

**Current Affairs • 18 October 2026****9 min**

READING TIME

4

KEY STORIES

0

IN BRIEF

3 + 1

MCQS + MAINS

GS2 • 2

GS3 • 2

PAPER MIX

01 — TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 4 stories you can't skip**1****Dr Julia Balm warns of potential space war within five years**

Why it matters: Space militarization and dual-use technology: a critical GS3 Science & Technology and International Relations topic.

GS3 • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

P

M

2**Kerala High Court refuses to stay reconstitution of Kerala State Waqf Board**

Why it matters: Executive authority vs judicial oversight: a GS2 case study on the reconstitution of statutory bodies.

GS2 • POLITY & CONSTITUTION

P

M

3**Karnataka Legislature Committee reviews Yettinahole project after CAG objections**

Why it matters: CAG audit role in fiscal discipline and infrastructure governance: a GS3 and Ethics case study.

GS3 • AGRICULTURE

P

4**Czech Deputy PM Karel Havlíček inaugurates \$40 million GAIPL facility for UAV production**

Why it matters: Czech Deputy PM Karel Havlíček inaugurated a \$40 million GAIPL facility in Hoskote for UAV production, marking a deepening of Czech-Indian aerospace cooperation.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

NUMBER OF THE DAY

₹23,000 crore

total estimated cost of the Yettinahole project

CONNECT TO STATIC

UMEED Act, 2025

legislation under which nine of the board's nominations were challenged *In the news: Kerala High Court refuses to stay reconstitution of Kerala State Waqf Board.*

What to know, in 60 seconds each

4 of 4 notes · picked for exam value

GS3 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

P M

Dr Julia Balm warns of potential space war within five years

Why in news: Dr Julia Balm warned that a space war could emerge within five years as companies like Astroscale and Orbit Fab develop military technology for the UK Ministry of Defence.

REMEMBER

- Space Militarization: The development of defensive and offensive capabilities in space by private and state entities.
- Astroscale: A British company involved in space debris removal and classified military programmes.
- Orbit Fab: A company developing satellite refuelling technology for the Ministry of Defence.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the implications of the militarization of space and the potential risks of orbital debris and nuclear-capable satellites on global infrastructure.

USE : Space Militarization Orbital Debris Satellite Security Dual-use Technology

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/137884

GS3 · AGRICULTURE

P

Karnataka Legislature Committee reviews Yettinahole project after CAG objections

Why in news: The Karnataka Legislature Committee on Public Undertakings reviewed the ₹23,000 crore Yettinahole project following objections raised by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).

REMEMBER

- ₹23,000 crore — total estimated cost of the Yettinahole project
- 24.01 tmcft — water required for drinking and tank-filling components
- Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) — raised objections regarding project progress

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the role of CAG audits in ensuring fiscal discipline and environmental sustainability in large-scale irrigation projects in India.

USE : Fiscal discipline CAG audit Irrigation infrastructure Public accountability

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/137861

GS2 · POLITY & CONSTITUTION

P M

Kerala High Court refuses to stay reconstitution of Kerala State Waqf Board

Why in news: The Kerala High Court refused to stay the State government's reconstitution of the Kerala State Waqf Board while noting the order is subject to pending PILs regarding the UMEED Act, 2025.

REMEMBER

- Kerala State Waqf Board — consists of an 11-member board
- UMEED Act, 2025 — legislation under which nine of the board's nominations were challenged
- Judicial Review — the court noted the government has implied authority to reconstitute the board

MAINS ANGLE Examine the constitutional and legal implications of state governments' powers to reconstitute statutory bodies and the role of judicial oversight in ensuring transparency.

USE : Statutory Body Judicial Review Executive Authority Transparency

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/137862

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

Czech Deputy PM Karel Havlíček inaugurates \$40 million GAIPL facility for UAV production

Why in news: Czech Deputy PM Karel Havlíček inaugurated a \$40 million GAIPL facility in Hoskote for UAV production, marking a deepening of Czech-Indian aerospace cooperation.

REMEMBER

- GAIPL invested approximately \$40 million in the Hoskote facility.
- The MoUs include cooperation on thermo reflective coating technology and jet-powered UAVs.
- Karel Havlíček is the Deputy Prime Minister of the Czech Republic.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how bilateral technological partnerships in the aerospace and UAV sectors can enhance India's strategic autonomy and manufacturing capabilities.

USE : Strategic Autonomy Technology Transfer Defense Manufacturing Bilateral Cooperation

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/137855

3 questions, 3 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

1 With reference to space technology and militarization, consider the following statements:

1. Astroscale is a British company involved in space debris removal and classified military programmes.
2. The Russian satellite Cosmos 2553 was launched in 2023 and is confirmed to carry nuclear components.
3. Orbit Fab is a company developing satellite refuelling technology for the UK Ministry of Defence.

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 Kerala State Waqf Board, consider the following statements:

1. The board consists of an 11-member board.
2. The UMEED Act, 2025 is the legislation under which board nominations were challenged.
3. The Kerala High Court stayed the government's order to reconstitute the board.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3 In which district of Karnataka is the Yettinahole project located?

- (a) Hassan (b) Mysuru
(c) Belagavi (d) Dakshina Kannada

MAINS PRACTICE

Write one answer today

GS3 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Discuss the implications of the militarization of space and the potential risks of orbital debris and nuclear-capable satellites on global infrastructure.

USE: Space Militarization Orbital Debris Satellite Security Dual-use Technology Space Governance

ANSWERS · 1 (c) 2 (b) 3 (a)



TELEGRAM



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