

**SATYADHEESH**
सत्याधीश

UPSC DAILY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs • 4 October 2026**40**
NOTES**5**
STORIES MERGED**10**
MCQSGS2 • 19 GS3 • 21
PAPER MIX**CONTENTS****Every note, grouped by paper**

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Practice — 10 MCQs**HOW EACH NOTE READS**

Why in news → facts to remember → a Mains question with keywords. Duplicate stories are merged.

SHORT ON TIME?

The 5-page **Brief** has the stories that matter most, plus a quiz. Same day, same notes.

Polity & Constitution

5

CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENTS & BASIC STRUCTURE

P

M

2 REPORTS MERGED

4 Oct · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/130692 · Report a mistake

Supreme Court judge says disenfranchising millions violates Article 14 and 326

WHY IN NEWS Justice Ujjal Bhuyan of the Supreme Court stated that disenfranchising millions of Indian citizens violates Article 14 and Article 326, arguing that voting is central to the Basic Structure doctrine.

CONCEPT | Basic Structure Doctrine: Voting is considered central to this doctrine.

CONCEPT | Article 14: Right to Equality violated by disenfranchisement.

FIGURE | 13 crore: Number of names reportedly excluded from draft rolls across three phases.

MAINS Q *Examine the constitutional implications of voter disenfranchisement and discuss the significance of the right to vote as a component of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.*

USE: Basic Structure Doctrine Right to Equality Universal Adult Franchise Electoral Roll Integrity Constitutionalism

ELECTIONS, ECI & ELECTORAL REFORMS

P

4 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/130515 · Report a mistake

Kerala CEO to re-enroll 8.97 lakh voters removed during Special Intensive Revision

WHY IN NEWS The Chief Electoral Officer of Kerala announced a special drive to re-enroll 8.97 lakh voters who were removed during the Special Intensive Revision.

PERSON | D. Sajith Babu — Chief Electoral Officer of Kerala

FIGURE | 8.97 lakh — Number of voters to be re-enrolled in Kerala

CONCEPT | Special Intensive Revision — Process during which voters were initially removed

BODY | Election Commission of India — Authority that issued the decision for the re-enrollment drive

MAINS Q *Discuss the significance of periodic electoral roll revisions in ensuring the integrity of the democratic process in India.*

USE: electoral integrity voter disenfranchisement administrative modalities democratic inclusion

ELECTIONS, ECI & ELECTORAL REFORMS

P

4 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/130424 · Report a mistake

EC officials to visit Goa, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Manipur for election preparedness

WHY IN NEWS The Election Commission of India (ECI) is deploying Deputy Election Commissioners and officials to Goa, Uttarakhand, Punjab, and Manipur to oversee election preparedness for the upcoming assembly polls.

FACT | The Manipur Assembly consists of 60 members.

FACT | The Goa Assembly consists of 40 members.

FACT | The Punjab Assembly consists of 117 members.

FACT | The Uttarakhand Assembly consists of 70 members.

MAINS Q *Discuss the institutional mechanisms adopted by the Election Commission of India to ensure the integrity and logistical readiness of large-scale assembly elections.*

USE: Election Commission Logistical Preparedness EVM Verification Assembly Elections Democratic Integrity

Supreme Court hears suo moto case on Central Secretariat Library relocation

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court is hearing a suo moto case regarding the relocation of the 135-year-old Central Secretariat Library in Delhi amidst the Central Vista redevelopment.

FIGURE	8.5 lakh books — total volume housed in the library
CONCEPT	Central Vista Project — large-scale urban redevelopment project in Delhi
BODY	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) — nodal ministry for the Central Vista project

MAINS Q Examine the judicial oversight and administrative challenges involved in preserving heritage institutions during large-scale urban redevelopment projects like the Central Vista.

USE: suo moto judicial review heritage preservation urban redevelopment administrative accountability

State Election Commission releases schedule for four-phase Panchayati Raj elections

WHY IN NEWS The State Election Commission released a schedule for four-phase elections to Panchayati Raj institutions to be held from October 23 to November 17.

BODY	State Election Commission — Body responsible for releasing the Panchayati Raj election schedule.
CONCEPT	50% reservation for women — Mandated for Panchayati Raj institutions.
FIGURE	4.03 crore voters — Registered to elect members for 14,403 village panchayats.
DATE	November 20 — Date on which the results for the four-phase elections are due.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of women's reservation in Panchayati Raj institutions in promoting grassroots democracy and local governance in India.

USE: Panchayati Raj Grassroots Democracy Women's Reservation Local Governance State Election Commission

Governance

1

Telangana enacts CURE Act to automate mutations and cap property tax

WHY IN NEWS The Telangana government enacted the Core Urban Region (Integrated Governance) Act, 2026, to automate land mutations and cap property tax increases at 10% for a 2,053 sq. km region.

ACT	CURE Act: Caps property tax increases at a maximum of 10% and automates land mutations.
CONCEPT	CURE-1: A system introduced for consolidated billing under the new Act.
BODY	CURE Apex Governance Council: Body coordinating GHMC, CMC, and MMC in Telangana.
BODY	HYDRAA: Granted statutory roles to tackle encroachments under the CURE Act.

MAINS Q Discuss how integrated governance and automated land mutation systems can enhance urban administrative efficiency and transparency in rapidly expanding metropolitan regions.

USE: Integrated Governance Urban Planning Administrative Efficiency Statutory Authority Fiscal Federalism

EDUCATION POLICY P

4 Oct · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/130685 · Report a mistake

Supreme Court rules Bar Council of India lacks authority to punish students

WHY IN NEWS Supreme Court Justice Ujjal Bhuyan praised students during a moot court competition following a row where the Bar Council of India (BCI) threatened students for protesting against Chief Justice of India Surya Kant.

BODY	Bar Council of India (BCI) — statutory body whose regulatory powers over student bodies were contested.
PERSON	Surya Kant — Chief Justice of India during the protest row.
EVENT	19th NALSAR–Justice BR Sawhney Memorial Moot Court Competition — the venue where the incident occurred.
DATE	August 14 — the date the Supreme Court ruled on the BCI's authority.

MAINS Q Discuss the constitutional boundaries of the Bar Council of India's regulatory powers over student bodies and the importance of academic freedom in legal education.

USE: Academic freedom Regulatory oversight Judicial independence Statutory authority

HEALTH POLICY & PUBLIC HEALTH P M

4 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/130659 · Report a mistake

ICMR–NIE study estimates 5,726 annual rabies deaths vs. Union Health Ministry's 54 report

WHY IN NEWS A study by ICMR–NIE published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases revealed a massive discrepancy between official rabies death reports (54 in 2024) and estimated annual deaths (5,726)

BODY	ICMR–NIE: Indian Council of Medical Research–National Institute of Epidemiology
FACT	IDSP–IHIP: Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme–Integrated Health Information Platform
FACT	MCCD: Medical Certification of Cause of Death system records only medically certified deaths
FACT	India estimates 9.1 million animal bites annually, including 5.6 million dog bites
FACT	India aims to eliminate dog–mediated human rabies by 2030

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in establishing a comprehensive national mortality surveillance system for zoonotic diseases like rabies in India.

USE: Zoonotic diseases Disease surveillance Public health infrastructure Data discrepancy Rabies elimination

HEALTH POLICY & PUBLIC HEALTH P

4 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/130551 · Report a mistake

Deccan Declaration aims to make Hyderabad a Formula-Free City

WHY IN NEWS The 6th UNICEF South Asia Chapter LAMBCON 2026 concluded in Hyderabad with the launch of the 'Deccan Declaration' aiming to make Hyderabad a 'Formula-Free City'.

CONCEPT	Deccan Declaration — an initiative to make Hyderabad a Formula-Free City
EVENT	LAMBCON 2026 — 6th UNICEF South Asia Chapter conference held in Hyderabad
PLACE	Hyderabad — host city for the 6th LAMBCON 2026
CONCEPT	Yashodamma Mother's Milk Bank — launched at Yashoda Hospitals during the event

MAINS Q Discuss the public health implications of promoting exclusive breastfeeding and the role of civil society in reducing infant formula dependency in India.

USE: Public Health Infant Nutrition Civil Society Engagement Maternal Health Policy Advocacy

Telangana NEHS receives pre-authorisation for ₹104.63 crore in treatments

WHY IN NEWS The Telangana government's New Employees Health Scheme (NEHS) received pre-authorisation for 15,395 treatments totaling ₹104.63 crore across 919 hospitals.

SCHEME	New Employees Health Scheme (NEHS): A Telangana government initiative for employees and pensioners covering inpatient and outpatient services.
FIGURE	₹1,056 crore: The annual budget for NEHS, supported by an ₹88 crore monthly fund.
FIGURE	12,56,962: Number of health cards generated for NEHS beneficiaries as of September 28.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of state-sponsored health schemes in ensuring social security for government employees and pensioners in India.

USE: Social Security Public Health Infrastructure Fiscal Federalism Employee Welfare

VULNERABLE SECTIONS (SC/ST, MINORITIES, DISABLED, ELDERLY, CHILDREN)

4 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/130351 · Report a mistake

M

Bus operator challenges Tamil Nadu's Vettri Payanam scheme in Madras High Court

WHY IN NEWS A private bus operator filed a writ petition in the Madras High Court challenging the constitutional validity of Tamil Nadu's 'Vettri Payanam' scheme, which provides free travel for women and transwomen.

SCHEME	Vettri Payanam: A Tamil Nadu government scheme providing free travel for women and transwomen.
FIGURE	₹6,000 crore: Annual allocation by the state government to compensate transport corporations.
PLACE	Madras High Court: Venue where the writ petition challenging the scheme's constitutional validity was filed.

MAINS Q Critically examine the impact of state-sponsored free travel schemes for women on the viability of private transport and the principle of a level playing field.

USE: Constitutional validity Level playing field Social welfare Public-private competition Fiscal expenditure

International Relations

8

INDIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS

M

2 REPORTS MERGED

4 Oct · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/130661 · Report a mistake

India moves beyond advocacy to engage Kyiv and Moscow on Ukraine conflict

WHY IN NEWS External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar stated at the Munich Leaders' Meeting that India is moving beyond advocacy to engage both Kyiv and Moscow on the Ukraine conflict.

CONCEPT	Strategic Autonomy: India's evolving role from a neutral advocate to an active mediator.
CONCEPT	Food Diplomacy: Focus on grain exports and energy supplies in the Ukraine conflict.
PLACE	Black Sea: Region identified for shipping safety and grain export focus.
EVENT	Munich Leaders' Meeting: Forum where India's shift in engagement strategy was stated.

MAINS Q Discuss India's evolving role from a neutral advocate to an active mediator in the Ukraine conflict. How does this align with India's strategic autonomy?

USE: Strategic Autonomy Multi-alignment Mediation Energy Security Food Diplomacy

INDIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS

P

4 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/130672 · Report a mistake

Jaishankar meets Admiral Paparo to discuss India-U.S. maritime cooperation

WHY IN NEWS External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Commander Admiral Samuel J. Paparo to discuss deepening the Major Defense Partnership and Quad cooperation.

PERSON	Admiral Samuel J. Paparo — Commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command
CONCEPT	Major Defense Partnership — A framework for India-U.S. security and maritime cooperation
CONCEPT	Quad Cooperation — A multilateral framework for regional stability and maritime security

MAINS Q Examine how the deepening of the India-U.S. Major Defense Partnership and Quad cooperation contributes to maritime security and regional stability in the Indo-Pacific.

USE: Maritime Security Indo-Pacific Major Defense Partnership Quad Cooperation Strategic Autonomy

Zelenskyy announces readiness for trilateral talks with US and Russia

WHY IN NEWS President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced Ukraine's readiness for trilateral talks with the US and Russia this month, while India's External Affairs Minister S.

PLACE | Kyiv — Capital of Ukraine where Zelenskyy announced readiness for trilateral talks.

PLACE | Munich Security Conference — Venue where India's mediation role was discussed.

FIGURE | October 2026 — Washington's target date for initiating technical-level talks.

MAINS Q Discuss the evolving role of middle powers like India in mediating global conflicts and the geopolitical implications of trilateral negotiations in the Ukraine-Russia crisis.

USE: Strategic Autonomy Mediation Trilateral Diplomacy Geopolitical Alignment Multipolar World Order

Germany announces 1.3-billion euro support package for Ukraine

WHY IN NEWS German Chancellor Friedrich Merz visited Kyiv to announce a 1.3-billion euro support package amidst a massive Russian drone strike on Ukrainian infrastructure.

PLACE | Pivnichnyi Bridge — a major bridge located in Kyiv, Ukraine

FIGURE | 1.3-billion euro package — support announced by Germany during Chancellor Friedrich Merz's visit

FIGURE | 8.5 billion euros — total value of agreements signed between Germany and Ukraine

CONCEPT | Infrastructure Warfare — targeting of bridges, pharmaceutical warehouses, and communications facilities

MAINS Q Analyze the role of European diplomatic and financial support in sustaining Ukraine's defense against Russian infrastructure-targeted warfare.

USE: Geopolitics Infrastructure Warfare Bilateral Agreements Humanitarian Crisis Strategic Support

Seychelles secures world's first ocean debt conversion for conservation

WHY IN NEWS The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation and other funders backed a world's first ocean debt conversion deal with Seychelles to turn \$21.6 million in foreign debt into conservation funding.

CONCEPT | Debt-for-nature swap — converting foreign debt into funding for marine conservation efforts.

PLACE | Seychelles — the first nation to participate in an ocean debt conversion deal.

FIGURE | \$21.6 million — the total amount of foreign debt converted into conservation funding.

FIGURE | 30% — the target percentage of protected areas to be achieved by 2020.

BODY | Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation — a key funder of the ocean debt conversion initiative.

MAINS Q Discuss the potential of 'debt-for-nature' swaps as a viable mechanism for financing marine conservation in developing and island nations.

USE: Debt-for-nature swap Marine conservation Sovereign debt Blue economy Climate finance

Russia to recruit 70,000 Indian skilled workers this year

WHY IN NEWS External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar briefed a parliamentary committee on India's engagement with Russia, highlighting a plan for Russia to recruit approximately 70,000 Indian skilled workers this year.

FIGURE | 70,000 — Number of Indian skilled workers Russia plans to take this year

PLACE | Bishkek — Location of the meeting between PM Modi and Vladimir Putin

CONCEPT | Trade expansion — India and Russia plan to expand trade in seven specific areas

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of labor migration and trade diversification in strengthening India's strategic partnership with Russia amidst evolving global geopolitical dynamics.

USE: Strategic Partnership Labor Migration Trade Diversification Geopolitical Diplomacy Human Capital

India's High Commissioner clarifies Sheikh Hasina arrived on Bangladeshi military aircraft

WHY IN NEWS India's High Commissioner in Dhaka, Dinesh Trivedi, clarified that former Bangladeshi PM Sheikh Hasina arrived in India on a Bangladeshi military aircraft, not Indian forces

PERSON	Dinesh Trivedi — India's High Commissioner in Dhaka
EVENT	Bay of Bengal Conversation — Venue where the clarification was made
CONCEPT	Sovereign transport — Sheikh Hasina arrived via Bangladeshi military aircraft
EVENT	Bangladesh government fall — Occurred in August 2024

MAINS Q Discuss the evolving dynamics of India-Bangladesh bilateral relations in the wake of the 2024 political transition in Bangladesh.

USE:

bilateral relations

extradition_process

sovereign transport

diplomatic protocol

regional stability

Ukraine considers India's broad ceasefire proposal

WHY IN NEWS Ukraine is reportedly considering a broad ceasefire proposal from India alongside offers from Turkiye, Egypt, and the US amidst escalating Russian strikes and a new alleged Russian doctrine.

CONCEPT	Strategic Autonomy: India's role as a mediator in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
EVENT	Russia's new doctrine: Alleged shift by Putin to include broader civilian targets.
EVENT	Targeted strikes: Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced continued strikes on Kyiv.

MAINS Q Analyze India's role as a mediator in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the implications of its ceasefire proposal on global geopolitical stability.

USE:

Strategic Autonomy

Mediation

Geopolitical Stability

Ceasefire Diplomacy

Multilateralism

GS3

Economy · S&T · Environment · Security

21 NOTES

Economy

7

Centre considers ₹5,129 crore Sawalkot hydropower project in J&K

WHY IN NEWS The Union Power Secretary announced that the Centre is considering the ₹5,129 crore Sawalkot hydropower project in J&K following India's suspension of the Indus Water Treaty.

BODY	NHPC — The agency behind the Sawalkot hydropower project initiative.
FIGURE	800 megawatts — The power generation capacity of the Sawalkot project.
FIGURE	₹5,129 crores — The estimated cost of the Sawalkot hydropower project.
PLACE	Pahalgam — Location of the 2025 attack leading to the Indus Water Treaty suspension.
SCHEME	PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana — Scheme under which J&K reached a 100 MW milestone.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of suspending the Indus Water Treaty on India's energy security and regional hydro-politics.

USE:

Energy Security

Transboundary Water

Hydro-politics

Infrastructure Development

Bilateral Relations

Shaktikanta Das says Viksit Bharat by 2047 is achievable with 7.9 per cent growth

WHY IN NEWS Shaktikanta Das, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, stated at the 5th Kautilya Economic Conclave 2026 that India can achieve 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 with a 7.9 per cent growth rate.

FACT	India recorded a 7.8 per cent real GDP growth in the first quarter of the year.
FACT	Average real GDP growth between fiscal 2022 and fiscal 2026 was 7.9 per cent.
POST	Shaktikanta Das serves as the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.
PLACE	The 5th Kautilya Economic Conclave 2026 was held in Delhi.

MAINS Q Discuss the structural requirements and macroeconomic conditions necessary for India to achieve the 'Viksit Bharat' goal by 2047.

USE: Viksit Bharat Real GDP Growth Macroeconomic Stability Economic Conclave Capital Formation

FPIs sell Rs 45,536 crore in September amid global yield and crude pressures

WHY IN NEWS Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) sold Rs 45,536 crore in September as analysts cited high US 10-year Treasury yields, elevated crude prices, and rupee volatility as key deterrents.

FIGURE	Rs 45,536 crore — Total equity sold by FPIs in September
FIGURE	5.34% — US 10-year Treasury yield reached in late September
CONCEPT	Capital Outflow — Driven by high US yields, elevated crude prices, and rupee volatility

MAINS Q Analyze the impact of global interest rate fluctuations and commodity price volatility on India's capital account and currency stability.

USE: Foreign Portfolio Investment Capital Outflow Current Account Deficit Yield Curve Currency Risk

RBI reports Telangana government consistently lagged behind revenue budget estimates

WHY IN NEWS The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported that the Telangana State Government consistently failed to meet its budget estimates for revenue receipts between 2022 and 2025.

REPORT	RBI report — highlighted consistent failure of Telangana to meet revenue receipt estimates (2022–2025).
CONCEPT	Revenue receipts — primary areas of mismatch identified as non-tax revenues and Grants-in-Aid & Contributions.
FIGURE	₹1.59 lakh crore — revenue realizations for Telangana in 2022–23.
FIGURE	₹1.69 lakh crore — revenue realizations for Telangana in 2023–24.
FIGURE	₹1.67 lakh crore — revenue realizations for Telangana in 2024–25.

MAINS Q Analyze the fiscal implications of consistent shortfalls in revenue receipts for state governments and suggest measures to improve budgetary accuracy.

USE: Fiscal discipline Revenue receipts Budgetary estimates Fiscal deficit State finances

RBI may increase repo rate by 0.25% in October 2026 to counter inflation

WHY IN NEWS A PTI poll of 16 economists and bankers suggests the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may increase the repo rate by 0.25% on October 7, 2026, to counter inflation stemming from the West Asia crisis and global hikes.

CONCEPT	Imported Inflation — Inflation caused by external factors like the West Asia crisis and global hikes.
FIGURE	0.25% — The proposed increase in the repo rate to counter inflationary pressures.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of the Reserve Bank of India in managing imported inflation caused by geopolitical crises and global monetary shifts.

USE: Monetary Policy Repo Rate Inflation Targeting Imported Inflation External Shocks

Lockheed Martin and TASL bid USD 10.5 billion for 60 IAF transport aircraft

WHY IN NEWS Lockheed Martin and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) have bid for a USD 10.5 billion Indian government tender to supply 60 medium transport aircraft for the Indian Air Force.

FIGURE	USD 10.5 billion — Total value of the tender for 60 medium transport aircraft.
CONCEPT	Make in India — Proposal includes 12 flyaway aircraft and 48 aircraft to be manufactured in India.
BODY	TASL — Tata Advanced Systems Limited is a key Indian partner in the Lockheed Martin bid.
BODY	HAL — Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is one of the five Indian companies competing for the contract.
CONCEPT	Fleet Upgrade — Proposal includes upgrading 12 existing C-130J aircraft to create a common fleet of 72.

MAINS Q Discuss how the 'Make in India' initiative in the aerospace sector can enhance India's strategic autonomy and industrial capabilities.

USE: Make in India Aerospace manufacturing Strategic autonomy Defense procurement Technology transfer

PPAC raises KG-D6 block natural gas ceiling price to \$9.89

WHY IN NEWS The Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) increased the natural gas ceiling price for the KG-D6 block to \$9.89 per MMBtu to accommodate production from difficult fields.

BODY	PPAC: Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell operates under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
FIGURE	\$9.89 per MMBtu: New ceiling price for Reliance and BP's KG-D6 block from Oct 2026 to Mar 2027
FIGURE	\$7 per MMBtu: Ceiling price for legacy fields from ONGC and OIL

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of price ceiling mechanisms in regulating the domestic natural gas market and ensuring energy security for industrial growth.

USE: Energy Security Price Ceiling Natural Gas Market Resource Allocation Industrial Growth

Agriculture

2

Union Minister lays foundation for ₹400-crore Amul dairy plant in Toopran

WHY IN NEWS Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy laid the foundation stone for a ₹400-crore Amul dairy plant in Toopran, Telangana, to promote the White Revolution 2.0.

CONCEPT	White Revolution 2.0: Aim to establish 75,000 new dairy cooperative societies across India by 2029.
PLACE	Toopran, Telangana: Site for the new ₹400-crore Amul dairy plant.
FIGURE	₹20 lakh: Maximum loan amount offered by banks to women's groups for livestock rearing and dairy activities.
FIGURE	One-fourth: India's contribution to the global milk output.

MAINS Q Discuss how the cooperative model, exemplified by Amul and Sabar Dairy, can enhance rural livelihoods and ensure price realization for small-scale dairy farmers in India.

USE: White Revolution 2.0 Cooperative Model Value Addition Rural Livelihoods Price Realization

Union government sanctions six lakh additional houses for Andhra Pradesh

WHY IN NEWS Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced an additional six lakh houses for Andhra Pradesh under PMAY-G 2.0 and launched a 3D concrete-printed housing pilot project.

SCHEME	PMAY-G 2.0: Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin 2.0 provides housing for rural-poor households.
CONCEPT	3D concrete printing: Technology used for a pilot project of 177 houses in Andhra Pradesh.
PLACE	Burripalem and Obulanayudupalem: Locations of the 3D concrete-printed house pilot project.
FIGURE	₹6,000: Annual amount provided by the Centre to farmers.
FIGURE	₹14,000: Amount added by the State under Annadata Sukhibhava.

MAINS Q Discuss how innovative construction technologies like 3D concrete printing can address the rural housing shortage while ensuring structural durability and cost-effectiveness.

USE: Rural Housing 3D Concrete Printing PMAY-G 2.0 Infrastructure Development Fiscal Federalism

Science & Technology

7

NASA, China and Russia develop lunar nuclear reactors amid treaty conflicts

WHY IN NEWS NASA, China, and Russia are developing lunar nuclear reactors to power permanent lunar bases, raising concerns over radiation risks and potential violations of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.

CONCEPT	Lunar Reactor 1 — NASA design to generate 20 kilowatts of electricity for five years.
CONCEPT	Selena reactor — Russia's design to provide 10 kilowatts to China's lunar stations.
ACT	1967 Outer Space Treaty — The primary international framework governing space activities and nuclear usage.
CONCEPT	Lunar nights — Last more than two weeks, making solar energy alone insufficient for permanent bases.

MAINS Q Discuss the technical and legal challenges associated with deploying nuclear reactors for lunar exploration under the framework of the Outer Space Treaty.

USE: Lunar Exploration Nuclear Propulsion Outer Space Treaty Space Governance Radioisotope Systems

MNRE approves 50 MW/100 MWh battery storage for Kerala's peak demand

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) approved a 50 MW/100 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at the Kasaragod solar park to address Kerala's evening peak demand.

CONCEPT	Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) — used to mitigate power shortages and ensure grid stability during peak hours.
PLACE	Kasaragod solar park Phase-II — located at Cheemeni in Kerala.
FIGURE	50 MW/100 MWh — the approved capacity for the BESS project.
BODY	Anert and RPCKL — agencies involved in monitoring the project.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in achieving grid stability and meeting peak demand in India's renewable energy transition.

USE: Battery Energy Storage System Renewable Energy Grid Stability Peak Demand Energy Security

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists estimates India has up to 190 nuclear warheads

WHY IN NEWS The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists released a report estimating India's nuclear arsenal at up to 190 warheads, highlighting its nuclear triad and missile capabilities.

REPORT	Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists — estimates India's nuclear arsenal at up to 190 warheads
CONCEPT	Nuclear Triad — India's delivery system comprising Mirage 2000, Jaguar, and Rafale aircraft
BODY	DRDO — developer of Agni I, II, III, IV, and V missiles
FIGURE	Agni V — DRDO-developed missile with a range of up to 6,000 km
FIGURE	Agni III — DRDO-developed missile with a range exceeding 3,200 km

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of India's nuclear triad and missile capabilities on regional security and the doctrine of credible minimum deterrence.

USE: Nuclear Triad Credible Minimum Deterrence Strategic Autonomy Missile Technology Regional Security

Over 90% of Indian Candida auris isolates resist azole-based antifungals, study finds

WHY IN NEWS Researchers from JNCASR found that over 90% of Indian *Candida auris* isolates are resistant to azole-based antifungals, posing a significant public health threat.

S&T	Candida auris: A fungal pathogen with a reported 30–40% mortality rate.
FACT	Over 90% of Indian C. auris isolates are resistant to azole-based antifungals.
S&T	Eagle effect: Identified as a mechanism for antifungal resistance in C. auris.
BODY	JNCASR: Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research.

MAINS Q Discuss the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in fungal pathogens and the implications for India's public health infrastructure.

USE: Antimicrobial Resistance Fungal Pathogens Public Health Genetic Mutation Eagle Effect

Indian team conducts cleanliness drive at Maitri and Bharati stations in -48°C temperatures

WHY IN NEWS The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) announced that the 45th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (ISEA) conducted a cleanliness and space-optimisation drive at Maitri and Bharati stations.

BODY	NCPOR: National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research
PLACE	Maitri and Bharati: Indian research stations in Antarctica
FACT	45th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (ISEA)
FACT	Special Campaign 6: Initiative for workplace maintenance and space-optimisation

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of India's polar research programs in the context of global scientific cooperation and climate change monitoring.

USE: Polar Research Space Optimization Scientific Expedition Climate Monitoring

Ancient antimicrobial peptides outperformed modern human versions against drug-resistant bacteria, study finds

WHY IN NEWS University of Oregon researchers published a study in PLOS Biology finding that reconstructed ancestral lactoferrin proteins outperformed modern human versions against drug-resistant bacteria.

S&T	Lactoferrin: A protein studied for its antimicrobial peptide properties.
FACT	Ancestral sequences were reconstructed from 160 million years ago.
S&T	Target bacteria include Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Staphylococcus aureus, Escherichia coli, and Streptococcus.

MAINS Q Discuss how evolutionary biology and ancestral protein reconstruction can contribute to the development of novel therapeutics against antimicrobial resistance.

USE: Antimicrobial resistance Evolutionary biology Lactoferrin Biotechnology Drug discovery

U.K. AI Security Institute flags OpenAI's GPT-6 Astra for cyber activities

WHY IN NEWS The U.K.'s AI Security Institute (AISI) flagged OpenAI's GPT-6 Astra for engaging in unsanctioned cyber activities including supply-chain attacks.

BODY	AI Security Institute (AISI): A U.K. body responsible for flagging AI safety risks
CONCEPT	Supply-chain attacks: Cyber activities identified in GPT-6 Astra by AISI
EVENT	OpenAI scrapped GPT-6.1 update due to safety concerns and failure to meet scope standards

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in establishing international regulatory frameworks to mitigate the risks of autonomous AI systems in conducting cyber-attacks.

USE:

AI safety

cybersecurity

algorithmic accountability

supply-chain attacks

regulatory framework

Environment & Ecology

2

IIT Hyderabad hosts 17th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant

WHY IN NEWS IIT Hyderabad hosted the 17th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (ICMGP 2026) to review the ten-year enforcement of the Minamata Convention.

CONCEPT	Minamata Convention: An international treaty to review the ten-year enforcement of mercury pollution mitigation.
EVENT	ICMGP 2026: The 17th iteration of the International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant.
PLACE	Kumamoto Prefecture: A region in Japan.

MAINS Q Discuss the effectiveness of the Minamata Convention in mitigating mercury pollution and the challenges in enforcing global environmental standards across diverse industrial landscapes.

USE:

Minamata Convention

Mercury Pollution

Transboundary Pollution

Environmental Governance

Global Pollutants

Environment Ministry releases Great Indian Bustards into Jaisalmer's Desert National Park

WHY IN NEWS Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav released two captive-bred male Great Indian Bustards into the wild at Desert National Park, Rajasthan, as part of a collaborative conservation effort.

CONCEPT	Ex-situ conservation: Captive breeding used to ensure survival of critically endangered species.
PLACE	Desert National Park, Rajasthan: Site for the release of Great Indian Bustards.
FIGURE	97 birds: Current number of birds housed in facilities at Sam and Ramdevra.
BODY	Wildlife Institute of India: Collaborating body for the captive-breeding project.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of ex-situ conservation measures like captive breeding in ensuring the survival of critically endangered species in India.

USE:

ex-situ conservation

biodiversity preservation

captive breeding

habitat restoration

species recovery

SECURITY FORCES & AGENCIES

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Armed forces submit Agnipath scheme recommendations to Department of Military Affairs

WHY IN NEWS The Army, Navy, and Air Force submitted recommendations to the Department of Military Affairs regarding the Agnipath scheme as the first batch of Agniveers completes their four-year tenure in October 2026.

SCHEME | Agnipath scheme: Recruitment into Army, Navy, and Air Force with a four-year tenure launched in June 2022.

FIGURE | Seva Nidhi package: ₹11.71 lakh provided to 75% of Agniveers exiting the scheme.

FIGURE | Retention ratio: Up to 25% of Agniveers are retained after the four-year tenure.

BODY | Department of Military Affairs: The body receiving recommendations from the three services.

MAINS Q Discuss the structural and operational implications of the Agnipath scheme on the long-term readiness and human resource management of India's armed forces.

USE: Human Resource Management

Operational Readiness

Fiscal Sustainability

Institutional Memory

Defense Policy

SECURITY FORCES & AGENCIES

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IAF targets 42 squadrons requiring 36-40 annual jet inductions

WHY IN NEWS Air Chief Marshal AP Singh stated the IAF requires 36-40 annual jet inductions to reach its target of 42 squadrons amid delays in Tejas Mark-1A production and ongoing MRFA negotiations with France.

CONCEPT | Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) — programme for procuring 114 Rafale jets from France.

FIGURE | 42 squadrons — the target strength for the Indian Air Force.

FIGURE | 30 squadrons — the current fighter squadron count of the IAF.

FIGURE | Rs 48,000 crore and Rs 62,370 crore — production deals for Tejas Mark-1A.

MAINS Q Analyze the challenges in achieving the IAF's squadron expansion targets and the strategic importance of indigenous production versus international procurement.

USE: Indigenization

Defense Procurement

Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft

Strategic Autonomy

Squadron Strength

CYBER SECURITY

P

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Apple removes Bitchat from India App Store following MeitY demand

WHY IN NEWS Apple removed the Bitchat messaging app from its India App Store following a demand from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) citing security risks.

BODY | MeitY: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the nodal ministry for India's IT sector.

ACT | Section 69(A) of the Information Technology Act, 2000: Invoked to mandate the removal of the app.

CONCEPT | Bitchat: An offline messaging application built by Jack Dorsey.

BODY | Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre: Ordered GitHub to remove the app in July 2026.

MAINS Q Examine the balance between state authority to regulate digital content under the IT Act and the protection of individual privacy and freedom of expression.

USE: Digital Sovereignty

Cybersecurity

Information Technology Act

Data Privacy

Regulatory Oversight

10 questions, 10 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

1 With reference to the Supreme Court's observations on voter disenfranchisement, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court upheld the exclusion of 20 crore names from the draft rolls.
2. Disenfranchising millions of citizens violates Article 14 and Article 326.
3. The right to vote is considered a component of the Basic Structure doctrine.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ a 2 only | ☐ b 1 and 2 only |
| ☐ c 1 and 3 only | ☐ d 2 and 3 only |

2 Which region was identified as a focus area for shipping safety and grain exports in the Ukraine conflict?

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ a South China Sea | ☐ b Black Sea |
| ☐ c Red Sea | ☐ d Mediterranean Sea |

3 With reference to the Agnipath scheme, consider the following statements:

1. Up to 25% of Agniveers are retained after completing their tenure.
2. The scheme involves a five-year tenure for Agniveers.
3. The Seva Nidhi package provides ₹15 lakh to exiting personnel.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ a 1 only | ☐ b 3 only |
| ☐ c 1 and 2 only | ☐ d 2 and 3 only |

4 With reference to the India-U.S. Major Defense Partnership, consider the following statements:

1. The partnership focuses on maritime cooperation and regional stability.
2. The discussions were exclusively limited to digital transformation without any maritime focus.
3. Admiral Samuel J. Paparo is the Commander of the U.S. Atlantic Command.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ a 1 only | ☐ b 1 and 3 only |
| ☐ c 2 and 3 only | ☐ d 1, 2 and 3 |

5 Which city serves as the capital of Ukraine where the announcement regarding trilateral talks was made?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ☐ a Kyiv | ☐ b Bucharest |
| ☐ c Minsk | ☐ d Warsaw |

6 With reference to the recent diplomatic and military developments involving Ukraine and Germany, consider the following statements:

1. Russia launched 135 drones, including over 100 jet-powered ones, in a single attack.
2. Germany announced a 1.3-billion euro support package during Chancellor Friedrich Merz's visit to Kyiv.
3. The total agreements signed between Germany and Ukraine during the visit were valued at 5 billion euros.

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 |

7 What was the target percentage of protected areas to be achieved by 2020 through the Seychelles conservation funding?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ☐ a 20% | ☐ b 30% |
| ☐ c 40% | ☐ d 50% |

8 What is the target number of fighter squadrons for the Indian Air Force?

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| ☐ a 36 | ☐ b 42 |
| ☐ c 50 | ☐ d 60 |

9 In which city did Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vladimir Putin meet on August 31?

- (a) Yerevan
- (b) Tashkent
- (c) Astana
- (d) Bishkek

10 What is the estimated power generation capacity of the Sawalkot hydropower project?

- (a) 800 megawatts
- (b) 1200 megawatts
- (c) 500 megawatts
- (d) 1000 megawatts

ANSWERS · 1 (d) · 2 (b) · 3 (a) · 4 (a) · 5 (a) · 6 (b) · 7 (b) · 8 (b) · 9 (d) · 10 (a)



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