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STAY AHEAD. STAY INFORMED. STAY READY.

TODAY'S DATE



10 AUGUST 2026

---MONDAY---



Kolkata Topper

VAISHNA BISWAS

AIR - 367 | CSE 2025

★ OUR PROVEN LEGACY ★

OUR UPSC TOPPERS 2023



IPS LAXMAN PRATAP
RANK - 597

FORMER ASST. COMMANDANT IN BSF
CITY COLLEGE KOLKATA

OUR UPSC TOPPERS 2024



IRS SARLA JAKHER
AIR 593

CITY COLLEGE KOLKATA



IRS TANMAY
AIR 346

IIT KHARAGPUR



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DREAMS.**

**OUR
MISSION.**

TOGETHER,
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THE EXTRA
ORDINARY.

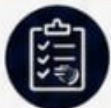


Converting Possibilities into Reality

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS-

1. Ladakh to Lead Independent India's First Caste Census
2. Glueball: Matter of Force
3. SC Collegium Names Chief Justices for Four High Courts
4. A New Security Triangle Emerges With the Makkah Pact
5. India Achieves Landmark 300 GW Non-Fossil Fuel Power Capacity

1. Ladakh to Lead Independent India's First Caste Census

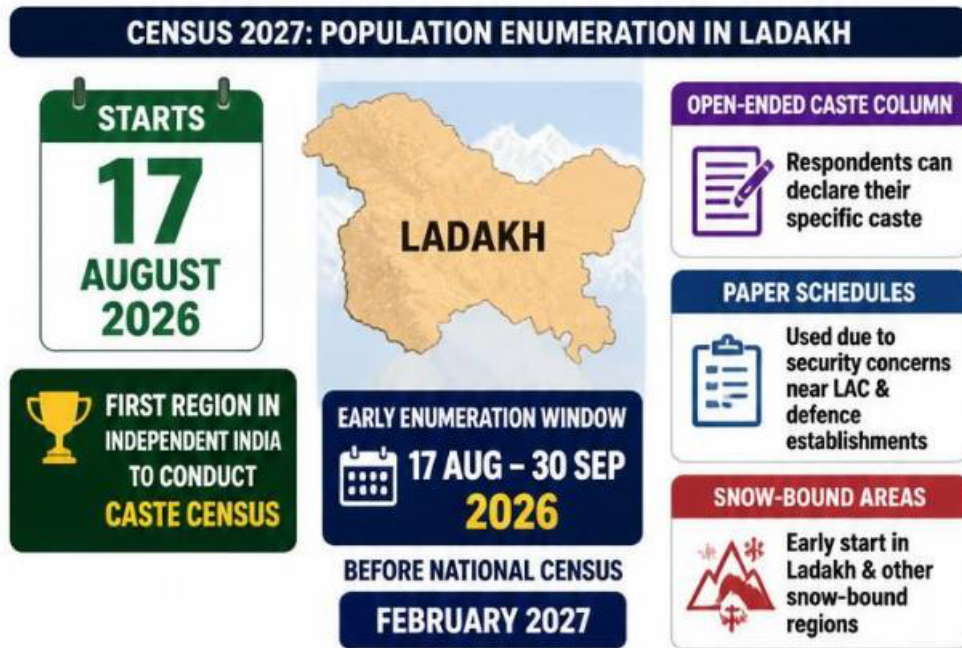
Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

Ladakh will begin the Population Enumeration phase of Census 2027 on August 17, 2026, becoming the first region in independent India to undertake caste enumeration as part of the decennial Census.

Key Features

- The census will include an open-ended caste column, allowing respondents to state their caste rather than choosing from a predetermined list.
- Ladakh will use paper schedules instead of the digital format planned for the nationwide Census 2027 because of security concerns related to defence establishments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- The Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India has permitted the early enumeration in Ladakh and other snow-bound areas from August 17 to September 30, 2026.
- The main Population Enumeration exercise across the country is scheduled for February 2027.



Caste Enumeration in India

- The last comprehensive caste census was conducted in 1931 under British rule.
- After Independence, the decennial Census continued to enumerate Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, while comprehensive caste enumeration was not undertaken.
- The Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 collected caste-related information, but it was primarily designed for identifying beneficiaries of welfare programmes rather than producing conventional Census population statistics.
- The open-ended approach allows the enumerator to record the caste declared by the respondent, a method also used during the pre-test conducted across 16 States and Union Territories.

Current Status and Development (2026-27)

After decades of debate, the Government of India has formally integrated caste enumeration into the **16th National Census (Census 2027)**. This marks the first comprehensive count of all castes at the national level since 1931.

- **Timeline:** The exercise is being conducted in two phases. Phase 1 (House listing) occurred in mid-2026. The **Population Enumeration phase** is scheduled for **February 2027** across India, while snow-bound regions like Ladakh and parts of J&K began as early as **September 2026**.
- **Methodology:** The Registrar General of India (RGI) has opted for an "**open-ended question**" for the non-SC/ST caste field. Respondents will state their caste, and it will be recorded verbatim to avoid classification errors during the field survey.
- **Digital Integration:** For the first time, this is a **fully digital census**, utilizing mobile apps and AI tools to process the massive variety of caste names—a challenge that rendered the 2011 SECC data unusable.

Key Fact

The Census is a Union subject under Entry 69 of the Seventh Schedule. The Census Act, 1948 provides the legal framework, while the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (RG&CC) is the apex authority.

State-Level Precedents

Several states have bypassed the central delay by conducting their own "Caste Surveys," providing the empirical spark for the national demand.

- **Bihar (2023):** The first to release data, revealing that **OBCs and EBCs (Extremely Backward Classes)** constitute approximately **63%** of the state's population.
- **Telangana (2026):** Released findings of its Socio-Economic and Caste Survey (SEEEPC), highlighting deep disparities in land ownership and private education enrollment between Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) and the General category.
- **Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka:** Have also conducted or tabled similar socio-economic caste reports to refine local welfare targeting.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- Census is a Union subject under Article 246 of the Constitution.
- The Census of India is conducted under the Census Act, 1948, which provides the statutory framework for conducting population enumeration.
- Ladakh's early enumeration reflects the need to account for geographical and security conditions while implementing a nationwide Census exercise.

UPSC Prelims Practice Question

Q. With reference to Census 2027 and caste enumeration in India, consider the following statements:

1. Census is a Union subject under the Constitution of India.
2. The Census of India is conducted under the Census Act, 1948.
3. The Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011 was primarily conducted as a regular decennial population census.
4. Ladakh will use paper schedules for Census 2027 because of security considerations along the LAC.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a)

UPSC Mains Practice Question

Q. Discuss the significance of caste enumeration in Census 2027 for evidence-based policymaking and welfare targeting in India. What challenges may arise from an open-ended caste enumeration methodology? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

2.Glueball: Matter of Force

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

New results from the BESIII experiment in Beijing have strengthened the evidence for glueballs, hypothetical composite particles made entirely of gluons. The particle X(2370), first observed in 2011, has emerged as a leading candidate.

What is a Glueball?

- A glueball is a hypothetical bound state composed entirely of gluons, the particles that mediate the strong nuclear force.
- The possibility of glueballs arises because gluons carry colour charge and can therefore interact with one another, unlike photons, which do not carry electric charge.
- The existence of a confirmed glueball would provide evidence for a novel form of matter predicted by Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD).

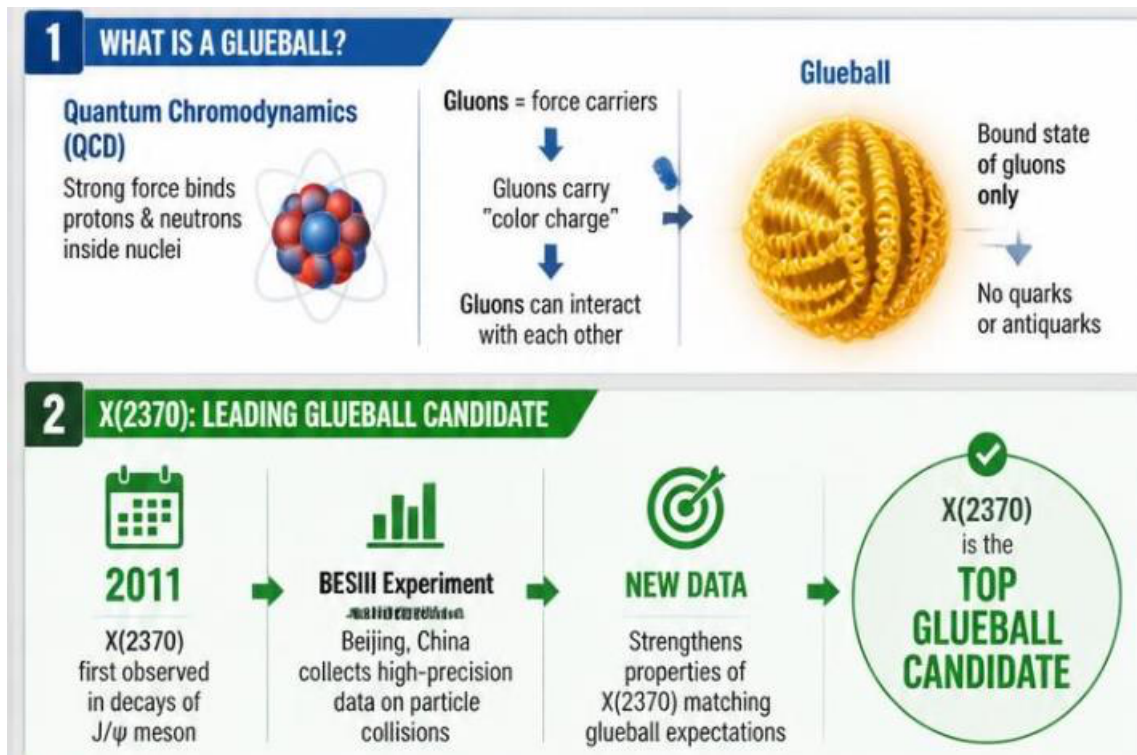
Scientific Basis

- The strong force is one of the four fundamental forces of nature and is responsible for binding quarks together inside protons and neutrons and contributing to the stability of atomic nuclei.
- Quantum Chromodynamics is the theory that describes interactions involving quarks and gluons.
- Gluons act as the carriers of the strong interaction and their self-interaction makes the formation of gluon-only bound states theoretically possible.

Why X(2370) Matters?

- The X(2370) particle was first observed in 2011 through studies involving the decay of the J/ψ meson, a bound state of a charm quark and its antiquark.
- New BESIII data have strengthened the case for identifying X(2370) as a glueball candidate.

- The identification remains challenging because such states can rapidly decay into lighter particles, making their experimental signatures difficult to distinguish from other hadronic states.



Why Glueballs Are Unique?

- Pure Interaction:** Unlike photons (which carry electromagnetism but don't stick to each other), gluons carry a "**color charge**".
- This allows them to attract one another and form a bound state.
- Mass from Energy:** Individual gluons are massless. However, when they bind into a glueball, the intense **binding energy** between them manifests as mass, following Einstein's $E = mc^2$.
- Color Neutrality:** While individual gluons have color, a glueball must be "color-neutral" (white) to exist freely, according to the principle of **Color Confinement**.

BESIII Experiment

- The BESIII experiment is located in Beijing and investigates the properties of charm quarks and light hadrons.
- Its measurements of particle decays provide important evidence for testing theoretical predictions of QCD, including the possible existence of glueballs.

UPSC Prelims Practice Question

Q. With reference to glueballs, consider the following statements:

1. Glueballs are theoretically predicted bound states composed entirely of gluons.
2. Gluons can interact with one another because they carry colour charge.
3. Quantum Chromodynamics describes the strong interaction involving quarks and gluons.
4. The BESIII experiment is primarily designed to study gravitational waves.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a)

UPSC Mains Practice Question

Q. What are glueballs? Explain how the self-interaction of gluons under Quantum Chromodynamics makes their existence theoretically possible. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

3.SC Collegium Names Chief Justices for Four High Courts

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

The Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, has recommended new Chief Justices for the Patna, Calcutta, Bombay, and Punjab and Haryana High Courts. The recommendations were made at its meeting on August 6, 2026.

Recent Recommendations

- Justice V. Kameswar Rao has been recommended as Chief Justice of the Patna High Court and is currently serving as a judge of the Delhi High Court.
- Justice Ravindra V. Ghuge has been recommended as Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court and is currently serving as the Acting Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.
- Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi has been recommended as Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court and is currently a judge of the Allahabad High Court.
- Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra has been recommended as Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court and is currently serving on its Bench.

Supreme Court Collegium

- The Supreme Court Collegium consists of senior judges of the Supreme Court and recommends appointments and transfers of judges to the higher judiciary.
- The Collegium is headed by the Chief Justice of India, with other senior Supreme Court judges forming part of the body.
- Chief Justice of India Surya Kant assumed office on November 24, 2025, as the 53rd Chief Justice of India.

Evolution: The "Three Judges Cases"

The system was established through a series of landmark judgments that shifted the power of appointment from the Executive to the Judiciary.

1. **First Judges Case (1981):** The Court held that "consultation" with the Chief Justice of India (CJI) under Article 124 did not mean "concurrence," giving the **Executive primacy** in appointments.
2. **Second Judges Case (1993):** The SC reversed its earlier stand, ruling that "consultation" actually means **concurrence**. This introduced the Collegium system, giving the **Judiciary primacy**.
3. **Third Judges Case (1998):** On a Presidential Reference, the SC expanded the Collegium to its current five-member body for Supreme Court appointments.

Current Status (August 2026)

As of late 2026, the Collegium system remains the sole mechanism for judicial appointments following the striking down of the **99th Constitutional Amendment (NJAC)** in 2015.

- **Composition:** Currently led by **CJI Surya Kant**, the SC Collegium includes senior judges such as **Justice Vikram Nath**, **Justice B.V. Nagarathna**, **Justice M.M. Sundresh**, and **Justice P.S. Narasimha**.
- **Recent Activity:** On August 6, 2026, the Collegium recommended the elevation of several judges as Chief Justices for the High Courts of **Patna, Calcutta, Bombay, and Punjab & Haryana**.
- **Transparency Debate:** While the Collegium has faced criticism for "opacity," recent efforts include publishing resolutions on the SC website. However, senior judges (like Justice Ujjal Bhuyan in August 2026) have recently noted a decline in providing detailed "reasons" for recommendations compared to previous years.

UPSC Prelims Practice Question

Q. With reference to the Supreme Court Collegium, consider the following statements:

1. It recommends appointments and transfers of judges in the higher judiciary.
2. It is headed by the Chief Justice of India.
3. Its recommendations concern only judges of the Supreme Court and not those of High Courts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

UPSC Mains Practice Question

Q. Explain the role of the Supreme Court Collegium in appointments and transfers in the higher judiciary. Discuss the significance of an independent judicial appointment mechanism for judicial independence. (10 Marks, 150 Word)

4.A New Security Triangle Emerges With the Makkah Pact

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan signed the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA) on August 7, 2026, creating a new trilateral security framework in West Asia and South Asia. The agreement has wider geopolitical implications for India, particularly given its strategic and economic ties with Saudi Arabia.

Core Provision

- The agreement establishes a collective defence principle under which an armed attack against any one of the three countries will be treated as an attack against all three.
- The provision resembles Article 5 of NATO, under which an attack against one member is treated as an attack against the alliance.
- The agreement has therefore triggered discussion about the emergence of a potential "Muslim NATO", although Saudi Arabia has denied that the pact is intended to create such an alliance.

Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA)

The MJDA is a trilateral mutual defense pact signed by **Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, and Pakistan**. It was formalized during the "Makkah Al-Mukarramah Summit for Joint Defence" held at the Al-Safa Palace in Mecca.

Key Provisions

- **Collective Defence Clause:** The pact's central feature is a "NATO-style" collective security commitment. It stipulates that an **armed attack against any one of the three states shall be regarded as an attack against them all**.
- **Collective Deterrence:** The agreement aims to strengthen the combined deterrence of the three nations against external aggression.
- **Enhanced Cooperation:** It provides a framework for deepening military ties across **intelligence sharing, training, technology transfer, and joint defense planning**.
- **Open Architecture:** Signatories have stated that the pact is "purely defensive" and remains open to other regional nations willing to uphold its principles.

Strategic Drivers: Why Now?

The agreement emerged against a backdrop of significant regional instability:

- **Erosion of US Security Umbrella:** Growing uncertainty in Riyadh regarding long-term American security guarantees, especially following repeated missile and drone strikes on Saudi infrastructure during the 2026 Iran-US conflict.
- **Regional Conflicts:** Ongoing hostilities involving Iran, Israel, and Houthi forces in Yemen have forced regional powers to seek "strategic autonomy" through local alliances.
- **Building on SMDA:** The MJDA expands upon the **Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (SMDA)** signed between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan in **September 2025**.

Strategic Rationale

- Saudi Arabia brings substantial financial resources and a major defence budget to the partnership.
- Türkiye contributes a growing indigenous defence industry and military-industrial capabilities.
- Pakistan contributes a large standing military and its existing defence experience.
- The agreement reflects Saudi Arabia's effort to strengthen its security options
- amid a complex regional environment following the United States-Iran war.

Challenges to the Pact

- The absence of clearly identified threats in the agreement leaves uncertainty over the circumstances in which the collective defence clause would be invoked.
- Historical tensions between Saudi Arabia and Türkiye could affect strategic cohesion within the arrangement.

- Pakistan's complex relationship with Iran creates another potential source of tension for the trilateral framework.
- The limited integration of the agreement with existing regional security institutions could constrain its operational effectiveness.

Implications for India

- India needs to closely monitor the pact because Saudi Arabia is an important source of crude oil and a significant trading partner.
- Pakistan's participation gives the agreement a direct South Asian dimension and raises concerns about how the new security alignment could affect India's strategic environment.
- Saudi Arabia's strong economic relationship with India, however, makes it less likely to support Pakistani adventurism against India.

UPSC Prelims Practice Question

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement:

1. It was signed by Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan.
2. It contains a collective defence provision under which an attack against one member is regarded as an attack against all.
3. The agreement is formally integrated into the NATO security framework.
4. Pakistan's participation gives the agreement a strategic dimension relevant to India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a)

UPSC Mains Practice Question

Q. The Makkah Joint Defence Agreement reflects an emerging regional security realignment. Examine its possible implications for India's strategic interests in West Asia and South Asia. (10 Marks, 150 Word)

5. India Achieves Landmark 300 GW Non-Fossil Fuel Power Capacity

Source: PIB

Why in News?

India surpasses 300 GW non-fossil fuel power capacity, achieving over 60% of its 2030 target, bolstering clean energy transition and Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Key Highlights:

- India achieved **300 GW** non-fossil fuel-based electricity generation capacity by July 31, 2026.
- This landmark represents over 60% of the national target of **500 GW** non-fossil capacity by 2030.
- Non-fossil fuel capacity now constitutes over 54% of the country's total installed electricity generation capacity (552 GW).
- Solar power is the largest contributor with **164.59 GW**, followed by wind power at **58.14 GW**.
- A record **55.29 GW** non-fossil fuel capacity was installed during 2025-26.

Detailed Insights:

- Solar energy capacity grew from 2.8 GW in 2014 to approximately 165 GW, and wind energy from 21 GW to over 58 GW.
- Renewable energy generation significantly increased from 190.96 billion units in 2014-15 to 477.79 billion units in 2025-26.
- The **Production Linked Incentive (PLI)** scheme has boosted domestic manufacturing of high-efficiency solar PV modules.
- Capacity under the **Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM)** for Solar PV Modules has surpassed 200 GW.
- The **National Green Hydrogen Mission** aims to position India as a global hub for Green Hydrogen production and export.
- This achievement underscores India's progress towards an **Aatmanirbhar** energy ecosystem, enhancing energy independence and economic resilience.