



KAVISH IAS

— Converting Possibilities into Reality —

KAVISH INFORMIX

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

🎯 PRECISE | 🧠 RELEVANT | ⌚ EXAM FOCUSED

STAY AHEAD. STAY INFORMED. STAY READY.

TODAY'S DATE



25 AUGUST 2026

---TUESDAY---



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.

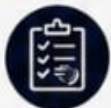


Converting Possibilities into Reality

PRELIMS MAINS | INTERVIEW



DAILY CURATED
NEWS



EXAM ORIENTED
ANALYSIS



SMART NOTES &
INFOGRAPHICS



BOOST YOUR
PREPARATION

“INFORMED TODAY, EMPOWERED TOMORROW.”

📞 8789245158 | 9875489158 📍 36A, Shakespeare Sarani, Kol -17

DAILY CURENT AFFAIRS

- 1.El Niño May Intensify Global Heat and Disrupt Rainfall Patterns
- 2.What India Can Learn from Amul for Supporting Rare-Disease Patients
- 3.India's First Non-GMO High-Expansion Popcorn Maize Hybrid Seed
- 4.India–Japan Trade Pact Set for Review to Boost Investment and Trade
- 5.Andhra Pradesh's 'Right to Walk': A New Pedestrian Safety Policy

1.El Niño May Intensify Global Heat and Disrupt Rainfall Patterns

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

The U.K. Met Office has forecast an exceptionally strong El Niño event, which could make 2027 the hottest year on record and intensify global climate-related stresses.

What is El Niño?

- El Niño is a climate phenomenon associated with unusually warm sea-surface temperatures in the tropical eastern Pacific Ocean.
- The warming of Pacific waters alters global wind patterns, atmospheric pressure and rainfall distribution.
- An El Niño event generally occurs when Pacific sea-surface temperatures rise at least 0.5°C above the baseline.
- The phenomenon usually occurs at intervals of around two to seven years.
- The term El Niño was coined by Peruvian and Ecuadorian fishermen to describe a warm ocean current appearing around Christmas.

Current Status (August 2026)

As of August 25, 2026, we are witnessing the development of what scientists are calling a "**Super El Niño.**"

- **Warming Levels:** Sea surface temperature anomalies in the Niño 3.4 region have reached approximately **+2.3°C to +2.7°C**.
- **Intensity:** There is a **90% probability** of a very strong event persisting through the winter. Projections suggest anomalies could peak near **+3.0°C**, making it one of the most powerful events in over a century.
- **Replacement of Index:** NOAA has transitioned to the **Relative Oceanic Niño Index (RONI)** to better account for background global warming, ensuring that El Niño signals are not "masked" by the overall rising temperature of the oceans.

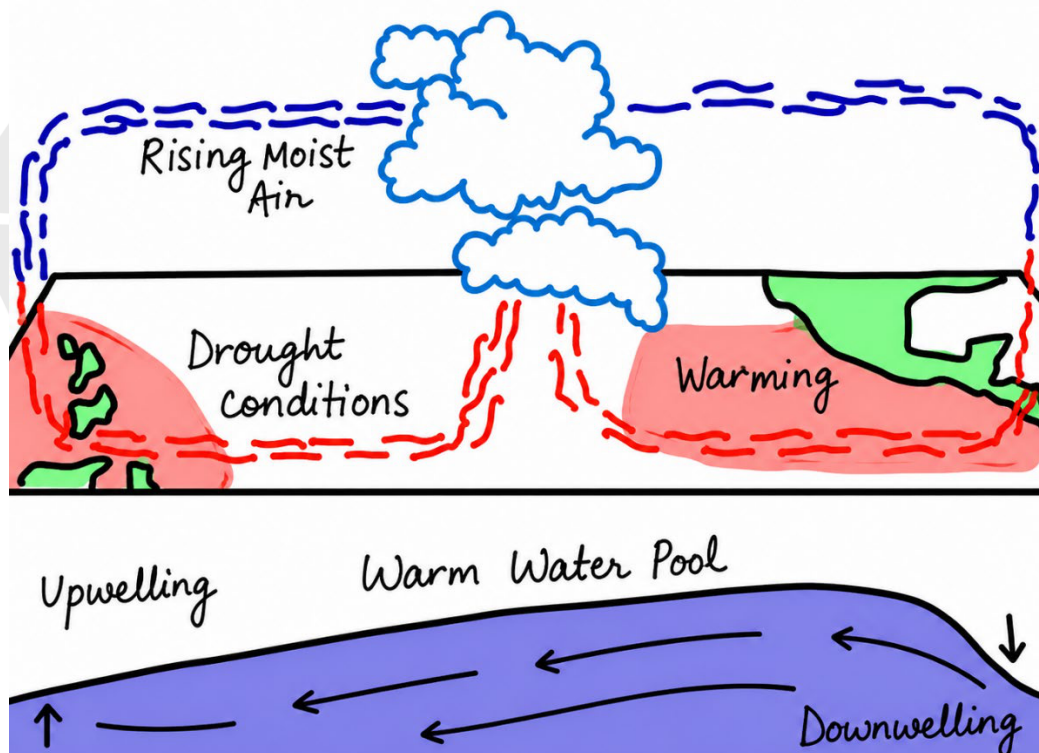
Global Consequences

- **South America:** Massive flooding and heavy rains in Peru and Ecuador.
- **Australia & Southeast Asia:** Severe droughts and increased wildfire risks.
- **Global Temperatures:** The combination of human-induced climate change and this Super El Niño is expected to make 2026 or 2027 the **hottest year on record**.

Current Forecast and Global Impact

- The Met Office has forecast what could be the strongest El Niño event in more than a century.
- Pacific Ocean temperatures are already around 2.6°C above the 30-year average, according to the report.
- The forecast suggests that Pacific temperatures could rise more than 3°C above normal during the event.
- The warming could contribute to 2027 becoming the hottest year globally, surpassing previous temperature records.
- Drier conditions are expected across Southeast Asia, Australia, southern Africa and northern Brazil.
- Wetter-than-normal conditions are expected in the Horn of Africa, southern United States, Peru and Ecuador.
- Severe drought conditions are also projected in parts of South America and the western Pacific region.

EL Nino Condition



Impact on India and Climate Change

- India could experience below-normal rainfall during the forecast El Niño event.
- Reduced monsoon rainfall can affect agriculture, water availability and rural livelihoods.
- The projected event could intensify existing climate stresses by adding natural variability to the background warming caused by climate change.
- The combination of rising global temperatures and an intense El Niño could increase the frequency or severity of extreme heat and rainfall disruptions.

UPSC Prelims Question

Consider the following statements regarding El Niño:

1. El Niño is associated with abnormal warming of sea-surface waters in the tropical eastern Pacific Ocean.
2. El Niño can influence global rainfall and atmospheric circulation patterns.
3. El Niño events generally occur at regular annual intervals.
4. An El Niño event can influence the Indian monsoon.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

UPSC Mains Question

El Niño is a natural climate phenomenon with significant implications for global temperature and precipitation patterns. Discuss its potential impact on India's monsoon, agriculture and water security in the context of rising global temperatures

2.What India Can Learn from Amul for Supporting Rare-Disease Patients

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

India is considering an Amul-inspired Patient Data Collective for rare diseases to pool patient information, strengthen research, improve clinical trials and make development of treatments for rare diseases more viable.

Need for a Patient Data Collective

- Rare diseases often involve very small patient populations, making conventional clinical trials difficult to conduct.
- Patient data can help researchers identify diagnostic biomarkers, understand disease progression and design better clinical trials.
- Patient registries and natural-history studies can provide real-world evidence that may serve as external controls in clinical research.
- The experience of Spinal Muscular Atrophy shows how long-term patient data can improve understanding of disease and treatment outcomes.
- India's genetically diverse population can provide valuable patient cohorts for research on rare diseases.

Amul-Inspired Patient Data Collective

- The proposed Patient Data Collective would follow the cooperative principle associated with the Amul model, where individuals collectively contribute and benefit from a common institutional structure.
- The Collective would bring together data from patient advocacy groups, hospitals and Centres of Excellence for Rare Diseases.
- The platform could hold patient data on behalf of patients while potentially sharing revenue generated through research.
- The approach would shift rare-disease data from fragmented individual records towards a coordinated national resource.
- The initiative could make orphan-drug research and evaluation more attractive to pharmaceutical companies.

Role of Digital Health and AI

- The proposed Collective could build upon existing infrastructure under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission.
- Artificial Intelligence can analyse large volumes of medical records to identify patterns relevant to diagnosis and disease progression.
- Generative AI could assist in synthesising medically relevant information and support diagnosis in local languages.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research already maintains a rare-disease registry with data from 19 hospitals.

- The proposed system could integrate such existing datasets while maintaining ethical and legal safeguards.

Challenges and Way Forward

- A patient-centric approach is essential because rare-disease data involves sensitive medical information.
- Strong safeguards are required for privacy, informed participation, data governance and ethical use of patient information.
- Patient advocacy groups and non-governmental organisations can play an important role in ensuring that patients remain central to the system.
- Government and philanthropic support would be important for building the platform and developing natural-history registries.
- India's updated New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules provide scope for advanced computational modelling, which can support orphan-drug evaluation.
- A well-governed Patient Data Collective could reduce research barriers, accelerate clinical development and attract global drug developers to India.

UPSC Prelims Question

Consider the following statements regarding the proposed Patient Data Collective for rare diseases:

1. It is proposed to pool patient data to support research on rare diseases.
2. The model draws inspiration from the cooperative structure associated with Amul.
3. Artificial Intelligence can be used to analyse large volumes of patient records.
4. The initiative would eliminate the need for ethical and legal safeguards in handling patient data.

Which of the statements given above is/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

Rare diseases face major challenges due to limited patient populations and inadequate clinical data. Discuss how an Amul-inspired Patient Data Collective could strengthen rare-

disease research, clinical trials and drug development in India while ensuring patient-centric data governance.

3. India's First Non-GMO High-Expansion Popcorn Maize Hybrid Seed

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan launched India's first non-GMO, high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid seed at Musunuru in Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh.
- The seed was developed by Gourmet Popcornica and aims to reduce India's dependence on imported hybrid seed technology.
- The initiative is aligned with Aatmanirbhar Bharat by promoting indigenous agricultural innovation and strengthening domestic seed production.

About the Popcorn Maize Hybrid Seed

- It is a non-GMO hybrid seed, meaning it has been developed through conventional plant-breeding/hybridisation techniques rather than genetic modification.
- The seed has high expansion capacity, an important quality characteristic for popcorn because better expansion produces larger and more desirable popcorn flakes.
- It provides Indian farmers with a domestically developed alternative to imported popcorn maize hybrids.
- Around 17,500 farmers across eight states, cultivating nearly 40,000 acres, are associated with Gourmet Popcornica.

Significance

- **Agricultural self-reliance:** Reduces dependence on imported hybrid seed technology.
- **Farmer income:** Access to improved, high-quality seed can enhance productivity and market opportunities.
- **Foreign-exchange savings:** Greater domestic production of specialised seed can reduce import expenditure.
- **Seed technology:** Demonstrates the role of indigenous research and private-sector innovation in developing specialised crop varieties.
- **Aatmanirbhar Bharat:** Supports India's broader objective of becoming self-reliant in agricultural inputs and technologies.

What is Non-GMO?

- **GMO (Genetically Modified Organism)** refers to an organism whose genetic material has been deliberately altered using modern biotechnology.
- A **non-GMO hybrid** is produced through conventional breeding and hybridisation without directly modifying the organism's DNA through genetic engineering.
- **Hybrid ≠ GMO:** Hybridisation and genetic modification are different techniques.

Government Initiatives Supporting Farmers

- **PM-KISAN**
- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**
- **National Food Security and Nutrition Mission**
- **Namo Drone Didi**

4. India–Japan Trade Pact Set for Review to Boost Investment and Trade

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

India and Japan are set to review their 2011 trade agreement to address the widening trade gap and facilitate Japanese investments in India. The discussions also seek to strengthen manufacturing, localisation and investment cooperation between the two countries.

Review of India–Japan CEPA

- The existing trade agreement between India and Japan is the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), signed in 2011.
- The proposed review seeks to address the widening trade gap between the two countries.
- The review is also expected to improve the overall framework for bilateral trade and investment.
- India aims to strengthen its position as a major global economic partner as it works towards becoming a \$30 trillion economy by 2047.

Japanese Investment in India

- Japan has committed investments worth 10 trillion yen, or more than \$62 billion, in India over the next decade.

- The proposed measures aim to streamline these investments and facilitate their implementation.
- The Indian government is seeking greater participation by Japanese companies in India's manufacturing sector.
- The government has encouraged Japanese firms to increase localisation of production and supply chains in India.
- India has also offered government support for innovation and funding to encourage Japanese investment.

Key Areas of Economic Cooperation

- The Indian delegation led by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal visited Japan from August 24 to 27 to deepen economic cooperation.
- The delegation held discussions with Japanese business organisations such as Keidanren and the Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry.
- Concerns raised by Japanese companies included safeguard measures affecting their business operations.
- India encouraged Japanese companies to source steel from India as part of strengthening bilateral industrial linkages.
- Invest India provides support and handholding to foreign companies seeking to establish operations in India.

India-Japan Economic Relations

Trade and Investment Landscape

As of 2026, Japan remains India's **5th largest** source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), with cumulative inflows exceeding **\$47 billion** since 2000.

- **Bilateral Trade:** Reached **\$27.47 billion** in FY 2025-26, growing by over 9% from the previous year. However, the trade deficit remains a point of negotiation, standing at approximately **\$15.4 billion** in Japan's favor.
- **The 10 Trillion Yen Target:** During the July 2026 Annual Summit, both nations set an ambitious target of **¥10 trillion (\$70 billion)** in Japanese public and private investment in India by 2035.
- **CEPA Upgrade:** In July 2026, both nations agreed to modernize the 15-year-old **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** to reduce non-tariff barriers and improve market access for Indian sectors like pharmaceuticals and agriculture.

Major Pillars of Cooperation

1. Infrastructure and Connectivity

Japan is the primary financier for several "game-changing" infrastructure projects through **Official Development Assistance (ODA)**.

- **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR):** India's first bullet train project, utilizing Japanese Shinkansen technology. The first section (50km in Gujarat) is expected to be operational by **2027**.
- **Industrial Corridors:** Support for the **Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC)** and the development of **11 Japanese Industrial Townships (JITs)** across 8 Indian states.
- **Northeast Development:** Strategic focus on road and bridge infrastructure in India's North-Eastern Region to improve connectivity with Southeast Asia (Act East Policy).

2. The "China Plus One" and Technology Strategy

Japanese firms are increasingly pivoting their manufacturing bases from China to India, particularly in high-tech sectors.

- **Semiconductors:** Major partnerships include **Renesas Electronics** (Gujarat OSAT plant), **Tokyo Electron**, and **Fujifilm** (Dholera Industrial Park) to build a robust domestic chip ecosystem.
- **Clean Energy:** Focus on Green Hydrogen, Electric Vehicle (EV) battery recycling, and the **India-Japan Clean Energy Partnership**.
- **Digital Partnership:** Collaborations in **Bharat 6G**, Artificial Intelligence, and the startup ecosystem (India-Japan Digital Partnership).

Significance for India

- A stronger India–Japan economic partnership can support India's manufacturing expansion and attract greater Foreign Direct Investment.
- Greater Japanese investment can contribute to technology transfer, industrial capacity and integration into global value chains.
- A review of the CEPA can help address trade imbalances and improve market access for Indian exporters.
- Stronger investment cooperation can complement the broader strategic partnership between India and Japan.

UPSC Prelims Question

Consider the following statements regarding India-Japan economic relations:

1. India and Japan signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement in 2011.
2. India and Japan are seeking to review their existing trade agreement.
3. Japan has committed investments worth 10 trillion yen in India over the next decade.
4. Invest India provides support to foreign companies establishing operations in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

UPSC Mains Question

India–Japan economic relations have significant potential for strengthening India's manufacturing capabilities and attracting foreign investment. Discuss the significance of reviewing the India–Japan CEPA in the context of trade imbalance, localisation and investment cooperation.

5.Andhra Pradesh's 'Right to Walk': A New Pedestrian Safety Policy

Source: Indian Express

Why in News?

- Andhra Pradesh has become the first Indian state to notify a comprehensive pedestrian safety policy - the Andhra Pradesh Pedestrian Safety and Universal Accessibility Policy, 2026.
- The policy was notified on 7 August 2026 and seeks to establish safe, accessible and pedestrian-friendly streets across the State.
- It follows a Supreme Court order recognising the right of pedestrians to safely use footpaths as an important aspect of the right to life and personal liberty.

Key Provisions of the Policy

- **Three-step approach:**
 1. Road and footpath safety audits
 2. Correction of infrastructure deficiencies
 3. Behavioural change among road users
- **Footpath audits:** Local authorities must identify unsafe locations and prioritise crowded areas and pedestrian accident-prone **black spots**.

- **Removal of encroachments:** Unauthorised structures and obstructions on footpaths are to be removed.
- **Footpath design:** A minimum **2-metre unobstructed walking space** is prescribed, along with buffer and multi-utility zones.
- **Universal accessibility:** Footpaths must incorporate **tactile pavers** for visually impaired persons and **curb ramps** at crossings.
- **At-grade crossings:** The policy discourages inaccessible foot overbridges where safe, convenient at-grade pedestrian crossings can be provided.
- **Safety infrastructure:** Pedestrian guardrails and automated monitoring mechanisms have been recommended.
- **Accountability:** **Section 198A of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988** provides for penalties of up to **₹1 lakh** on officials, contractors or consultants where infrastructure failures contribute to pedestrian death or disability.
- **Grievance redressal:** A district-level mobile application will enable citizens to report pedestrian-safety violations.
- **Performance ranking:** Urban local bodies will be assessed through a ranking mechanism based on pedestrian safety performance.

Why is it Significant?

- Pedestrians constitute a significant share of road fatalities in India.
- The policy shifts the approach from merely regulating traffic to **designing roads around the safety and accessibility needs of pedestrians**.
- It promotes **universal accessibility**, benefiting children, elderly persons and persons with disabilities.
- It strengthens **institutional accountability** for unsafe road infrastructure.
- It can serve as a potential model for other States seeking to integrate **road safety, urban planning and accessibility**.

Important Fact

- In 2024, pedestrians accounted for 1,739 of the 8,346 road accident deaths in Andhra Pradesh.
- At the national level, pedestrians accounted for 36,526 of approximately 1.77 lakh road deaths.