

**SATYADHEESH**
सत्याधीश

UPSC DAILY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs • 26 October 2026**10**

NOTES

2

STORIES MERGED

10

MCQS

GS1 • 1

GS2 • 3

GS3 • 6

PAPER MIX

CONTENTS

Every note, grouped by paper

GS1 History • Society • Geography	1 notes
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GS2 Polity • Governance • Social Justice • IR	3 notes
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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.

Geography

1

GEOPHYSICAL PHENOMENA (EARTHQUAKES, CYCLONES, VOLCANOES)

26 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/142177 · Report a mistake

P 3 REPORTS MERGED

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.

BODY	India Meteorological Department (IMD) — agency providing cyclone tracking and warnings.
CONCEPT	Tropical cyclones — identified by WMO as the second-most dangerous natural hazards after earthquakes.
PLACE	Northern Andhra Pradesh and southern Odisha coasts — predicted landfall location for Arnab.
FIGURE	115–125 kmph — expected wind speeds for storm Arnab, gusting up to 140 kmph.

MAINS Q 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

Polity & Constitution

2

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

M

26 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/142085 · Report a mistake

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.

ACT	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.
CONCEPT	Restatement of Values of Judicial Life: A 1997 guideline restricting judges from public debate on pending matters.
BODY	Full Court of the Supreme Court: Adopted the Restatement of Values of Judicial Life on May 7, 1997.

MAINS Q 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 Equality

ELECTIONS, ECI & ELECTORAL REFORMS

P

26 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/142074 · Report a mistake

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.

CONCEPT	Form-7 — Application for deleting names from electoral rolls
PLACE	Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike South — Location where 10,374 applications were filed
FIGURE	13,808 — Discrepancy in applications between ECI website and Chief Electoral Officer reports
DATE	September 23, 2026 — Deadline for filing Form-7 applications

MAINS Q 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 data integrity

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.

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

MAINS Q 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 Diplomatic Engagement

GS3

Economy · S&T · Environment · Security

6 NOTES

Economy

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.

CONCEPT	Non-cash gifts: Employer-provided perks that are tax-exempt up to a specific threshold.
FIGURE	Rs 15,000: The new tax-exempt threshold for non-cash gifts starting April 2026.
FIGURE	Rs 5,000: The previous tax-exempt threshold for non-cash gifts.
CONCEPT	Cash offers: Employer-provided cash offers may be taxable as salary.

MAINS Q 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 tax liability

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.

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

MAINS Q 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 Value Addition

India's 10-year bond yield nears 7.61% peak as FPIs sell ₹20,772 crore

WHY IN NEWS India's benchmark 10-year government bond yield surged 78 basis points over four months, nearing a 7.61% peak as Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) sold ₹20,772 crore from Indian debt this fiscal year.

- FIGURE | ₹20,772 crore — Amount of Indian debt sold by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) this fiscal year.
- FIGURE | 7.61% — Peak reached by the benchmark 10-year government bond yield.
- CONCEPT | Bond Yield Surge — Attributed to high crude oil prices, tight liquidity, and heavy bond supply.
- FIGURE | 7.75% — Expected yield for the 10-year government bond by December 2026.

MAINS Q Analyze how fluctuations in global crude oil prices and FPI capital flows impact the domestic bond yields and monetary stability of an emerging economy like India.

USE:

Bond Yield

Foreign Portfolio Investors

Liquidity

Monetary Tightening

Emerging Markets

Foreign investors sell ₹4.55 lakh crore in equities as Sensex falls

WHY IN NEWS BlackRock Investment Institute's Powell stated that foreign investors are seeking corporate earnings momentum and stability before increasing Indian equity exposure following a ₹4.55 lakh crore sell-off.

- FIGURE | Sensex and Nifty fell by 14.16% and 13.5% respectively in 2026
- FIGURE | Foreign investors sold ₹4.55 lakh crore in equities since July 2025
- FIGURE | Brent crude surged over 9% to \$116.72 per barrel
- CONCEPT | BlackRock projects household investment in shares/funds/debt to rise from \$5 to \$20 per \$100 between 2026 and 2035

MAINS Q Analyze the impact of global geopolitical tensions and fluctuating energy prices on India's capital markets and macroeconomic stability.

USE:

Capital Markets

FII Outflows

Geopolitical Risk

Corporate Earnings

Inflationary Pressure

Science & Technology

1

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.

- CONCEPT | Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) — uses AI-powered cameras to identify vehicle registration numbers.
- CONCEPT | BS-VI — emission standards for petrol and diesel vehicles.
- DATE | November 1, 2026, to January 31, 2027 — period for the non-BS-VI vehicle restriction.
- CONCEPT | Exemptions — CNG, electric, and essential-service vehicles are exempt from the ban.

MAINS Q 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

Pollution Mitigation

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.

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

MAINS Q 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

10 questions, 10 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 (b) Landslides
(c) Tsunamis (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 (b) Gajapati
(c) Puri (d) Balasore
-
- 3** Which group of nations' priorities are to be advanced through the India-Brazil Strategic Partnership?
- (a) Global South (b) ASEAN
(c) G7 (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 (b) Rs 5,000
(c) Rs 2,000 (d) Rs 10,000
-
- 5** Which component serves as the foundation for smartphone design according to the government's initiative?
- (a) Microchips (b) Lithium-ion Batteries
(c) Liquid Crystal Displays (d) Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs)
-
- 6** Which act requires a notice and a hearing before a name can be deleted from the electoral roll (except in cases of death)?
- (a) Right to Information Act, 2005 (b) Representation of the People Act, 1950
(c) Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (d) Companies Act, 2013
-
- 7** With reference to the electoral roll updates in Karnataka, consider the following statements:
1. A discrepancy of 13,808 applications exists between the ECI website and Chief Electoral Officer reports.
 2. A total of 61,059 Form-7 applications were filed without mandatory reasons.
 3. The deadline for filing these applications was September 23, 2025.
- 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
-
- 8** Which technology is being utilized by Delhi to identify vehicle registration numbers for the pollution-control plan?
- (a) Global Positioning System (GPS) (b) Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)
(c) Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) (d) LiDAR Sensing
-
- 9** With reference to India's benchmark 10-year government bond yield, consider the following statements:
1. The bond yield surged by 78 basis points over a period of one month.
 2. Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) sold ₹30,772 crore from Indian debt this fiscal year.
 3. The benchmark 10-year government bond yield reached a peak of 7.61%.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
-

10 What was the price of Brent crude per barrel during the period of market volatility mentioned in the note?

- (a) \$95.50 (b) \$116.72
(c) \$125.00 (d) \$102.30

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



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