

**Current Affairs • 26 October 2026****15 min**

READING TIME

8

KEY STORIES

2

IN BRIEF

5 + 1

MCQS + MAINS

GS1 • 1

GS2 • 3

GS3 • 6

PAPER MIX

01 – TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip**1** **IMD warns Cyclonic storm Arnab to intensify into very severe storm****Why it matters:** Natural hazards and coastal management: a GS1 Geography and disaster management case study.

GS1 • GEOGRAPHY

P

2 **Odisha bans fishing and tourist entry in 6 districts as Cyclone Arnab nears****Why it matters:** Disaster management and coastal safety: a GS3 case study on proactive mitigation and evacuation.

GS3 • DISASTER MANAGEMENT

P

3 **PM Modi congratulates Lula da Silva on winning Brazilian presidency****Why it matters:** India-Brazil Strategic Partnership and Global South priorities: a GS2 International Relations case study.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

4 **Government increases tax-exempt threshold for non-cash employer gifts****Why it matters:** Taxation of perquisites and fiscal policy: a GS3 Economy and tax administration case study.

GS3 • ECONOMY

P

5 **India to launch homegrown mobile phones by October 2028****Why it matters:** Transition from assembly to indigenous design and IP: a key GS3 Economy and Tech case study.

GS3 • ECONOMY

P

M

NUMBER OF THE DAY

115-125 kmph

expected wind speeds for storm Arnab, gusting up to 140 kmph.

CONNECT TO STATIC

Representation of the People Act, 1950

Section 22 requires notice and a hearing before deleting a name from the electoral roll, except in cases of death. *In the news:* Justice Ujjal Bhuyan says mass disenfranchisement violates Articles 14 and 326.

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

P = PRELIMS • M = MAINS

What to know, in 60 seconds each

8 of 10 notes · picked for exam value

GS1 • GEOGRAPHY

P

IMD warns Cyclonic storm Arnab to intensify into very severe storm

Why in news: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a warning that cyclonic storm 'Arnab' is likely to intensify into a very severe cyclonic storm by October 27, 2026, before making landfall on October 28.

REMEMBER

- India Meteorological Department (IMD) — agency providing cyclone tracking and warnings.
- Tropical cyclones — identified by WMO as the second-most dangerous natural hazards after earthquakes.
- Northern Andhra Pradesh and southern Odisha coasts — predicted landfall location for Arnab.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the geographical factors influencing the intensification of tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the institutional framework for cyclone naming and monitoring.

USE : Tropical Cyclone Bay of Bengal IMD
Natural Hazards

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/142177

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

PM Modi congratulates Lula da Silva on winning Brazilian presidency

Why in news: Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on winning his fourth presidential term in Brazil after defeating Flávio Bolsonaro.

REMEMBER

- Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva — President-elect of Brazil
- Global South — shared priorities to be advanced through India-Brazil Strategic Partnership
- 4.4 million — the margin by which Lula da Silva defeated Flávio Bolsonaro

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of the India-Brazil Strategic Partnership in the context of the Global South's aspirations in a multipolar world.

USE : Strategic Partnership Global South
South-South Cooperation Multipolarity

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/142127

GS3 • DISASTER MANAGEMENT

P

Odisha bans fishing and tourist entry in 6 districts as Cyclone Arnab nears

Why in news: The Odisha government prohibited fishing and tourist entry in six districts as Cyclone Arnab approached, with the IMD predicting landfall in Andhra Pradesh.

REMEMBER

- Affected Odisha districts: Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Koraput, and Nabarangpur
- Cyclone Arnab predicted landfall in Andhra Pradesh on October 28, 2026
- School closures scheduled for October 28-29, 2026, as part of disaster mitigation

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the multi-dimensional challenges in disaster management for coastal and inland districts during cyclonic events in Eastern India.

USE : Disaster Mitigation Early Warning Systems
Climate Resilience Crisis Management

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/142201

GS3 • ECONOMY

P

Government increases tax-exempt threshold for non-cash employer gifts

Why in news: The government announced new rules effective April 2026 increasing the tax-exempt threshold for non-cash employer gifts from Rs 5,000 to Rs 15,000.

REMEMBER

- Non-cash gifts: Employer-provided perks that are tax-exempt up to a specific threshold.
- Rs 15,000: The new tax-exempt threshold for non-cash gifts starting April 2026.
- Rs 5,000: The previous tax-exempt threshold for non-cash gifts.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the implications of tax exemptions on perquisites provided by employers on the broader fiscal landscape and employee tax liability.

USE : fiscal policy perquisites tax exemption
corporate governance

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/142095

India to launch homegrown mobile phones by October 2028

Why in news: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that India aims to launch homegrown mobile phones designed and manufactured in India by October 23, 2028.

REMEMBER

- Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs) — serve as the foundation for smartphone design
- Import Substitution — transitioning from global assembly to domestic design and Intellectual Property (IP)
- October 23, 2028 — target date for launching homegrown mobile phones

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the challenges and opportunities in transitioning India from a global smartphone assembly hub to a leader in indigenous mobile phone design and intellectual property.

USE: Intellectual Property Electronics Manufacturing
Import Substitution Design Capabilities

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/142087

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan says mass disenfranchisement violates Articles 14 and 326

Why in news: Justice Ujjal Bhuyan asserted that mass disenfranchisement violates Articles 14 and 326 of the Constitution, sparking a debate on judicial propriety and the limits of judicial commentary on sub judice matters.

REMEMBER

- Representation of the People Act, 1950: Section 22 requires notice and a hearing before deleting a name from the electoral roll, except in cases of death.
- Restatement of Values of Judicial Life: A 1997 guideline restricting judges from public debate on pending matters.
- Full Court of the Supreme Court: Adopted the Restatement of Values of Judicial Life on May 7, 1997.

MAINS ANGLE Critically analyze the tension between a judge's duty to remain impartial and the necessity of judicial engagement with human consequences in constitutional matters.

USE: Judicial Propriety Sub Judice Basic Structure
Due Process

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/142085

ECI reveals 61,059 Form-7 applications filed without mandatory reasons in Karnataka

Why in news: The Election Commission of India (ECI) website revealed that 61,059 Form-7 applications for deleting names from Karnataka's electoral rolls were filed by officials without mandatory reasons.

REMEMBER

- Form-7 — Application for deleting names from electoral rolls
- Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike South — Location where 10,374 applications were filed
- 13,808 — Discrepancy in applications between ECI website and Chief Electoral Officer reports

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the importance of ensuring the integrity of electoral rolls and the mechanisms available to prevent unauthorized deletions of voters.

USE: electoral roll voter disenfranchisement transparency
administrative accountability

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/142074

Delhi to bar non-BS-VI vehicles from outside city using AI-powered cameras

Why in news: Delhi is implementing a winter pollution-control plan to bar non-BS-VI petrol and diesel vehicles registered outside the city using AI-powered Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras.

REMEMBER

- Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) — uses AI-powered cameras to identify vehicle registration numbers.
- BS-VI — emission standards for petrol and diesel vehicles.
- November 1, 2026, to January 31, 2027 — period for the non-BS-VI vehicle restriction.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how the integration of AI-powered surveillance and emission standards can address the challenges of regional air pollution in the National Capital Region.

USE: Air Quality Management Artificial Intelligence
Emission Standards Urban Governance

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/142073

Everything else, one line each

2 more notes · full versions online

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

Bond yield: Benchmark 10-year government bond yield surged 78 basis points to near 7.61% peak.

FII Outflows: Foreign investors sold ₹4.55 lakh crore in equities since July 2025 amid geopolitical risks.

5 questions, 5 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

- 1 According to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), tropical cyclones are ranked as the second-most dangerous natural hazards after which other hazard?

☐ (a) Earthquakes

☐ (c) Tsunamis

☐ (b) Landslides

☐ (d) Floods
- 2 Which of the following districts in Odisha was included in the ban on fishing and tourist entry during Cyclone Arnab?

☐ (a) Sambalpur

☐ (c) Puri

☐ (b) Gajapati

☐ (d) Balasore
- 3 Which group of nations' priorities are to be advanced through the India–Brazil Strategic Partnership?

☐ (a) Global South

☐ (c) G7

☐ (b) ASEAN

☐ (d) European Union
- 4 What was the previous tax-exempt threshold for non-cash gifts provided by employers before the new rules?

☐ (a) Rs 25,000

☐ (c) Rs 2,000

☐ (b) Rs 5,000

☐ (d) Rs 10,000
- 5 Which component serves as the foundation for smartphone design according to the government's initiative?

☐ (a) Microchips

☐ (c) Liquid Crystal Displays

☐ (b) Lithium-ion Batteries

☐ (d) Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs)

MAINS PRACTICE

Write one answer today

GS1 · GEOGRAPHY

Discuss the geographical factors influencing the intensification of tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the institutional framework for cyclone naming and monitoring.

USE : Tropical Cyclone Bay of Bengal IMD Natural Hazards Coastal Management

ANSWERS · 1 (a) 2 (b) 3 (a) 4 (b) 5 (d)



TELEGRAM



WEBSITE

Get it every morning on **Telegram**

Daily PDF + quiz at 5 AM · weekly review every Sunday · English and Hindi · free, no sign-up.

t.me/satyadheesh · satyadheesh.in/upsc/reports

Spotted a mistake, or want a topic or format that would help you? Write to us, we read every mail: contact@satyadheesh.in

Notes are generated from SatyaDheesh's news feed and mapped to the UPSC CSE syllabus. Verify facts with the original report or PIB before using them in an answer.