



Current Affairs • 29 October 2026

12 min

READING TIME

6

KEY STORIES

0

IN BRIEF

4 + 1

MCQS + MAINS

GS2 • 2

GS3 • 4

PAPER MIX

01 – TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip

- 1** **UK Space Agency to launch UK ADR programme to incinerate defunct satellites**
Why it matters: Space debris management and orbital sustainability: a key GS3 Science & Technology topic.

GS3 • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

P

- 2** **Cyclone Arnab hits 17 Odisha districts with Gajapati worst-hit**
Why it matters: Disaster management and climate resilience: a GS3 case study on inter-agency coordination and evacuation.

GS3 • ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

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- 3** **22 Indian nationals, including 14 seafarers, died in West Asia conflict**
Why it matters: The Ministry of External Affairs confirmed the deaths of 22 Indian nationals, including 14 seafarers, in the West Asia conflict.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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- 4** **Researchers discover critical memory-corruption flaw in TianoCore EDK II**
Why it matters: Firmware security and supply chain vulnerabilities: a key GS3 Science & Technology topic.

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- 5** **India monitors Tehran meeting as reports suggest unconfirmed USD 1 billion Houthi ceasefire proposal**
Why it matters: The Ministry of External Affairs is monitoring a Tehran meeting involving Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Pakistan, and Iran regarding a potential USD 1 billion Houthi ceasefire proposal.

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NUMBER OF THE DAY

80 kmph

Maximum wind speeds recorded by the India Meteorological Centre during the cyclone.

What to know, in 60 seconds each

6 of 6 notes · picked for exam value

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UK Space Agency to launch UK ADR programme to incinerate defunct satellites

Why in news: The UK Space Agency and ClearSpace UK are developing the UK Active Debris Removal (UK ADR) programme to capture and incinerate two defunct satellites by 2032.

REMEMBER

- UK ADR: A programme aimed at decluttering Earth's orbit by removing defunct satellites.
- UK Space Agency and ClearSpace UK: Entities developing the UK ADR programme.
- Refuelable spacecraft: Designed with robotic claws to capture and incinerate satellites by 2032.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the importance of active debris removal in ensuring the long-term sustainability of orbital space and the technological challenges involved.

USE : Space Debris Orbital Sustainability
Active Debris Removal Space Governance

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/143794

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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22 Indian nationals, including 14 seafarers, died in West Asia conflict

Why in news: The Ministry of External Affairs confirmed the deaths of 22 Indian nationals, including 14 seafarers, in the West Asia conflict.

REMEMBER

- 22 Indian nationals, including 14 seafarers, died in the West Asia conflict
- Consulate General of India is located in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- Prince Khalid bin Salman is associated with a reported USD 1 billion deal with Yemen's Houthi group

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the challenges faced by India in ensuring the safety of its seafarers and citizens in conflict-ridden regions of West Asia.

USE : Consular protection Maritime security
Geopolitical instability Humanitarian diplomacy

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/143805

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Cyclone Arnab hits 17 Odisha districts with Gajapati worst-hit

Why in news: Cyclone Arnab hit 17 districts in Odisha, with Gajapati being the worst-hit district, leading to the evacuation of 43,827 people.

REMEMBER

- Gajapati — Identified as the worst-hit district by Cyclone Arnab in Odisha.
- 80 kmph — Maximum wind speeds recorded by the India Meteorological Centre during the cyclone.
- ODRAF and NDRF — Response teams deployed to manage the situation and evacuate people to 634 relief camps.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the institutional framework for disaster management in India, focusing on the coordination between central and state agencies during extreme weather events.

USE : Disaster Management Climate Resilience
Early Warning Systems Inter-agency Coordination

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/143810

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Researchers discover critical memory-corruption flaw in TianoCore EDK II

Why in news: Researchers from Anthropic and Google discovered CVE-2026-97631, a critical memory-corruption flaw in the TianoCore EDK II codebase that allows code execution before Secure Boot loads.

REMEMBER

- CVE-2026-97631 — A 9.5 severity memory-corruption flaw in the TianoCore EDK II codebase.
- Buffer overflow — A 16-year-old flaw allowing malicious code execution during PXE boot.
- AMI, Insyde, and Phoenix — Vendors that utilize the affected TianoCore EDK II code.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the security implications of firmware-level vulnerabilities in the global supply chain and suggest measures to ensure hardware-level integrity.

USE : Firmware security Supply chain vulnerability
Memory corruption Hardware integrity

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/143796

India monitors Tehran meeting as reports suggest unconfirmed USD 1 billion Houthi ceasefire proposal

Why in news: The Ministry of External Affairs is monitoring a Tehran meeting involving Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Pakistan, and Iran regarding a potential USD 1 billion Houthi ceasefire proposal.

REMEMBER

- Unconfirmed Houthi ceasefire proposal includes USD 1 billion in financial assistance
- Tehran: Location of the meeting involving Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Pakistan, and Iran
- Randhir Jaiswal: Spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs

MAINS ANGLE *Analyze the implications of the growing maritime and geopolitical ties between Pakistan and the Maldives on India's 'Neighborhood First' policy.*

USE : Geopolitical dynamics Maritime security

Regional diplomacy

Conflict resolution

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/143791

Cyclone Arnab hits Andhra Pradesh with 135 kmph winds

Why in news: Cyclone Arnab hit Andhra Pradesh as a very severe cyclonic storm on October 28, causing five deaths and significant rainfall, highlighting challenges in rapid storm intensification and forecasting.

REMEMBER

- IMD (India Meteorological Department) — Issued alerts for seven districts during the storm.
- Impacted Districts — Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam, Kalingapatnam, Kakinada, and Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh.
- Wind Speeds — Recorded core wind speeds of 125-135 kmph.

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the challenges posed by rapid cyclonic storm intensification in the North Indian Ocean and suggest measures to improve early warning systems.*

USE : cyclonic storm rapid intensification

disaster management

early warning systems

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/143808

4 questions, 4 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

1 With reference to the UK Active Debris Removal (UK ADR) programme, consider the following statements:

1. The spacecraft is designed to be refuelable and equipped with robotic claws.
2. The programme aims to capture and incinerate two defunct satellites by 2032.
3. The mission is scheduled to launch in 2025.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2 With reference to Cyclone Arnab and its impact in Odisha, consider the following statements:

1. The India Meteorological Centre reported wind speeds exceeding 100 kmph.
2. Gajapati was identified as the worst-hit district by the cyclone.
3. The cyclone affected a total of 17 districts in the state.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3 With reference to Cyclone Arnab in Andhra Pradesh, consider the following statements:

1. The storm moved slower than predicted, providing a wide evacuation window.
2. The cyclone hit the state of Odisha on October 28.
3. The cyclone recorded core wind speeds of 125–135 kmph.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4 With reference to the CVE-2026-97631 vulnerability, consider the following statements:

1. The flaw is a memory-corruption vulnerability in the TianoCore EDK II codebase.
2. The vulnerability allows attackers to execute code after Secure Boot and TPM defenses are active.
3. Vendors such as AMI, Insyde, and Phoenix utilize the affected codebase.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

MAINS PRACTICE

Write one answer today

GS3 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Discuss the importance of active debris removal in ensuring the long-term sustainability of orbital space and the technological challenges involved.

USE: Space Debris Orbital Sustainability Active Debris Removal Space Governance Kessler Syndrome

ANSWERS · 1 (b) 2 (d) 3 (b) 4 (c)



TELEGRAM



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