

**Current Affairs • 31 October 2026****16 min**

READING TIME

8

KEY STORIES

8

IN BRIEF

5 + 1

MCQS + MAINS

GS1 • 2

GS2 • 6

GS3 • 8

PAPER MIX

01 — TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip**1 Jaishankar criticizes sanctions on Iranian oil and Russian diesel at G20 meeting**

Why it matters: External Affairs Minister S.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

M

2 Field trainers are preparing enumerators for the second phase of the Census in Uttar

Why it matters: Field trainers are preparing enumerators for the second phase of the Census (Population Enumeration) in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, and Punjab starting December 1, 2026.

GS1 • INDIAN SOCIETY

P

3 ISRO launches NVS-03 satellite to restore NavIC services

Why it matters: NavIC and indigenous satellite technology: a key GS3 topic on space technology and strategic autonomy.

GS3 • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

P

M

4 Two limpet mines hit Panama-flagged tanker with 27 Indian crew in Strait of Hormuz

Why it matters: A Panama-flagged crude oil tanker carrying 27 Indian crew members was hit by two limpet mines in the Strait of Hormuz, causing an engine room fire and paralyzing the vessel.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

M

5 Telangana extends instant pension to families of PwDs and HIV patients

Why it matters: Digital governance in social security: a GS2 case study on inclusive growth and last-mile delivery.

GS2 • SOCIAL JUSTICE

P

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

P = PRELIMS • M = MAINS

What to know, in 60 seconds each

8 of 16 notes · picked for exam value

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P M

Jaishankar criticizes sanctions on Iranian oil and Russian diesel at G20 meeting

Why in news: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar criticized sanctions on Iranian oil and Russian diesel during the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Atlanta.

REMEMBER

- S. Jaishankar: External Affairs Minister of India
- Marco Rubio: U.S. Secretary of State
- Atlanta: Venue of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the implications of global oil supply disruptions and sanctions on energy security and India's strategic autonomy in the global energy market.

USE: Strategic Autonomy Energy Security Sanctions Regime

Supply Chain Resilience

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/145038

GS1 · INDIAN SOCIETY

P

Field trainers are preparing enumerators for the second phase of the Census in Uttar

Why in news: Field trainers are preparing enumerators for the second phase of the Census (Population Enumeration) in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, and Punjab starting December 1, 2026.

REMEMBER

- The second phase of the Census (Population Enumeration) will ask 40 questions.
- Enumerators must spend at least 20–25 minutes per respondent during the Population Enumeration.
- Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, and Punjab will begin the second phase of the Census on December 1, 2026.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of the Census in formulating socio-economic policies and the logistical challenges involved in conducting a large-scale population enumeration in India.

USE: Demographic data Population Enumeration

Houselisting Operations

Data collection

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/145091

GS3 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

P M

ISRO launches NVS-03 satellite to restore NavIC services

Why in news: ISRO successfully launched the 2250 kg NVS-03 satellite using the GSLV-F18 to restore NavIC services after previous satellite failures.

REMEMBER

- NVS-03 — A 2250 kg satellite designed to provide continuity for the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC).
- GSLV-F18 — The launch vehicle used to inject the NVS-03 satellite into a geosynchronous transfer orbit.
- NavIC Coverage — Provides PNT services over the Indian landmass and a region extending 1,500 km beyond the Indian geopolitical boundary.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) in ensuring India's strategic autonomy and enhancing domestic infrastructure.

USE: Navigation Satellite System

Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit

Strategic Autonomy

PNT Services

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/144961

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P M

Two limpet mines hit Panama-flagged tanker with 27 Indian crew in Strait of Hormuz

Why in news: A Panama-flagged crude oil tanker carrying 27 Indian crew members was hit by two limpet mines in the Strait of Hormuz, causing an engine room fire and paralyzing the vessel.

REMEMBER

- Limpet mines: Small, cone-shaped explosives designed to be attached to a ship's hull by divers or frogmen.
- The tanker hit in the Strait of Hormuz was Panama-flagged and carried 27 Indian crew members.
- Strait of Hormuz: A critical maritime chokepoint where the incident occurred.

MAINS ANGLE Examine the security challenges posed by asymmetric maritime threats like limpet mines in critical global shipping lanes like the Strait of Hormuz.

USE: maritime security asymmetric warfare Strait of Hormuz

limpet mines

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/145080

Telangana extends instant pension to families of PwDs and HIV patients

Why in news: The Telangana government extended the 'instant pension' facility to include families of persons with disabilities and HIV patients to ensure faster social security delivery.

REMEMBER

- Instant pension — a social security facility for PwDs, HIV patients, weavers, and dialysis patients.
- Cheyutha portal — a digital platform used for document submission and verification.
- Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department — the department issuing the scheme.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how the digitization of social security delivery, such as Telangana's 'instant pension' model, can enhance the welfare of vulnerable sections in India.

USE: Social Security Digital Governance Inclusive Growth
Vulnerable Sections

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/145129

Karnataka to freeze new private PU college permissions for three years starting 2027-28

Why in news: The Karnataka government notified draft rules to freeze permissions for new private Pre-University (PU) colleges for three years starting from the 2027-28 academic year.

REMEMBER

- Karnataka has 6,398 current Pre-University (PU) colleges.
- 1.18 lakh seats remain vacant in Karnataka's PU colleges as of the 2025-26 academic cycle.
- The freeze on new private PU college permissions is scheduled for a three-year period starting in 2027-28.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the implications of over-saturation in private higher education institutions on the quality of learning and student outcomes in India.

USE: Educational Infrastructure Regulatory Oversight
Seat Vacancy Private Education Policy

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/145125

NASA, Russia and China race to deploy lunar nuclear reactors by 2030 and 2036

Why in news: NASA, Russia, and China are competing to deploy lunar nuclear reactors by 2030 and 2036 to power lunar mining operations.

REMEMBER

- NASA's planned lunar reactor capacity: 20 kilowatts
- NASA's planned lunar reactor weight: under 6,000kg
- Russia's Selena reactor capacity: 10 kilowatts

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the geopolitical and technological implications of the lunar space race, specifically regarding the deployment of nuclear power for extraterrestrial mining.

USE: Space Geopolitics Lunar Mining Nuclear Propulsion
Extraterrestrial Resources

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/145122

PM Modi pays floral tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at Statue of Unity

Why in news: Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid floral tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Statue of Unity to mark his 151st birth anniversary and National Unity Day.

REMEMBER

- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel — India's first Home Minister who integrated over 560 princely states into the Indian Union.
- National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) — Observed since 2014 to mark Sardar Patel's birth anniversary.
- National Integration — The process of integrating princely states into the Indian Union after 1947.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in the integration of princely states and its significance for the contemporary unity and integrity of India.

USE: National Integration Princely States Iron Man of India
Nation-building

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/145096

Everything else, one line each

8 more notes · full versions online

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

S Jaishankar meets Marco Rubio in Atlanta to review India-US bilateral cooperation

Supreme Court strikes down Karnataka Act affecting 190 officers despite KPSC corruption allegations

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

West Bengal plans to retrieve tigress BTR-TF-1 from Assam after it crossed Sankosh River

Only one of 24 Global Biodiversity Framework targets on track despite \$1bn pledge

AI security: AI tools are being used to uncover vulnerabilities like PHP2Shell in open-source code.

Athirappilly land survey: Forest department and PCK conducting joint survey of 2-hectare leased land to address elephant corridor obstructions.

Godavari irrigation: Andhra Pradesh to spend ₹3,000 crore to modernise drains and mitigate crop inundation.

IMD Warning: A low-pressure area over the southeast Bay of Bengal may intensify into a depression.

5 questions, 5 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

1 Which signals does the NVS-03 satellite provide in addition to the existing L5 and S signals?

- (a) L1 signals (b) L2 signals
(c) U1 signals (d) S2 signals

2 Which digital platform is utilized by the Telangana government for document submission and verification for the instant pension scheme?

- (a) Cheyutha portal (b) Aadhar Seva
(c) MeeSeva portal (d) e-Panchayat portal

3 With reference to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the integration of India, consider the following statements:

1. National Unity Day is observed annually on the anniversary of Sardar Patel's death.
2. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel served as India's first Home Minister.
3. Sardar Patel integrated over 700 princely states into the Indian Union after 1947.

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

4 Which project is backed by Anthropic, Amazon, Microsoft, and OpenAI to address AI-driven security risks?

- (a) Project Sentinel (b) CyberShield
(c) Alpha-Omega (d) OpenGuard

5 With reference to the forest land survey in Kerala, consider the following statements:

1. The survey involves a five-hectare leased forest land.
2. The survey aims to address tiger corridor obstructions.
3. The Plantation Corporation, Kerala (PCK) is conducting the joint survey.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

MAINS PRACTICE

Write one answer today

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Discuss the implications of global oil supply disruptions and sanctions on energy security and India's strategic autonomy in the global energy market.

USE: Strategic Autonomy Energy Security Sanctions Regime Supply Chain Resilience Multilateralism

ANSWERS · 1 (a) 2 (a) 3 (a) 4 (c) 5 (c)



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.

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