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Daily news summary**UPSC daily news summary - 23 August 2026**

UPSC Civil Services · 23 August 2026 · Prelims and Mains

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Key developments include NITI Aayog's analysis of youth out of employment and education, Supreme Court rulings on environmental litigation, and Parliamentary functioning trends.

COMBINED SUMMARY

- **NITI Aayog Report on NEET Youth:** Identifies 8.7 crore youth (aged 15-29) not in education, employment, or training based on NSS 78th round data.
- **Supreme Court Yamuna Floodplain Ruling:** Overturned NGT's order against Art of Living, ordering refund of ₹5 crore deposit.
- **Gaganyaan Crew Escape System:** Highlights ISRO's puller-design escape system designed to jettison crew module during launch emergencies.
- **LPG Pipeline Expansion:** PNGRB approves nearly 1,800 km of new inland LPG pipelines spanning six states to shift away from road transport.
- **Gorkha Identity Issue:** Ministry of Home Affairs constitutes a committee for a permanent political solution in the West Bengal hills.
- **Parliamentary Legislative Speed:** PRS Legislative Research data reveals an increasing trend of bills being introduced and passed in the same session without referral to committees.
- **UDAN Scheme Extension:** Union Government commits ₹28,840 crore over 10 years to scale regional air connectivity under UDAN.
- **Polysilicon Manufacturing Target:** MNRE targets 30 GW of domestic polysilicon manufacturing capacity by 2030 to secure solar supply chains.

1. NITI AAYOG REPORT NEET YOUTH**WHY IN NEWS**

- **NITI Aayog** published 'Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047' highlighting youth employment challenges.
- The report estimates 8.7 crore Indian youth are not in education, employment, or training.

WHAT IS THE NEET METRIC?

- NEET stands for youth Not in Education, Employment, or Training, covering individuals aged 15-29 years.

- Estimates in the report rely on sample data from the 78th round of the National Sample Survey (NSS).

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Categorises the workforce into five segments:** schooling, tertiary education, formal/informal work, NEET youth, and women.
- Calls for affordable and heavily subsidised skilling programs to overcome financial constraints and prior education sunk costs.
- Recommends aligning training modules directly with local demand drivers and emerging economic sectors.

WHY IT MATTERS

- **Demographic Dividend:** Unproductive youth capital undermines India's potential demographic advantage.
- **Policy Focus:** Highlights structural gaps between educational output and market-aligned skill requirements.

KEY TERMS

- **NEET Youth:** Individuals aged 15-29 who are currently unemployed and not enrolled in formal education or vocational training.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- **NITI Aayog**'s definition of NEET covers youth aged 15-29 who are unemployed and outside education or training systems.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Analyse structural barriers preventing **NEET youth** from transitioning into formal employment despite expanding vocational programs.

KEY DATA

- **Data Source:** NSS 78th Round - Official sample survey used by **NITI Aayog** to compute national NEET metrics.
- **Age Bracket:** 15-29 Years - Standard legal definition of youth for national skill development policy.

[Official source](#)

2. GAGANYAAN CREW ESCAPE SYSTEM ISRO

WHY IN NEWS

- ISRO detailed safety mechanisms for the Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission, focusing on the Crew Escape System.

WHAT IS THE CREW ESCAPE SYSTEM (CES)?

- Safety architecture designed to pull the Crew Module away from the launch vehicle during abort scenarios on the launchpad or during ascent.
- Utilises a 'puller' engine motor configuration attached above the crew module to ensure rapid distance separation within milliseconds.

KEY OPERATIONAL DETAILS

- Automated detection systems sense vehicle anomalies and trigger solid-fuel abort motors autonomously.
- Tested through ISRO's Pad Abort Test (PAT) and Test Vehicle Abort Missions (TV-D1) to validate aerodynamic stability and deceleration parachutes.

KEY TERMS

- **Puller Design:** An abort system configuration mounted atop a rocket that pulls the crew capsule upward away from an exploding launch vehicle.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- ISRO's Gaganyaan Crew Escape System employs a high-altitude puller mechanism driven by solid propellant motors.

KEY DATA

- **Implementing Agency:** ISRO - India's space agency responsible for indigenous design of human-rated space systems.

[Official source](#)

3. EXPANSION INLAND LPG PIPELINE INFRASTRUCTURE PNGRB

WHY IN NEWS

- Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) cleared nearly 1,800 km of new LPG pipelines across six states.

WHAT WAS APPROVED?

- Construction of approximately 1,800 km of domestic LPG pipeline network valued at nearly ₹7,000 crore.
- Spans six states to enhance bulk movement of imported and domestically refined Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).

OPERATIONAL AND STRATEGIC RATIONALE

- Shifts bulk LPG distribution from road tanker transport to dedicated pipeline logistics.
- **Before:** High reliance on heavy road transport leading to congestion, high freight costs, and supply bottlenecks. **After:** Continuous inland pipeline supply improving logistics reliability.

KEY TERMS

- **PNGRB:** Statutory body established under the PNGRB Act, 2006, regulating downstream petroleum, natural gas, and LPG midstream infrastructure.

PAPERS

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PRELIMS FACTS

PNGRB regulates downstream petroleum and natural gas pipelines and market logistics in India.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Discuss how shifting hazardous material transit from road to pipeline logistics improves energy security and safety.

KEY DATA

- **Regulator:** Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board - Statutory body authorizing cross-country gas and LPG pipelines.

[Official source](#)

4. GORKHA IDENTITY ISSUE TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE HOME MINISTRY

WHY IN NEWS

- Ministry of Home Affairs formed a dedicated committee to draft a political solution for the Gorkha demand in West Bengal.

BACKGROUND OF THE ISSUE

- Long-standing demand for statehood or special administrative autonomy for the Darjeeling hills and adjoining areas of West Bengal.
- Governed previously via regional autonomous bodies under **Article 244**/state acts such as the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA).

CURRENT INSTITUTIONAL STEP

- Union Home Minister chaired a tripartite meeting between the Centre, West Bengal state representatives, and Gorkha leadership.
- A high-level committee was established to define modalities for a constitutional and administrative solution.

KEY TERMS

- **Tripartite Talks:** Negotiations involving three distinct parties: Central Government, State Government, and local political stakeholders.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- Autonomous hill councils in West Bengal, such as the GTA, derive authority from state legislation rather than the **Sixth Schedule**.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Examine the effectiveness of autonomous regional councils in fulfilling sub-national political aspirations.

KEY DATA

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs - Handles domestic political settlements, internal security, and autonomous hill councils.

[Official source](#)

5. PARLIAMENTARY BILL SCRUTINY TRENDS PRS DATA

WHY IN NEWS

- PRS Legislative Research released data highlighting a sharp increase in bills introduced and passed during the same session without committee scrutiny.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- More than half of the bills passed in the 18th Lok Sabha were introduced and cleared within the same session.
- Eleven out of twelve bills during the recent Monsoon Session were passed without referral to Department-related **Parliamentary Standing Committees** (DRPSCs).
- Multiple bills were passed without substantive floor debate while Lok Sabha operated at approximately 15% of scheduled time due to disruptions.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND PROCEDURAL CONTEXT

- Referral of bills to **Standing Committee**s is not constitutionally mandatory but regulated by Rules of Procedure of the Houses.
- Bypassing committee scrutiny deprives legislation of multi-party detailed Clause-by-Clause examination and stakeholder consultation.

KEY TERMS

- **Standing Committee Scrutiny:** Detailed clause-by-clause evaluation of introduced bills by bipartisan parliamentary panels prior to voting.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- Referral of a bill to a **Departmentally Related Standing Committee** is discretionary under the direction of the Speaker or Chairman.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Critically evaluate the decline in committee referrals and short-duration debates on the quality of Indian statutory lawmaking.

KEY DATA

- **Data Source:** PRS Legislative Research - Primary non-partisan research body tracking legislative metrics and parliamentary proceedings.

[Official source](#)

6. UDAN SCHEME 10 YEAR EXTENSION OUTLAY

WHY IN NEWS

- Union Ministry of Civil Aviation announced a ₹28,840 crore commitment to support the UDAN scheme over the next 10 years.

WHAT IS THE UDAN SCHEME?

- Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) was launched in 2016 as a Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) under the National Civil Aviation Policy.
- Operates via **Viability Gap Funding** (VGF) to subsidise airfares on unserved and underserved regional routes.

DETAILS OF NEW COMMITMENT

- Allocates ₹28,840 crore over a 10-year horizon to construct new airstrips, helipads, and maintain operational VGF support.
- Aims to expand regional air coverage to tier-2, tier-3 cities, and remote hilly terrain.

KEY TERMS

- **Viability Gap Funding:** A central grant provided to infrastructure project developers or operators to bridge the gap between economic viability and financial costs.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- UDAN relies on a regional connectivity fund financed primarily through a small levy on domestic major-route flights.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Assess the role of regional air connectivity initiatives in stimulating decentralised economic growth.

KEY DATA

- **Parent Scheme:** UDAN (RCS) - Flagship civil aviation regional connectivity scheme launched under Ministry of Civil Aviation.

- **Funding Outlay:** ₹28,840 crore over 10 years - Decadal expenditure target for regional air connectivity expansion.

[Official source](#)

7. DOMESTIC POLYSILICON CAPACITY TARGET MNRE 2030

WHY IN NEWS

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) targeted 30 GW domestic polysilicon manufacturing capacity by 2030.

STRATEGIC RATIONALE

- Polysilicon is the foundational raw material for silicon-based photovoltaic (PV) solar wafers, ingots, cells, and modules.
- India currently relies heavily on imported polysilicon, exposing its 500 GW non-fossil fuel energy target by 2030 to supply chain vulnerabilities.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

- Backed by planned investments of ₹25,000 crore under targeted government manufacturing incentive frameworks.
- Complemented by research into grid-scale energy storage options such as Vanadium Redox Flow Batteries.

KEY TERMS

- **Polysilicon:** High-purity polycrystalline form of silicon used as a fundamental raw material in solar PV manufacturing.
- **Vanadium Redox Flow Battery:** A type of rechargeable flow battery that uses vanadium ions in different oxidation states to store chemical potential energy.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- Polysilicon is refined from quartzite and forms the initial stage of the solar PV manufacturing value chain.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Discuss strategies to overcome upstream manufacturing bottlenecks in India's renewable energy sector.

KEY DATA

- **Target Capacity:** 30 GW by 2030 - National target set by MNRE for upstream solar component localization.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy - Oversees domestic solar cell and raw material manufacturing policies.

[Official source](#)

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