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UPSC DAILY BRIEF

Current Affairs · 4 November 2026

10 min	8	2	1	GS2 · 8 GS3 · 2
READING TIME	KEY STORIES	IN BRIEF	MAINS QUESTION	PAPER MIX

01 — TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip

1 US conducts limited strikes on Iranian targets in Strait of Hormuz

Why it matters: The United States conducted limited strikes on Iranian targets in the Strait of Hormuz, targeting entities using surface-to-air missiles.

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS P

2 Bhutan sets Guinness World Record consecrating 108 Buddhist Stupas in nine hours

Why it matters: Bhutan set a Guinness World Record by consecrating 108 Buddhist Stupas (Jangchub Chortens) in nine hours at the Gelephu Mindfulness City to honor King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and signify India-Bhutan ties.

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS P

3 Madras High Court orders Tamil Nadu government to explain 14 universities without Vice-Chancellors

Why it matters: The Madras High Court directed the Tamil Nadu government to explain why 14 state-run universities have operated without Vice-Chancellors or Syndicates for three to four years.

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE M

4 Karnataka's drought assistance proposal to Union government sees upward revision by ₹1,818 crore following changes in SDRF norms

Why it matters: The Karnataka government requested the Centre to increase drought relief funds by ₹1,814.85 crore following revised Ministry of Home Affairs norms for the State Disaster Response Fund.

GS3 · ECONOMY P M

5 MHA plans to reduce visa form fields by 70% to boost tourism

Why it matters: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs announced plans to reduce visa application form fields by 70% across 22 categories to simplify the process and boost tourism.

GS2 · GOVERNANCE P

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

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS P

US conducts limited strikes on Iranian targets in Strait of Hormuz

Why in news: The United States conducted limited strikes on Iranian targets in the Strait of Hormuz, targeting entities using surface-to-air missiles.

REMEMBER

- U.S. strikes targeted Iranian entities using surface-to-air missiles.
- Donald Trump and JD Vance expressed optimism for a negotiated settlement.

MAINS ANGLE *Analyze the geopolitical implications of military escalations in the Strait of Hormuz on global energy security and maritime trade routes.*

USE: Geopolitics | Maritime Security | Energy Security | Strategic Chokepoints

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/147169

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS P

Bhutan sets Guinness World Record consecrating 108 Buddhist Stupas in nine hours

Why in news: Bhutan set a Guinness World Record by consecrating 108 Buddhist Stupas (Jangchub Chortens) in nine hours at the Gelephu Mindfulness City to honor King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and signify India-Bhutan ties.

REMEMBER

- Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) is an upcoming urban centre in Bhutan.
- Bhutan consecrated 108 Buddhist Stupas (Jangchub Chortens) in a single day.
- The consecration took place over a duration of nine hours starting at 3 am.

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss how cultural diplomacy and shared spiritual values serve as pillars for strengthening the bilateral relationship between India and Bhutan.*

USE: Cultural Diplomacy | Bilateral Relations | Soft Power | Spiritual Foundation

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/147147

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE M

Madras High Court orders Tamil Nadu government to explain 14 universities without Vice-Chancellors

Why in news: The Madras High Court directed the Tamil Nadu government to explain why 14 state-run universities have operated without Vice-Chancellors or Syndicates for three to four years.

REMEMBER

- Madras High Court: The highest judicial authority in the state of Tamil Nadu
- 14 state-run universities in Tamil Nadu were identified as functioning without Vice-Chancellors or Syndicates
- Higher Education Secretary: The official impleaded by the court to report on restoration of normalcy

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the administrative and systemic challenges in the appointment of Vice-Chancellors in state universities and its impact on institutional autonomy and staff welfare.*

USE: Administrative anomaly | Institutional autonomy | Governance deficit | State-run universities

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/147124

GS3 · ECONOMY P M

Karnataka's drought assistance proposal to Union government sees upward revision by ₹1,818 crore following changes in SDRF norms

Why in news: The Karnataka government requested the Centre to increase drought relief funds by ₹1,814.85 crore following revised Ministry of Home Affairs norms for the State Disaster Response Fund.

REMEMBER

- Karnataka requested a fund hike of ₹1,814.85 crore for drought relief.
- 226 taluks in Karnataka were reported as affected by drought.
- Estimated loss due to drought in Karnataka is ₹62,481.88 crore.

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the challenges in the fiscal management of disaster relief funds and the importance of data-driven identification of beneficiaries in drought-prone regions.*

USE: Fiscal Federalism | Disaster Management | Targeted Delivery | Data-driven Governance

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/147120

GS2 · GOVERNANCE P

MHA plans to reduce visa form fields by 70% to boost tourism

Why in news: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs announced plans to reduce visa application form fields by 70% across 22 categories to simplify the process and boost tourism.

REMEMBER

- The Ministry of Home Affairs plans to reduce visa form fields by approximately 70%.
- India currently has 22 visa categories.
- Foreign tourist arrivals in 2019 were 1.093 crore.

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss how simplifying visa procedures and streamlining administrative hurdles can contribute to India's goal of becoming a global tourism hub.*

USE: Ease of Travel | Tourism Promotion | Administrative Simplification | Visa Liberalization

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/147119

GS2 · POLITY & CONSTITUTION M

Karnataka High Court orders state to propose protections after violence against advocates

Why in news: The Karnataka High Court initiated a suo motu PIL to direct the State government to propose protections for advocates following incidents of violence and murders against them.

REMEMBER

- Karnataka State Bar Council: Body representing the interests of advocates in the state
- Bengaluru: Location of the Advocates' Association and High Court proceedings
- Suo motu PIL: A petition initiated by the court on its own motion without a formal petitioner

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the necessity of robust statutory protections for legal professionals to ensure the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law.*

USE: Rule of Law | Judicial Independence | Statutory Protection | Suo Motu

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/147118

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE P

IISc Bangalore slips to 79th as lower employer reputation scores hit 83% of institutions

Why in news: The QS World University Rankings: Asia 2027 revealed a significant decline in the rankings of premier Indian institutions like IISc Bangalore and various IITs due to lower employer and academic reputation scores.

REMEMBER

- QS World University Rankings: Asia 2027 ranked 1,722 universities and institutions.
- IISc Bangalore slipped from 64th to 79th position in the 2027 rankings.
- IIT Delhi remained the highest-ranked Indian university at 66th position.

MAINS ANGLE *Analyze the factors affecting the global ranking of Indian higher education institutions and suggest measures to improve their academic and employer reputation scores.*

USE: Higher Education | Global Rankings | Academic Reputation | Employer Perception

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/147116

GS2 · POLITY & CONSTITUTION M

Assam government to request CBI probe into Sivasagar and Charaideo floods

Why in news: The Assam government announced a request for a CBI probe into the floods in Sivasagar and Charaideo districts and approved amendments to the Assam Service and Discipline Rule.

REMEMBER

- The Uniform Civil Code, Assam, 2026 Bill: Legislation passed to establish a common legal framework in Assam
- Sivasagar and Charaideo: Districts in Assam affected by floods under investigation

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the significance of implementing a Uniform Civil Code in a diverse state like Assam while ensuring the protection of minority cultural identities.*

USE: Uniform Civil Code | Administrative Discipline | Federalism | Public Accountability

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/147111

03 — IN BRIEF

Everything else, one line each

2 more notes · full versions online

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

APSCHE introduces mandatory 360-hour internship for undergraduate students starting November 16, 2026

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

Tamil Nadu policy mandates 10% BESS capacity for new solar projects from April 2027

MAINS PRACTICE

Write one answer today

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Analyze the geopolitical implications of military escalations in the Strait of Hormuz on global energy security and maritime trade routes.

USE: Geopolitics | Maritime Security | Energy Security | Strategic Chokepoints | Escalation

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