatile macroeconomic environment.

USE: monetary policy inflation targeting policy rate core inflation liquidity management

SEBI plans 15%-20% drop in collateral for liquid stocks to lure back foreign investors

WHY IN NEWS SEBI plans to lower collateral requirements for liquid stocks by 15%-20% to attract foreign institutional capital following a significant sell-off by foreign investors.

- BODY** | SEBI: The primary regulator for the securities and capital markets in India.
- FACT** | Foreign ownership in Indian equities hit a 17-year low as of the reporting period.
- FACT** | Over \$50 billion worth of Indian equities were sold by foreigners between October 2024 and June 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of capital market reforms in attracting Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) and their impact on India's macroeconomic stability.

USE: Capital Market Reform Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) Market Liquidity Collateral Requirements Derivatives Trading

Market Regulator Bans JPMorgan Unit From Trading Over Sensex Price Rigging

WHY IN NEWS SEBI banned a JPMorgan unit and a local firm for manipulating the BSE Sensex closing auction, highlighting vulnerabilities in the newly introduced auction-based pricing system.

- BODY** | SEBI: Securities and Exchange Board of India, the primary regulator for securities and capital markets in India.
- FACT** | The Indian stock market is valued at approximately \$5.1 trillion.
- PLACE** | BSE Sensex: The benchmark index of the Bombay Stock Exchange.
- S&T** | Auction-based system: A mechanism used to determine the closing price of stocks to align with global standards.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced by regulators in maintaining market integrity in the face of high-frequency trading and sophisticated market manipulation techniques.

USE: market manipulation regulatory enforcement market integrity liquidity auction-based pricing

On August 6, the Lok Sabha passed a bill amending Section 10A

WHY IN NEWS The Lok Sabha passed a bill to amend Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, to allow the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to charge fees for UPI transactions.

ACT / BILL	Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007: Governs electronic payment systems in India.
BODY	NPCI: The umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.
FACT	UPI annual cost: Currently estimated at up to ₹20,000 crore.
S&T	UPI: A real-time payment system developed by NPCI.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of introducing transaction fees on UPI for financial inclusion and the sustainability of India's digital payment infrastructure.

USE: [Digital Public Infrastructure](#) [Financial Inclusion](#) [Monetization](#) [Payment Gateway](#) [Statutory Framework](#)

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

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

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

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

USE: [Tariff Rate Quota](#) [Price Stabilization](#) [Stockholding Limits](#) [Supply-side Management](#) [Inflationary Pressure](#)

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

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

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

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

USE: [Electronics ecosystem](#) [Supply chain resilience](#) [Design and R&D](#) [Global competitiveness](#) [Manufacturing hub](#)

India's maize imports rise as ethanol production policy backfires

WHY IN NEWS India has transitioned from a maize exporter to a net importer due to the ethanol blending policy aimed at reducing crude oil imports.

FACT	Maize accounts for nearly half of India's ethanol production.
FACT	Government procurement price for maize-based ethanol is ₹71.86 per litre.
FACT	India has become a net importer of maize for the first time in decades.

MAINS Q Analyze the economic and agricultural implications of India's ethanol blending policy on domestic food security and trade balances.

USE: [Ethanol Blending Programme](#) [Net Importer](#) [Food Security](#) [Trade Deficit](#) [Feedstock Dynamics](#)

DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

P

M

4 REPORTS MERGED

18 Aug · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/107740

Defence Dept Unveils List: 405 Items Worth ₹3,070 Crore to Boost Indigenous Production

WHY IN NEWS The Department of Defence Production released the sixth Positive Indigenisation List to boost domestic manufacturing of 405 defence items worth ₹3,070 crore.

- FACT** | The sixth Positive Indigenisation List comprises 405 items.
- FACT** | The business potential of the listed items is estimated at ₹3,070 crore.
- BODY** | The SRIJAN Defence Portal is the platform used for tracking indigenisation timelines.
- POST** | The Department of Defence Production (DDP) is the nodal body for this initiative.

MAINS Q Discuss how the Positive Indigenisation List contributes to the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative in the defence sector and its impact on India's strategic autonomy.

USE: [Aatmanirbhar Bharat](#) [Indigenisation](#) [Strategic Autonomy](#) [Defence Manufacturing](#) [Import Substitution](#)

BIOTECHNOLOGY & HEALTH RESEARCH

P

20 Aug · Times of India · satyadheesh.in/news/109038

Oldest life on Earth found in eastern India, dating back 3.497 billion years

WHY IN NEWS Discovery of 3.497 billion-year-old microfossils in eastern India's Singbhum block provides evidence of early microbial life and complex metabolic pathways.

- PLACE** | Singbhum geological block is located in eastern India.
- S&T** | Microfossils dating back 3.497 billion years indicate early life forms.
- S&T** | Spectroscopic methods were used to analyze biological traces in volcanic ash.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of geological and biological discoveries in understanding the evolution of life and Earth's early metabolic pathways.

USE: [microfossils](#) [hydrothermal vents](#) [metabolic pathways](#) [spectroscopic analysis](#)

SPACE TECHNOLOGY (ISRO, MISSIONS)

P

20 Aug · Times of India · satyadheesh.in/news/109277

First X-rays Taken in Space During Fram2 Mission

WHY IN NEWS The Fram2 mission successfully conducted the first-ever diagnostic X-rays in space, demonstrating the feasibility of advanced medical imaging for long-duration space missions.

- S&T** | Fram2: A space mission launched in March 2025 to test medical technologies in orbit.
- S&T** | Dragon spacecraft: The vehicle used to transport crew and cargo to the International Space Station (ISS).
- FACT** | The mission successfully produced diagnostically adequate X-ray images in a microgravity environment.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of developing autonomous medical diagnostic technologies for long-duration human space exploration and the challenges posed by microgravity.

USE: [microgravity](#) [diagnostic imaging](#) [space medicine](#) [autonomous systems](#) [long-duration missions](#)

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

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

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

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

USE: energy security indigenization nuclear safety infrastructure longevity decarbonization

ISRO Chairman Announces Un-Crewed Gaganyaan Launch in Four Months

WHY IN NEWS ISRO Chairman announced the upcoming un-crewed Gaganyaan mission, a critical milestone in India's human spaceflight program and the goal of establishing an Indian space station.

- S&T** | Gaganyaan: India's first human spaceflight mission aimed at sending astronauts into orbit.
- S&T** | PSLV: Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, a workhorse rocket for ISRO's satellite missions.
- FACT** | ISRO target: Establish an Indian space station and conduct lunar and Venus missions.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the Gaganyaan mission in establishing India as a global space power and the role of private sector participation in space exploration.

USE: human spaceflight technological sovereignty private-public partnership space station lunar exploration

Environment & Ecology

4

Supreme Court: Protect Elephant Corridors, No Obstructions Despite Crop Damage

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court directed the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to survey elephant corridor obstructions, prioritizing wildlife movement over crop damage.

- BODY** | MoEFCC: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the nodal body for wildlife protection.
- ENVIRONMENT** | Elephant corridors: Designated pathways used by elephants to move between fragmented habitats.
- FACT** | The court explicitly prohibited the use of firearms or coercive actions against elephants.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in balancing human-wildlife conflict with the conservation of migratory corridors in India's fragmented ecosystems.

USE: Human-wildlife conflict Habitat fragmentation Biodiversity conservation Ecological corridors Sustainable coexistence

Kerala's Air Quality Worst in South India, Study Shows 25 Cities Failing PM10 Standards

WHY IN NEWS A CSTEP study revealed that Kerala has the highest local contribution to air pollution in South India, with 25 cities failing PM10 standards under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

FACT	Kerala's local contribution to air pollution in South India is 65%.
FACT	25 cities in South India are classified as non-attainment under NCAP.
BODY	CSTEP (Council on Sustainable Ecological Systems and Technologies) conducted the study.
SCHEME	NCAP (National Clean Air Programme) targets cities with PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations exceeding specified limits.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in managing air quality at the 'airshed' level in India. Suggest measures to improve inter-state cooperation for pollution control.

USE: [airshed management](#) [non-attainment cities](#) [source apportionment](#) [inter-state cooperation](#) [NCAP](#)

A Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice S.V.N

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court issued a directive on solid waste management (SWM) blaming public passivity and ordering District Collectors to integrate SWM education into school curricula.

BODY	Supreme Court of India: The highest judicial body in India.
FACT	District Collectors: Administrative heads of districts responsible for implementing waste management directives.
PLACE	India: The geographical scope of the court's directive on solid waste management.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of community participation and educational reforms in addressing the challenges of urban solid waste management in India.

USE: [Solid Waste Management](#) [Public Health](#) [Behavioral Change](#) [Community Engagement](#) [Sanitation](#)

Supreme Court orders eviction framework for Agasthyamalai landscape

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court mandated a structured eviction framework using paramilitary forces to remove encroachers from the Agasthyamalai landscape due to state inaction.

PLACE	Agasthyamalai landscape is located in the state of Tamil Nadu.
ENVIRONMENT	Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve and Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary are key protected areas in the Agasthyamalai region.
FACT	The Supreme Court suggested the use of paramilitary forces for eviction of encroachers.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in protecting ecologically sensitive zones from encroachment and the role of the judiciary in ensuring environmental conservation.

USE: [Ecologically Sensitive Zones](#) [Judicial Oversight](#) [Encroachment](#) [Biodiversity Conservation](#) [Paramilitary Intervention](#)



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