

**Current Affairs • 30 September 2026****19 min**

READING TIME

**8**

KEY STORIES

**24**

IN BRIEF

**5 + 1**

MCQS + MAINS

GS1 • 4

GS2 • 18

GS3 • 50

PAPER MIX

01 – TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

**The 5 stories you can't skip****1****East and northeast regions record driest monsoon since 1901**

**Why it matters:** Climate variability and El Niño impacts on monsoon patterns: a GS1 Geography and climate change study.

GS1 • GEOGRAPHY

P

**2****Union Cabinet approves ₹1,86,405 crore for Green Energy Corridor Phase-III**

**Why it matters:** Energy security and grid infrastructure: a key GS3 topic on India's renewable energy transition.

GS3 • ECONOMY

P

M

**3****India to become super-aged by 2065 as fertility rate hits 1.9**

**Why it matters:** Demographic transition and aging population: a critical GS3 and Ethics case study on dependency ratios.

GS3 • ECONOMY

M

**4****Modi and Trump review trade, defence, energy and critical technology cooperation**

**Why it matters:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Donald Trump held a phone conversation to review bilateral cooperation in trade, defence, energy, and critical technology.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

**5****IN-SPACe mandates authorization for hosted-payloads under Space Policy 2023**

**Why it matters:** Space sector regulation: a GS3 case study on balancing private participation with national security.

GS3 • SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

P

M

NUMBER OF THE DAY

**759.4 mm**

India's 2026 southwest monsoon rainfall (87% of Long Period Average)

# What to know, in 60 seconds each

8 of 72 notes · picked for exam value

GS1 · GEOGRAPHY P

## East and northeast regions record driest monsoon since 1901

**Why in news:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) reported that India's 2026 southwest monsoon ended at 759.4 mm, with the east and northeast region recording its driest monsoon since 1901.

### REMEMBER

- India Meteorological Department (IMD) — responsible for systematic monsoon records and forecasting
- El Niño — attributed by IMD as a cause for the subdued monsoon rainfall
- 759.4 mm — India's 2026 southwest monsoon rainfall (87% of Long Period Average)

**MAINS ANGLE** Analyze the impact of El Niño and climate variability on the Indian monsoon and suggest measures to mitigate the risks of diminishing rainfall in the Northeast region.

USE : El Niño Monsoon variability Climate change Hydrological stress

Full note → [satyadheesh.in/news/128578](https://satyadheesh.in/news/128578)

GS3 · ECONOMY M

## India to become super-aged by 2065 as fertility rate hits 1.9

**Why in news:** A Moody's report and an EAC-PM paper highlight India's transition to a 'super-aged' society by 2065 due to a fertility rate of 1.9, posing a risk of aging before becoming rich.

### REMEMBER

- Super-aged society — India is projected to reach this status by 2065.
- Fertility rate — Currently at 1.9 (1.6 excluding Bihar and Uttar Pradesh).
- Annual births — Dropped to 2.32 crore.

**MAINS ANGLE** Discuss the economic implications of India becoming a 'super-aged' society before achieving high-income status and suggest measures to mitigate the shrinking working-age population.

USE : Demographic Transition Fertility Rate Dependency Ratio Super-aged Society

Full note → [satyadheesh.in/news/128332](https://satyadheesh.in/news/128332)

GS3 · ECONOMY P M

## Union Cabinet approves ₹1,86,405 crore for Green Energy Corridor Phase-III

**Why in news:** The Union Cabinet approved the 'Green Energy Corridor Phase-III' scheme with a ₹1,86,405 crore outlay to facilitate the evacuation of 135 GW of renewable energy.

### REMEMBER

- Green Energy Corridor Phase-III — A scheme to facilitate the evacuation of 135 GW of renewable energy.
- ₹1,36,378 crore — Allocation for Intra-State Transmission Systems under the scheme.
- 50 GWh — Target for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) under the scheme.

**MAINS ANGLE** Discuss the significance of developing robust transmission infrastructure and battery storage systems in achieving India's non-fossil fuel capacity targets.

USE : Renewable Energy Grid Integration Battery Energy Storage Decarbonization

Full note → [satyadheesh.in/news/128352](https://satyadheesh.in/news/128352)

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS P

## Modi and Trump review trade, defence, energy and critical technology cooperation

**Why in news:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Donald Trump held a phone conversation to review bilateral cooperation in trade, defence, energy, and critical technology.

### REMEMBER

- Narendra Modi: Prime Minister of India
- The partnership is officially termed the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership
- The statement regarding the review was issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

**MAINS ANGLE** Analyze the significance of the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership in shaping the global order in the context of trade and critical technology cooperation.

USE : Strategic Partnership Bilateral Cooperation Critical Technology Global Peace

Full note → [satyadheesh.in/news/128501](https://satyadheesh.in/news/128501)

## IN-SPACe mandates authorization for hosted-payloads under Space Policy 2023

**Why in news:** IN-SPACe released guidelines under the Indian Space Policy 2023 requiring Indian entities to seek authorization for hosted-payloads to ensure international treaty compliance and national security.

### REMEMBER

- Hosted-payloads: Require specific authorization from IN-SPACe for Indian entities under the Space Policy 2023.
- DPIIT: Currently lists 440 startups in the space sector.
- IN-SPACe authorizations: 113 authorizations granted to 52 Non-Government Entities.

**MAINS ANGLE** Discuss the significance of the Indian Space Policy 2023 in fostering private sector participation while ensuring national security and international treaty compliance.

USE : Space Policy 2023 Hosted-payloads National Security

Private Sector Participation

Full note → [satyadheesh.in/news/128423](https://satyadheesh.in/news/128423)

## US pauses USD 14 billion arms package for Taiwan as trade bargaining chip

**Why in news:** Donald Trump and Xi Jinping met in Washington, resulting in a two-month trade truce extension and the revelation that the US paused a USD 14 billion arms package for Taiwan as a bargaining chip.

### REMEMBER

- USD 14 billion — the record arms package amount paused by the US for Taiwan.
- Trade truce extension — a two-month extension and a new agricultural working group were established.
- Washington — the location where Donald Trump and Xi Jinping met for a summit.

**MAINS ANGLE** Analyze how the shift towards 'managed competition' between the US and China impacts India's strategic autonomy and its leverage in bilateral trade negotiations.

USE : managed competition strategic autonomy trade truce

geopolitical leverage

Full note → [satyadheesh.in/news/128416](https://satyadheesh.in/news/128416)

## Union Cabinet approves rabi crop MSP hikes for 2027-28 marketing year

**Why in news:** The Union Cabinet approved increased Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for six rabi crops for the 2027-28 marketing year, with a total estimated farmer payout of ₹90,962 crore.

### REMEMBER

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) — price at which the government purchases crops from farmers to ensure income security.
- CACP (Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices) — the body that provides recommendations for MSP.
- Wheat MSP 2027-28 — ₹2,610 per quintal, which is more than double its production cost of ₹1,264 per quintal.

**MAINS ANGLE** Discuss the role of Minimum Support Price (MSP) in ensuring farmer income security and its impact on the fiscal health of the public distribution system.

USE : Minimum Support Price Rabi crops CACP

Food Security

Full note → [satyadheesh.in/news/128358](https://satyadheesh.in/news/128358)

## Supreme Court accepts CSIR-NEERI suggestions for limited green cracker relaxations

**Why in news:** The Supreme Court accepted CSIR-NEERI suggestions to allow limited green cracker relaxations provided they meet specific noise and chemical safety standards.

### REMEMBER

- CSIR-NEERI — provided suggestions for green cracker relaxations to the Supreme Court.
- Noise limits — green crackers must meet 125 dB(A) and 145 dB(C) peak noise limits.
- Emission reduction — tests showed 30% reduction in emissions and 45%-60% reduction in particulate matter.

**MAINS ANGLE** Discuss the balance between cultural traditions and environmental protection in the context of regulating firecracker emissions in India.

USE : Environmental Compliance Pollution Mitigation

Regulatory Framework

Public Health

Full note → [satyadheesh.in/news/128324](https://satyadheesh.in/news/128324)

# Everything else, one line each

GS1 · HISTORY · SOCIETY · GEOGRAPHY

**UNESCO Tentative List:** India added five new sites including Udaigiri Caves and Satyagraha sites, bringing the total to 78.

**Rainfall deficit:** Karnataka recorded a 32% rainfall deficit with Bengaluru South seeing an 87% drop due to El Nino.

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

**Press freedom:** Supreme Court to examine if Article 194(3) can be used to limit press freedom under Article 19(1)(a).

**CEC petition:** Petition seeks independent inquiry into alleged database tampering and voter disenfranchisement by the CEC.

**Electoral roll revision:** EC extended the Special Intensive Revision schedule for Andhra Pradesh and Meghalaya to October 2026.

**UN Meeting:** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to discuss West Asia and Ukraine conflicts.

**Infant food rules:** Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration prohibits commercial promotions of infant foods and milk substitutes.

**Russian Army recruitment:** MEA issued travel advisory after 49 Indians killed and 23 others reported untraceable since February 2022.

**Defence Cooperation:** India and Myanmar to hold third annual meeting in Guwahati to discuss border security and capacity building.

**Caste survey:** Kerala High Court directed the Department of Backward Classes Development to submit a progress report by November 5, 2026.

**Journalist safety:** Andhra Pradesh issued GO 1913 to form a high-powered committee to investigate attacks and harassment of journalists.

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

**MOF-303 technology:** Omar Yaghi won the 2025 Nobel Prize for extracting water from air in arid conditions using MOF-303.

**CAFE-3 norms:** New norms target a 16.7% reduction in fuel consumption benchmarks for passenger vehicles by 2031-32.

**Polysilicon production:** MNRE is developing an incentive scheme to boost domestic production to 10 GW by August and 30 GW by 2030.

**Cybercrime policing:** SPIR 2026 report finds 27% of victims pay bribes, with recovery rates rising from 12% to 41%.

**Doxxing and deepfakes:** Supreme Court directed Union Ministries to address these as key surveillance and privacy concerns.

**Kerala monsoon:** Southwest monsoon ended on 30 September 2026 with a 28% rainfall deficit, one of the lowest since 1901.

**Rayalaseema Plan:** Chittoor district allocated ₹1,529.69 crore to boost farmer incomes through irrigation, infrastructure, and technology.

**Maharashtra drought:** Water Resources Department reports severe to exceptional drought threatening soybean, tur dal, and cotton crops.

**Government First:** Karnataka to provide ₹25 crore for up to 100 start-ups for pilot deployments in technology sectors.

**BH60-EV truck:** BEML launched India's first indigenously designed 60-tonne Electric Dump Truck to support mining and infrastructure.

**Polavaram project:** Andhra Pradesh government mandated completion by March 2027 with ₹35,000 crore for priority water projects.

**GST demand notices:** Telangana High Court ruled that notices generated via the GST portal are valid despite being unsigned.

**Patient history access:** 51.03% of government healthcare providers have patient history access compared to 48.97% of private ones.

MAP WORK

## Places in news

|                                                          |                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Washington                                               | the location where Donald Trump and Xi Jinping met for a summit.   |
| Furnace Creek, Death Valley National Park                | Location of the successful water extraction experiment             |
| Udaigiri Caves, Bagh Cave Paintings, and Ginnorgarh Fort | New additions to the tentative list.                               |
| Idukki and Wayanad                                       | experienced a 50% reduction in rainfall compared to normal levels. |
| Madanapalle                                              | site for the program launch                                        |

## 5 questions, 5 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

1 With reference to the 2026 southwest monsoon in India, consider the following statements:

1. The east and northeast region recorded its driest monsoon since 1901.
2. The total southwest monsoon rainfall was 759.4 mm, representing 95% of the Long Period Average.
3. The IMD attributed the subdued monsoon rainfall to one of the strongest El Niños in recent history.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2 With reference to the Green Energy Corridor Phase-III scheme, consider the following statements:

1. India aims to achieve a non-fossil capacity of 500 GW by 2035.
2. The scheme allocates ₹1,36,378 crore specifically for Battery Energy Storage Systems.
3. The scheme aims to facilitate the evacuation of 135 GW of renewable energy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3 With reference to India's demographic transition, consider the following statements:

1. The current fertility rate in India is 1.6 including Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
2. India entered the ageing category around the year 2024.
3. India is projected to become a super-aged society by the year 2065.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4 How many startups are currently listed by the DPIIT in the space sector?

- (a) 250 (b) 440  
(c) 512 (d) 680

5 With reference to the recent US-China summit and trade developments, consider the following statements:

1. The summit resulted in a one-month trade truce extension.
2. The US paused a record USD 14 billion arms package for Taiwan as a bargaining chip.
3. The US imposed a 50% tariff hike on Indian goods in August 2024.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## MAINS PRACTICE

## Write one answer today

GS1 • GEOGRAPHY

Analyze the impact of El Niño and climate variability on the Indian monsoon and suggest measures to mitigate the risks of diminishing rainfall in the Northeast region.

USE: El Niño Monsoon variability Climate change Hydrological stress IMD forecasting

ANSWERS • 1 (c) 2 (b) 3 (d) 4 (b) 5 (b)



TELEGRAM



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