

**SATYADHEESH**
सत्याधीश

UPSC DAILY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs • 31 October 2026**16**

NOTES

2

STORIES MERGED

7

MCQS

GS1 • 2

GS2 • 6

GS3 • 8

PAPER MIX

CONTENTS**Every note, grouped by paper****GS1 History • Society • Geography**

2 notes

History & Culture

1

Indian Society

1

GS2 Polity • Governance • Social Justice • IR

6 notes

Polity & Constitution

1

Social Justice

2

International Relations

3

GS3 Economy • S&T • Environment • Security

8 notes

Agriculture

1

Science & Technology

4

Environment & Ecology

3

Practice — 7 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.

History & Culture

1

MODERN INDIA & FREEDOM STRUGGLE P

31 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/145096 · Report a mistake

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.

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

MAINS Q 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 Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

Indian Society

1

POPULATION, DEMOGRAPHY & MIGRATION P

31 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/145091 · Report a mistake

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.

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

MAINS Q 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 Socio-economic planning

Polity & Constitution

1

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS P M

31 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/145033 · Report a mistake

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

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court struck down the Karnataka Civil Services (Validation of Selection and Appointment of 2011 Batch Gazetted Probationers) Act, 2022, which sought to validate the appointments of 190 officers.

BODY	KPSC: The Karnataka Public Service Commission is the body responsible for recruitment to civil services in the state.
FACT	The 2022 Act specifically targeted the validation of the 2011 batch of gazetted probationers.
FACT	The ruling affects approximately 190 officers.

MAINS Q Examine the role of judicial review in ensuring the integrity of public recruitment processes and the implications of legislative attempts to override administrative irregularities.

USE: Judicial Review Public Service Commission Rule of Law Administrative Integrity Legislative Validation

VULNERABLE SECTIONS (SC/ST, MINORITIES, DISABLED, ELDERLY, CHILDREN)

31 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/145129 · Report a mistake

P

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.

SCHEME | Instant pension — a social security facility for PwDs, HIV patients, weavers, and dialysis patients.

CONCEPT | Cheyutha portal — a digital platform used for document submission and verification.

BODY | Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department — the department issuing the scheme.

FIGURE | Widow pensions — provided to women below 57 years of age.

FIGURE | Old-age pensions — provided to individuals aged 57 and above.

MAINS Q 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 Last-mile Delivery

EDUCATION POLICY

P

31 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/145125 · Report a mistake

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.

FACT | Karnataka has 6,398 current Pre-University (PU) colleges.

FACT | 1.18 lakh seats remain vacant in Karnataka's PU colleges as of the 2025-26 academic cycle.

FACT | The freeze on new private PU college permissions is scheduled for a three-year period starting in 2027-28.

MAINS Q 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

International Relations

3

INDIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS

P

M

2 REPORTS MERGED

31 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/145038 · Report a mistake

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.

POST | S. Jaishankar: External Affairs Minister of India

POST | Marco Rubio: U.S. Secretary of State

PLACE | Atlanta: Venue of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting

FACT | India proposed a Critical Minerals Circularity Initiative at the G20 meeting

MAINS Q 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

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.

- S&T | Limpet mines: Small, cone-shaped explosives designed to be attached to a ship's hull by divers or frogmen.
- FACT | The tanker hit in the Strait of Hormuz was Panama-flagged and carried 27 Indian crew members.
- PLACE | Strait of Hormuz: A critical maritime chokepoint where the incident occurred.
- FACT | IRGC (Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps): The Iranian body that issued a statement regarding the halted tankers.

MAINS Q 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

maritime sabotage

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

WHY IN NEWS External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Marco Rubio in Atlanta to review India-US bilateral cooperation ahead of the G20 summit.

- PLACE | Atlanta: Location of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM)
- PLACE | Miami: Host city for the G20 leaders' Summit on December 14-15
- PLACE | Antigua and Barbuda: Destination for the Commonwealth heads of government meeting
- FACT | G20 leaders' Summit scheduled for December 14 and 15

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of India-US bilateral cooperation in the context of evolving global multipolarity and the G20 framework.

USE:

bilateral cooperation

multilateralism

strategic autonomy

geopolitical alignment

G20 framework

GS3

Economy · S&T · Environment · Security

8 NOTES

Agriculture1

Andhra Pradesh announces ₹3,000 crore to modernise Godavari irrigation drains

WHY IN NEWS Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu announced a ₹3,000 crore modernization plan for Godavari irrigation drains to mitigate crop inundation following Cyclone Arbab.

- FIGURE | ₹3,000 crore — total allocation for modernising Godavari irrigation drains
- FIGURE | ₹25,000 per hectare — compensation for damaged crops
- FIGURE | ₹18,000 — compensation provided for aquaculture ponds
- FIGURE | 4.68 TMC — rainwater diverted to reservoirs during Cyclone Arbab
- FIGURE | 44 TMC — approximate improvement in groundwater

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of modernizing irrigation infrastructure in coastal states to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events on agricultural productivity.

USE:

Climate Resilience

Irrigation Infrastructure

Disaster Mitigation

Agricultural Compensation

Water Management

SPACE TECHNOLOGY (ISRO, MISSIONS)

P M

31 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/144961 · Report a mistake

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.

MISSION	NVS-03 — A 2250 kg satellite designed to provide continuity for the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC).
BODY	GSLV-F18 — The launch vehicle used to inject the NVS-03 satellite into a geosynchronous transfer orbit.
CONCEPT	NavIC Coverage — Provides PNT services over the Indian landmass and a region extending 1,500 km beyond the Indian geopolitical boundary.
CONCEPT	NVS-03 Signals — Includes L1 signals in addition to existing L5 and S signals for a 12-year mission life.

MAINS Q 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 Indigenous Technology

NUCLEAR & NEW ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

P M

31 Oct · Al Jazeera · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/145122 · Report a mistake

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.

S&T	NASA's planned lunar reactor capacity: 20 kilowatts
FACT	NASA's planned lunar reactor weight: under 6,000kg
S&T	Russia's Selena reactor capacity: 10 kilowatts
PLACE	Target location for lunar mining: moon's south pole

MAINS Q 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 Space Race

IT, AI, SEMICONDUCTORS & COMPUTING

P

31 Oct · Al Jazeera · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/145013 · Report a mistake

AI tools uncover security flaws in PHP-powered websites

WHY IN NEWS The PHP Foundation and Apache Software Foundation are facing security threats as AI tools are being used to uncover vulnerabilities like PHP2Shell in open-source code.

CONCEPT	PHP — a programming language that currently powers 70 percent of websites globally.
MISSION	Alpha-Omega — a project backed by Anthropic, Amazon, Microsoft, and OpenAI to address AI-driven security risks.
FIGURE	Google and Mozilla identified over 1,000 and 400 vulnerabilities in Chrome and their platforms respectively.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of AI-driven vulnerability discovery on the security of open-source software ecosystems and the necessity of collaborative defense mechanisms.

USE: Open-source security AI-driven vulnerabilities Cybersecurity resilience Software integrity Collaborative governance

NUCLEAR & NEW ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

P

31 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/144958 · Report a mistake

IMD warns of low-pressure area intensifying into depression

WHY IN NEWS The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a warning regarding a low-pressure area potentially intensifying into a depression over the southeast Bay of Bengal.

BODY	India Meteorological Department (IMD) — Issued the warning regarding the low-pressure area.
CONCEPT	Climate Resilience — Key focus for managing dual impacts of cyclonic storms and droughts.
FIGURE	283 mandals — Identified as severely affected by drought and Cyclone Arun damage.
PLACE	Anantapur — Reported heavy rains and temperatures reaching 37°C.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced by coastal states in managing the dual impact of cyclonic storms and prolonged droughts in the face of climate change.

USE: Climate Resilience Disaster Mitigation Hydrological Modeling Coastal Vulnerability

SPECIES, PROTECTED AREAS & WETLANDS P

31 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/145094 · Report a mistake

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

WHY IN NEWS The West Bengal government plans to retrieve a three-year-old tigress (BTR-TF-1) from Assam after it crossed the Sankosh River from Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve.

ENVIRONMENT	BTR-TF-1 (T-138) is a three-year-old tigress released from Valmiki Tiger Reserve
PLACE	Sankosh River serves as a geographical boundary between West Bengal and Assam
PLACE	Valmiki Tiger Reserve is located in Bihar

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges of tiger conservation in trans-boundary corridors and the importance of inter-state coordination in wildlife management.

USE: Trans-boundary conservation Human-wildlife conflict Wildlife rehabilitation Inter-state cooperation Habitat fragmentation

BIODIVERSITY & CONSERVATION P M

31 Oct · BBC · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/145039 · Report a mistake

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

WHY IN NEWS Nearly 200 countries in Yerevan agreed on a new nature action plan as the UN reported that only one of the 24 targets of the 2022 Global Biodiversity Framework is currently on track.

PLACE	Yerevan, Armenia: Host city for the recent global nature action plan negotiations.
FACT	Global Biodiversity Framework: A 2022 agreement setting 24 targets to halt and reverse nature decline.
FACT	623 million acres (252m hectares) of degraded land have been put into protection.
FACT	The world is currently in its sixth mass extinction event.

MAINS Q Critically analyze the challenges in achieving the Global Biodiversity Framework targets amidst shifting global priorities toward defense and energy security.

USE: Global Biodiversity Framework Mass Extinction Conservation Finance Nature Action Plan Ecosystem Collapse

SPECIES, PROTECTED AREAS & WETLANDS P

31 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/144968 · Report a mistake

Forest department and PCK to survey Athirappilly land over elephant corridor obstruction

WHY IN NEWS The Forest department and Plantation Corporation, Kerala (PCK) are conducting a joint survey of a two-hectare leased forest land at Athirappilly to address elephant corridor obstructions and human-wildlife conflicts.

PLACE	Athirappilly: Location of the forest land survey in Kerala
FIGURE	Two-hectare: Size of the leased forest land under survey
BODY	Plantation Corporation, Kerala (PCK): Body involved in the joint survey
CONCEPT	Elephant corridor: Ecological pathway being obstructed by land use

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in balancing commercial land use with the preservation of wildlife corridors in ecologically sensitive zones like Kerala.

USE: Human-wildlife conflict Wildlife corridors Ecological fragmentation Land use policy Biodiversity conservation

7 questions, 7 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

6 With reference to the modernization of Godavari irrigation drains in Andhra Pradesh, consider the following statements:

1. Approximately 44 TMC of groundwater was improved during the event.
2. A compensation of ₹18,000 is provided for damaged crops per hectare.
3. The government allocated ₹3,000 crore for modernising irrigation drains to mitigate crop inundation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7 With reference to the recent weather reports and disaster assessment, consider the following statements:

1. A total of 383 mandals were identified as severely affected by drought and Cyclone Arnab damage.
2. The IMD warned of a low-pressure area potentially intensifying into a depression over the southeast Bay of Bengal.
3. Temperatures in Anantapur were reported to reach 37°C during heavy rains.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANSWERS · 1 (a) 2 (a) 3 (a) 4 (c) 5 (c) 6 (c) 7 (d)



TELEGRAM



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