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— Converting Possibilities into Reality —

KAVISH INFORMIX

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

🎯 PRECISE | 🧠 RELEVANT | ⌚ EXAM FOCUSED

STAY AHEAD. STAY INFORMED. STAY READY.

TODAY'S DATE



22 AUGUST 2026

---SATURDAY---



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



YOUR
DREAMS.

OUR
MISSION.

TOGETHER,
WE ACHIEVE
THE EXTRA
ORDINARY.

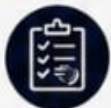


Converting Possibilities into Reality

PRELIMS MAINS | INTERVIEW



DAILY CURATED
NEWS



EXAM ORIENTED
ANALYSIS



SMART NOTES &
INFOGRAPHICS



BOOST YOUR
PREPARATION

“INFORMED TODAY, EMPOWERED TOMORROW.”

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS-

1. NGT Seeks Centre's Response on Change in Floodplain Rules
2. A Dry Spell Along the Cauvery River
3. The silver bullet: Why everyone loves a Metro
4. Census 2027: Why the New Questionnaire Has Triggered Privacy and Citizenship Concerns
5. ₹4,895-Cr FDI Projects Cleared Under Revised Framework

1. NGT Seeks Centre's Response on Change in Floodplain Rules

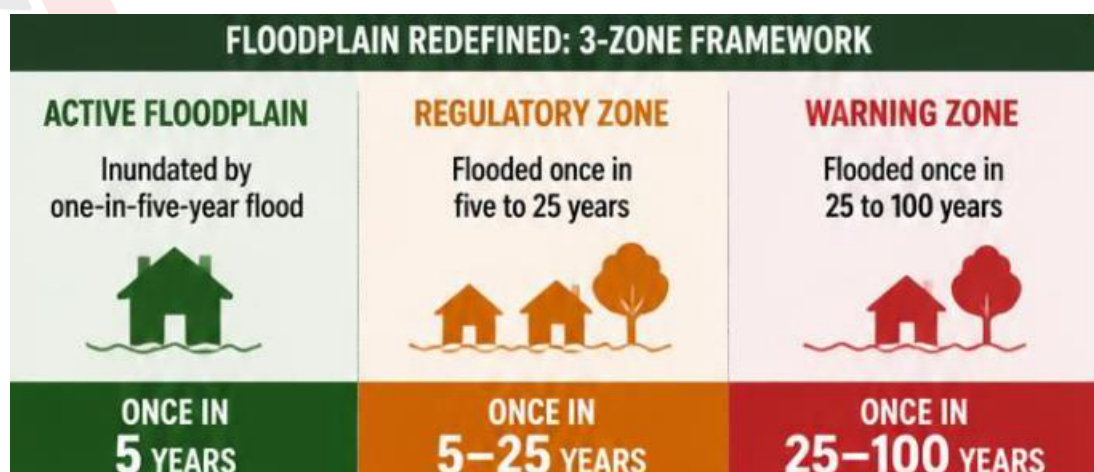
Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has sought a response from the Centre over an amendment to the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016, which removed the construction-free zone designation from the Ganga floodplains.

Change in Floodplain Classification

- The amendment issued by the Jal Shakti Ministry divides the Ganga floodplain into three zones based on the frequency of flooding.
- The active floodplain is defined as an area inundated by a one-in-five-year flood.
- The regulatory zone covers areas that experience flooding once in five to 25 years.
- The warning zone covers areas that may be flooded once in 25 to 100 years.
- The change has been challenged on the ground that it weakens the earlier construction-free approach to Ganga floodplains.



Original 2016 Framework

- The River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016 was issued under Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- The 2016 order designated the banks and floodplains of the Ganga as a construction-free zone.
- The original framework largely relied on the one-in-100-year flood line for defining the floodplain.
- The petitioner has argued that the new classification is inconsistent with the original framework and earlier judicial directions.



NGT Intervention and Concerns

- The NGT bench comprising Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and Expert Member Afroz Ahmad has directed the Centre and other respondents to submit their replies by October 27.
- Environmentalist Amit Kumar challenged the amendment before the NGT.
- The petitioner also referred to a 2017 judgment establishing a 100-metre no-development zone from the river's edge along the Haridwar-to-Kanpur stretch.
- The government has reportedly described the amendment as an attempt to address a legal inconsistency because the earlier order did not explicitly define the term active floodplain.

Ecological Significance of Floodplains

- Ganga floodplains act as natural flood-control systems by absorbing excess water during floods.
- The floodplains contribute to groundwater recharge by allowing water to infiltrate into the soil.
- The floodplain ecosystem supports diverse plant and animal species and contributes to overall riverine ecological balance.
- Allowing construction or intensive development in vulnerable floodplain areas can increase flood risk and weaken natural drainage and groundwater-recharge functions.

UPSC Prelims Question

Consider the following statements regarding the Ganga floodplain regulations:

1. The River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016 was issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. The amended framework divides the floodplain into active floodplain, regulatory zone and warning zone.
3. The regulatory zone refers to areas inundated by a one-in-five-year flood.
4. Floodplains contribute to groundwater recharge and natural flood control.

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 Question

Floodplains perform important ecological and hydrological functions beyond merely carrying excess river water. Discuss the significance of protecting river floodplains for flood management, groundwater recharge and biodiversity conservation

2.A Dry Spell Along the Cauvery River

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

Deficient monsoon rainfall and the continuing inter-State Cauvery water dispute have created water stress in both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, affecting irrigation, agricultural production and farmer livelihoods.

Water Crisis in Karnataka

- Farmers in the Cauvery basin of Karnataka are facing water scarcity due to deficient monsoon rainfall and low storage in the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) reservoir.
- The KRS reservoir was at around 109 feet against its full capacity of 124.8 feet.
- The Cauvery Irrigation Advisory Committee decided to release canal water through only four rotational cycles to conserve reservoir storage.

- Karnataka requested the Cauvery Water Management Authority to reduce the daily release of water to Tamil Nadu from 12,000 cusecs to 10,000 cusecs.
- The State cited concerns over drinking-water availability and the need to maintain adequate reservoir storage.

Impact on Tamil Nadu

- The Cauvery delta in Tamil Nadu is facing severe water stress because of inadequate storage in the Mettur Dam.
- The Mettur Dam could not be opened on its customary June 12 date because of poor inflows and low storage.
- The delayed release has affected paddy cultivation during the Kuruwai and Samba seasons.
- The Cauvery delta is widely regarded as Tamil Nadu's rice bowl and is important for the State's agricultural economy and paddy procurement.
- Declining groundwater levels and increasing salinity intrusion are further reducing the reliability of groundwater-based irrigation in the delta.

Cauvery Water Dispute

- The water shortage has intensified the long-standing dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu over the sharing of Cauvery waters.
- The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and subsequent Supreme Court orders prescribe water-sharing arrangements among the riparian States.
- The dispute becomes particularly sensitive during deficient monsoon years when reduced reservoir inflows increase pressure on both upper and lower riparian States.
- Tamil Nadu has emphasised the need to protect the legitimate interests of lower riparian States and the livelihoods dependent on assured river flows.

Current Status (August 2026)

As of August 17, 2026, the Supreme Court has directed Karnataka to comply with the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) orders to release water to Tamil Nadu.

- **The Conflict:** Tamil Nadu approached the court alleging a backlog of nearly 20 TMC of water. Karnataka has argued that 2026 is a "distress year" due to El Niño effects, claiming reservoir inflows are down by over 65%.
- **Latest Directive:** The Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) directed Karnataka to release 12,000 cusecs daily for 15 days starting August 12, 2026. The Supreme Court has scheduled a follow-up hearing for August 24, 2026, to review compliance.



The Legal & Institutional Framework

The dispute is currently governed by the institutional mechanism established after the 2018 Supreme Court verdict.

1. **Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT):** Formed in 1990, it gave its final award in 2007, which was later challenged.
2. **2018 Supreme Court Verdict:** The Court declared the Cauvery a "national asset". It slightly increased Karnataka's share (to meet Bengaluru's drinking water needs) and reduced the annual release requirement to Tamil Nadu to 177.25 TMC (measured at Biligundlu).
3. **CWMA & CWRC:** Created in 2018 to operationalize the award. The CWMA is the regulatory body, while the CWRC acts as the technical arm, monitoring daily inflows and storage.

Urban Water Demand and Way Forward

- Karnataka has approved the Cauvery Stage VI drinking-water project for Bengaluru, requiring an additional 6 TMC of water annually to supply around 500 MLD to approximately 30 lakh residents.
- The increasing demand for drinking water adds another dimension to the allocation of Cauvery waters between irrigation and urban requirements.
- The crisis highlights the need for efficient water management, diversification away from water-intensive crops and greater reliance on groundwater conservation.
- Better coordination between riparian States through the Cauvery Water Management Authority is essential, particularly during distress years.

UPSC Prelims Question

Consider the following statements regarding the Cauvery River dispute:

1. The Cauvery basin extends across Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
2. The Mettur Dam is located in Tamil Nadu and plays an important role in irrigation in the Cauvery delta.
3. The Cauvery Water Management Authority is involved in implementing the water-sharing arrangements between the riparian States.
4. The Krishna Raja Sagara reservoir is located in Tamil Nadu.

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 Question

The Cauvery water dispute becomes more acute during deficient monsoon years, when competing demands for irrigation and drinking water intensify. Discuss the major challenges in managing the Cauvery basin and suggest measures for sustainable and cooperative water management.

3.The silver bullet: Why everyone loves a Metro

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

- India's Metro network has expanded rapidly, reaching over 1,100 km across 26 cities, compared with around 250 km a decade ago.
- Another 900 km of Metro lines are under construction, highlighting the strong policy preference for Metro-based urban transport.
- However, several newer systems face low ridership, high construction costs, rising debt and weak last-mile connectivity, raising questions about whether Metro is always the most suitable solution for Indian cities.

Key Points

- Kolkata Metro was India's first Metro, beginning operations in 1984. The modern phase of expansion began with Delhi Metro in 2002.
- Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), with major financing support from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), became the benchmark for subsequent Metro projects.
- India's Metro network has grown roughly fourfold in a decade and is expected to cross 1,400 km, while China's network is already around 10,000 km.
- Daily Metro ridership across India has crossed 1 crore passengers and is projected to reach around 1.25 crore.
- Some Delhi Metro corridors carry more than 50,000 passengers during peak hours, demonstrating that Metro systems can achieve high utilisation in dense urban areas.

- Metro projects are highly capital-intensive:
 - Elevated corridors: approximately ₹200–300 crore/km
 - Underground corridors: approximately ₹500–1,000 crore/km
- A major problem is the gap between projected and actual ridership. Some newer systems reportedly achieve only around 25% of projected ridership.
- High fares can discourage passengers, but lower fares can make already expensive systems financially unsustainable.
- Poor last-mile connectivity between Metro stations and homes, workplaces and other destinations further reduces ridership.
- Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have been criticised for sometimes overestimating ridership and underestimating project costs, resulting in financially stressed systems.
- The CAG has criticised instances of defective planning and hasty decision-making, including in the Jaipur Metro project.
- The Metro Rail Policy, 2017 stresses financial viability and private-sector participation and requires authorities to examine cheaper alternatives such as buses and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) before selecting Metro.
- The argument in favour of Metro is that it should be viewed as long-term urban infrastructure, particularly where population growth and congestion are expected to make road-based transport inadequate.
- E. Sreedharan ("Metro Man") has advocated planning Metro systems in cities with populations above about 10 lakh, with implementation as cities approach 20 lakh, though suitability should depend on actual transport demand and urban form.
- RRTS represents a complementary model for regional mobility. The Meerut Metro/RRTS system combines high-speed regional connectivity with urban transit rather than relying solely on conventional Metro networks.
- The central planning challenge is therefore not simply building more Metro, but selecting the right mode, corridor and scale of public transport based on population density, travel demand, cost, affordability and last-mile connectivity.

4.Census 2027: Why the New Questionnaire Has Triggered Privacy and Citizenship Concerns

Why in News?

The questionnaire for the population enumeration phase of **Census 2027** has triggered political controversy over the collection of additional personal information and its perceived similarities with the **National Population Register (NPR)**.

New Questions and Political Concerns

- Several questions in the Census 2027 questionnaire reportedly overlap with the **NPR schedule notified in 2020**.
- Eight questions concerning **nationality, parents' particulars and identity documents** have drawn particular attention.
- Congress and Left parties have raised concerns regarding privacy, surveillance and the possible creation of a **National Register of Citizens (NRC)**.
- The controversy recalls the 2019–20 debate surrounding the **Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)**, NPR and the possibility of a nationwide NRC.

Census, NPR and NRC: Key Distinction

- **Census:** Primarily collects population and socio-economic data for planning, policy formulation and administration.
- **NPR:** A register of “**usual residents**” of the country and may include both citizens and foreigners residing in an area.
- **NRC:** A register intended to identify **Indian citizens**.
- The **Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003** provide a legal link between the NPR and the preparation of a National Register of Indian Citizens.
- This legal connection became politically sensitive following the CAA and the NRC exercise in Assam.

Privacy and Data-Use Debate

- The expanded questionnaire has raised questions about how sensitive personal information will be **collected, stored, protected and used**.
- Critics fear that information collected for population enumeration could potentially be used for purposes beyond conventional census requirements.
- Government justification for detailed demographic information includes **better policy formulation, welfare delivery and national security**.

- The government has also maintained that NPR-related data would not automatically be used to prepare an NRC, although political concerns continue because of the legal framework linking the two.

Significance for Governance

- The debate highlights the tension between **data-driven governance and individual privacy**.
- Accurate demographic information can improve welfare targeting and public-service delivery, but extensive personal-data collection requires strong safeguards against misuse.
- The controversy also underlines the importance of maintaining a clear institutional distinction between **population enumeration, residency records and citizenship determination**.

UPSC Prelims Question

Consider the following statements regarding the Census, NPR and NRC:

1. The NPR is a register of usual residents and may include foreigners residing in India.
2. The NRC is intended to identify Indian citizens.
3. The Citizenship Rules, 2003 provide a legal connection between the NPR and preparation of a citizens' register.
4. The Census and NPR are legally identical exercises with the same purpose.

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 Question

The expansion of personal-data collection in population enumeration raises a dilemma between **effective governance and individual privacy**. Discuss the distinction between Census, NPR and NRC and examine the safeguards necessary for responsible use of demographic data.

5. Rs./- 4,895-Cr FDI Projects Cleared Under Revised Framework

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Why in News?

- India has approved 29 FDI projects worth ₹4,895.65 crore under a revised foreign investment framework.
- The framework permits up to 10% Chinese ownership through the automatic route, while retaining scrutiny over beneficial ownership.
- Investments have come from countries including Mauritius, the US, Japan and Singapore, with major investments flowing into IT, artificial intelligence, manufacturing and pharmaceuticals.

Key Points

- The approvals were announced by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The revised framework seeks to simplify and speed up FDI approvals while maintaining safeguards relating to beneficial ownership and national security concerns.
- Under the automatic route, foreign investment in eligible sectors can be made without prior government approval, subject to applicable laws, sectoral caps and other conditions.
- Allowing limited Chinese ownership through the automatic route represents a shift towards greater investment facilitation while retaining regulatory oversight.
- The move is aimed at attracting global capital, technology and manufacturing investment, particularly in strategically important and emerging sectors.
- The framework could help improve India's investment climate by reducing procedural delays while balancing economic openness with security considerations.

INDIA APPROVES 29 FDI PROJECTS

WORTH ₹4,895.65 CRORE UNDER REVISED FRAMEWORK



₹4,895.65
CRORE
TOTAL INVESTMENT
29 PROJECTS APPROVED

10%
UP TO 10%
CHINESE OWNERSHIP
VIA AUTOMATIC ROUTE



ANNOUNCED BY
**MINISTRY OF
COMMERCE &
INDUSTRY**

INVESTMENTS FROM	KEY SECTORS RECEIVING INVESTMENT	REVISED FRAMEWORK HIGHLIGHTS	UPSC RELEVANCE
 MAURITIUS	 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	 STREAMLINED FDI APPROVAL PROCESS	 ECONOMY FDI & Investment Policies
 UNITED STATES	 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE	 SCRUTINY OVER BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP	 GOVERNANCE Regulatory Reform & Ease of Doing Business
 JAPAN	 MANUFACTURING	 AUTOMATIC ROUTE: NO PRIOR GOVT APPROVAL FOR MOST SECTORS	 DEVELOPMENT Industrial Growth & Job Creation
 SINGAPORE	 PHARMACEUTICALS	 ATTRACT GLOBAL CAPITAL & DRIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH	 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS Global Capital Integration
 GLOBAL CONFIDENCE IN INDIA	 BOOST TO STRATEGIC INDUSTRIES		



MEMORY ANCHOR
₹4,895.65 CRORE
29 PROJECTS | UP TO 10% CHINESE OWNERSHIP
AUTOMATIC ROUTE | STRATEGIC SECTORS



FDI PUSHING INDIA'S GROWTH MOMENTUM