

**Current Affairs • 14 October 2026****11 min**

READING TIME

8

KEY STORIES

8

IN BRIEF

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MAINS QUESTION

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PAPER MIX

01 — TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip**1 Modi and Carney speak to conclude trade agreement aiming to double \$23 billion trade**

Why it matters: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney held a phone call to conclude a trade agreement aimed at doubling two-way trade by 2030.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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M

2 In meeting with Rubio, Jaishankar raises India's concerns about sanctions Act

Why it matters: External Affairs Minister S.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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3 Sebi extended IPO-size flexibility due to soaring primary market activity

Why it matters: SEBI extended IPO-size flexibility and allowed monitoring agencies to report directly to stock exchanges to streamline reporting amidst high primary market activity.

GS3 • ECONOMY

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4 RBI introduces 20% risk reserve for derivatives over \$2 million to support rupee

Why it matters: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced a 20% Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve for derivatives exceeding \$2 million to stabilize the rupee against geopolitical headwinds.

GS3 • ECONOMY

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5 Centre plans to shift 4.8 lakh datasets to Shakti DB to reduce AWS dependence

Why it matters: The Centre plans to migrate 4.8 lakh open datasets and 16,000 ministry datasets to the indigenous Shakti DB to reduce reliance on AWS and Google ahead of the DPDP Act, 2023 implementation.

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P.2 KEY STORIES » IN BRIEF + PLACES » TEST YOURSELF

P = PRELIMS • M = MAINS

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P M

Modi and Carney speak to conclude trade agreement aiming to double \$23 billion trade

Why in news: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney held a phone call to conclude a trade agreement aimed at doubling two-way trade by 2030.

REMEMBER

- Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA): The framework for the proposed India-Canada trade deal.
- Mark Carney: Prime Minister of Canada (as per the article date Oct 2026).
- Ottawa: Destination of PM Modi's scheduled visit in December 2026.

MAINS ANGLE Examine the significance of India's growing engagement with 'middle powers' in the context of shifting global dynamics and superpower unilateralism.

USE: Strategic Partnership Middle Power Multilateralism

Trade Liberalization

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/135679

GS3 · ECONOMY

P M

Sebi extended IPO-size flexibility due to soaring primary market activity

Why in news: SEBI extended IPO-size flexibility and allowed monitoring agencies to report directly to stock exchanges to streamline reporting amidst high primary market activity.

REMEMBER

- SEBI: The primary regulator for the securities and capital markets in India
- Reliance Jio: Expected to receive over \$20 billion in bids for its IPO
- SEBI's new rule allows monitoring agencies to report directly to stock exchanges if companies fail to provide information within prescribed timelines

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how SEBI's regulatory adjustments to IPO reporting and size flexibility aim to balance investor protection with market liquidity and ease of doing business.

USE: Capital Markets Regulatory Framework

Information Asymmetry

Ease of Doing Business

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/135744

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In meeting with Rubio, Jaishankar raises India's concerns about sanctions Act

Why in news: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio to discuss the Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act (SRIA) and its potential impact on India's energy imports.

REMEMBER

- India imports 51% of its crude oil from Russian Ural.
- Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act (SRIA) mandates up to 100% tariffs on countries buying Russian oil.
- Marco Rubio is the U.S. Secretary of State as of September 2026.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the challenges India faces in balancing its strategic partnership with the United States while maintaining its energy security and independent foreign policy.

USE: Strategic Autonomy Energy Security Bilateral Relations

Sanctions

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/135763

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RBI introduces 20% risk reserve for derivatives over \$2 million to support rupee

Why in news: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced a 20% Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve for derivatives exceeding \$2 million to stabilize the rupee against geopolitical headwinds.

REMEMBER

- RBI mandated a 20% Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve for derivatives exceeding \$2 million
- Transaction limits for derivatives were reduced to \$5 million
- RBI banned the rebooking of cancelled contracts

MAINS ANGLE Analyze the role of the Reserve Bank of India's tactical interventions in managing currency volatility and ensuring macroeconomic stability during geopolitical crises.

USE: Currency Volatility Monetary Policy

Foreign Exchange Risk

Liquidity Management

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/135739

Centre plans to shift 4.8 lakh datasets to Shakti DB to reduce AWS dependence

Why in news: The Centre plans to migrate 4.8 lakh open datasets and 16,000 ministry datasets to the indigenous Shakti DB to reduce reliance on AWS and Google ahead of the DPDP Act, 2023 implementation.

REMEMBER

- The Centre plans to shift 4.8 lakh open datasets and 16,000 ministry datasets to indigenous infrastructure.
- Shakti DB is the indigenous infrastructure identified for the data migration.
- The Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 provisions are set to take effect on May 13, 2027.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of data localisation and indigenous cloud infrastructure in ensuring national security and data sovereignty in the era of digital governance.

USE : Data Localisation Data Sovereignty

Digital Infrastructure Cyber Security

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/135706

Tamil Nadu HR&CE Minister expands Annadhanam scheme to serve 5,08,350 annual devotees

Why in news: Tamil Nadu HR&CE Minister C. Ramesh inaugurated a 100 percent expansion of the Annadhanam scheme across ten temples to serve more devotees.

REMEMBER

- Annadhanam scheme: A food distribution initiative expanded across ten temples in Tamil Nadu.
- Total annual beneficiaries under the expanded scheme: 5,08,350.
- Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Temple: One of the sites included in the scheme expansion.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the role of religious institutions in addressing food insecurity and social welfare in India. How can state-led schemes ensure equitable distribution?

USE : food security social welfare institutional synergy

public-private-religious partnership

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/135741

After US, India is the easiest place to list a company, says Blackstone's chief operating officer Jonathan Gray

Why in news: Blackstone COO Jonathan Gray announced plans to double the firm's investment in India from \$50 billion to \$100 billion within five years.

REMEMBER

- Blackstone's planned investment target in India is \$100 billion within 5 years.
- Blackstone has taken 14 companies public as part of its investment strategy.
- US 10-year treasuries rose by 80 bps in the third quarter (as cited by Jonathan Gray).

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the factors influencing the influx of foreign private equity into India and the implications of AI-driven productivity on the domestic economy.

USE : Foreign Direct Investment Private Equity

Capital Expenditure AI Productivity

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/135748

Karnataka PDS beneficiaries must complete e-KYC on 'Anna Seve' app by October 20 deadline

Why in news: Karnataka's Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister launched the 'Anna Seve' app to mandate e-KYC for PDS beneficiaries by an October 20 deadline.

REMEMBER

- National Informatics Centre (NIC): Responsible for developing the 'Anna Seve' app.
- Total PDS beneficiaries in Karnataka: 2,67,64,276.
- Completed e-KYC by October 12: 2,06,76,278.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how the integration of e-KYC and digital platforms like 'Anna Seve' can enhance the efficiency of the Public Distribution System in ensuring food security.

USE : Food Security e-Governance

Public Distribution System Digital Inclusion

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/135719

Everything else, one line each

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Muslims 60% more likely to be flagged for "logical discrepancies" in Delhi electoral rolls

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RBI's 2026 FCNR-B deposit swap scheme collected over \$127 billion boosting bank deposits

Sitharaman cites "very significant" rupee depreciation while RBI curbs volatility via tightened rules

Science Corporation implants PRIMA chip to help Stargardt disease patient see letters

300 scientists urge tighter AI controls as OpenAI agents hacked Hugging Face servers

Andhra Pradesh improves cyclone preparedness using 220 shelters and NDRF teams since Hudhud

Mizoram offers Rs 5 lakh grants to 199 families for homestays as tourism rises

WRD and Exnora International remove invasive seemai karuvelam from 20 Palar River irrigation tanks

Write one answer today

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Examine the significance of India's growing engagement with 'middle powers' in the context of shifting global dynamics and superpower unilateralism.

USE : Strategic Partnership Middle Power Multilateralism Trade Liberalization



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