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UPSC DAILY BRIEF

Current Affairs · 6 November 2026

17 min	8	12	5 + 1	GS2 · 8 GS3 · 12
READING TIME	KEY STORIES	IN BRIEF	MCQS + MAINS	PAPER MIX

01 — TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip

1 **Cancer care: Long battle for affordable treatment**

Why it matters: The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) capped trade margins on 137 non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines at 30% of the retail price to reduce patient costs.

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE P M

2 **India unveils Swachh Space vision to make space activities debris-free by 2030**

Why it matters: Space sustainability and debris management: a key GS3 Science & Technology and Space Governance topic.

GS3 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY P M

3 **MHA amends order requiring six non-Muslim communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan to obtain visas**

Why it matters: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) amended the Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 2025, to mandate visas for six non-Muslim communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.

GS3 · INTERNAL SECURITY P M

4 **Maharashtra announces ₹160 crore package for primitive tribes and Pardhi community**

Why it matters: Targeted fiscal intervention for marginalized groups: a GS2 Social Justice and inclusive growth case study.

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE P

5 **Bihar Education Department bans social media reels during class hours**

Why it matters: Digital regulation and student privacy: a relevant GS2 case study on educational governance.

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE P

NUMBER OF THE DAY

₹160 crore

total package for the 2026-27 Budget.

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

P = PRELIMS · M = MAINS

What to know, in 60 seconds each

8 of 20 notes · picked for exam value

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE P M

Cancer care: Long battle for affordable treatment

Why in news: The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) capped trade margins on 137 non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines at 30% of the retail price to reduce patient costs.

REMEMBER

- NPPA: National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority is the body responsible for capping trade margins on medicines.
- The trade margin cap for the 137 anti-cancer medicines is set at 30% of the retail price.
- The estimated annual savings for patients from this measure is ₹2,500 crore.

MAINS ANGLE *Examine the effectiveness of price capping mechanisms in making life-saving drugs affordable while ensuring the sustainability of the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector.*

USE: Price Capping | Affordability | Pharmaceutical Regulation | Healthcare Equity

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/148401

GS3 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY P M

India unveils Swachh Space vision to make space activities debris-free by 2030

Why in news: Union Minister of State for Science Jitendra Singh unveiled the 'Swachh Space' vision to make India's space activities debris-free by 2030.

REMEMBER

- Swachh Space: India's vision to make space activities debris-free by 2030
- Cosmoserve Space: A Hyderabad-based startup developing orbital cleaning technologies
- Orbital Service Station: Technology intended to reduce servicing costs and clean crowded orbits

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the importance of space debris management in ensuring the long-term sustainability of orbital assets and India's role in global space governance.*

USE: Space Sustainability | Orbital Debris | Kessler Syndrome | Space Governance

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/148388

GS3 · INTERNAL SECURITY P M

MHA amends order requiring six non-Muslim communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan to obtain visas

Why in news: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) amended the Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 2025, to mandate visas for six non-Muslim communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.

REMEMBER

- Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 2025: The specific order amended by the MHA in November 2026.
- December 31, 2024: The cutoff date for individuals who entered India due to religious persecution under the previous exemption.
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA): The central ministry responsible for issuing the amendment and managing immigration.

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the challenges involved in balancing humanitarian obligations toward refugees with national security concerns regarding illegal migration and border management.*

USE: Refugee Policy | Border Management | National Security | Immigration Law

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/148296

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE P

Maharashtra announces ₹160 crore package for primitive tribes and Pardhi community

Why in news: The Maharashtra Government announced a ₹160 crore special package in the 2026-27 Budget for the holistic development of Katkari, Kolam, and Madia tribes and the Pardhi community.

REMEMBER

- Maharashtra Government — issued a Government Resolution on 2 November 2026 for tribal development.
- ₹160 crore — total package for the 2026-27 Budget.
- ₹130 crore — specific allocation for primitive tribes (Katkari, Kolam, and Madia).

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the significance of targeted fiscal interventions for primitive tribes and marginalized communities in achieving inclusive growth in India.*

USE: holistic development | primitive tribes | fiscal intervention | social inclusion

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/148416

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE P

Bihar Education Department bans social media reels during class hours

Why in news: The Bihar Education Department issued a directive banning teachers and students from creating social media reels during class hours to ensure discipline and student privacy.

REMEMBER

- Bihar Education Department — issued the directive to ensure discipline and student privacy
- Vijay Kumar Pandey — issued the regulation for Bihar government schools
- November 4, 2026 — date the reel ban was issued

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the implications of social media usage in educational institutions on student privacy and academic discipline in the Indian context.*

USE: Student Privacy | Academic Discipline | Digital Regulation | Educational Governance

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/148404

GS3 · ECONOMY P

India's gold loan market expands to Rs 22.5 lakh crore

Why in news: A report by a credit information company revealed that India's gold loan market expanded nearly three times to Rs 22.5 lakh crore by August 2026, becoming the second largest segment in personal loans.

REMEMBER

- Rs 22.5 lakh crore — Total size of the gold loan market as of August 2026
- Rs 7.5 lakh crore — Outstanding volume of gold loans as of August 31, 2023
- NPA ratio — Rose to 0.3% in August 2026 from 0.16% in March 2026

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the implications of the rapid expansion of the gold loan market on the personal credit landscape and the risks associated with high repeat borrowing.*

USE: Non-Performing Assets | Personal Loans | Credit Behavior | Collateralized Lending

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/148397

GS3 · ECONOMY P

NSDL and CDSL record 3.36 million new demat accounts in October

Why in news: NSDL and CDSL reported a record monthly surge of 3.36 million demat accounts in October, driven by high IPO activity and interest in gold and silver ETFs.

REMEMBER

- 3.36 million — Number of new demat accounts added in October
- 244 million — Total demat accounts in India as of October
- ₹44,507 crore — Record IPO activity during the period

MAINS ANGLE *Analyze the factors contributing to the rapid expansion of retail participation in Indian capital markets and its implications for market stability.*

USE: Capital Market Participation | Dematerialization | Retail Investor Sentiment | IPO Activity

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/148385

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE P

Telangana to launch ₹5 lakh life insurance cover for eligible families

Why in news: The Telangana government announced a ₹5 lakh life insurance cover for eligible families to be launched on November 19.

REMEMBER

- Telangana life insurance cover — provides ₹5 lakh cover for eligible families
- Indiramma committees — responsible for household-level application collection in Telangana
- November 20 to November 30, 2026 — period for collecting applications

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the role of state-sponsored social security schemes in mitigating risks for vulnerable populations in India.*

USE: social security | risk mitigation | welfare state | fiscal federalism

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/148321

03 — IN BRIEF

Everything else, one line each

12 more notes · full versions online

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

Bihar Education Department: Mandates bank accounts and birth certificates for every child in government schools by December 31, 2026.

MPSC recruitment: Maharashtra government approved a one-year upper age limit relaxation for Group C recruitment advertisements.

India-Nepal cooperation: Foreign Secretary and Nepal PM discussed hydropower, digital connectivity, and AI in Kathmandu.

Civil Services Exam: UPSC declared 2026 Main results; successful candidates move to the personality test.

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

Marine mammal strandings: Goa accounted for 113 of 161 strandings along the Indian coast in 2024-25, with Humpback dolphins most affected.

Visakhapatnam pollution: APPCB ordered enforcement of pollution and noise limits as PM10 levels hit 238 micrograms per cubic metre.

Satellite servicing: Cosmoserve Space launched 'Base 1' in Hyderabad to provide repair and refuelling services using microgravity simulation.

Industrial Promotion: West Bengal offers up to 120% financial assistance on Fixed Capital Investment to revive the industrial sector.

PDS procurement: Tamil Nadu to procure 1.87 crore dhotis and sarees from Cooperative Societies to support the weaving sector.

Cyclone Murasu: Revenue Minister ordered war-footing damage assessment for crop and infrastructure losses in Khammam district.

Cyber terrorism: Punjab and Haryana High Court directed Punjab government to report on cyber terrorism provisions at LPU.

OpenAI model: Used by Charge Robotics co-founder to identify a severe Ubuntu OS vulnerability, leading to a Debian Project patch.

04 — TEST YOURSELF

5 questions, 5 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

1 With reference to India's Swachh Space vision, consider the following statements:

1. The Orbital Service Station is intended to reduce servicing costs in space.
2. Cosmoserve Space is a startup based in Mumbai developing orbital cleaning technologies.
3. The vision aims to eliminate new orbital debris by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2 With reference to the Maharashtra Government's tribal development package for the 2026-27 Budget, consider the following statements:

1. The package is intended for the holistic development of Katkari, Kolam, and Madia tribes.
2. The total package amount allocated is ₹160 crore.
3. The allocation for the Pardhi community is ₹130 crore.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3 With reference to the Bihar Education Department's directive on social media reels, consider the following statements:

1. The ban applies to both teachers and students making reels during class hours.
2. The regulation prohibits unauthorized visitors from entering school campuses during teaching hours.
3. The directive was issued specifically for private schools only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4 With reference to the Bihar Education Department's new mandate, consider the following statements:

1. The primary mechanism for fund transfers through these accounts is Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
2. The mandate requires all children to have bank accounts by December 31, 2025.
3. Every child in government schools must have a bank account and birth certificate by December 31, 2026.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5 What is the reported NPA ratio for the gold loan market as of August 2026?

(a) 0.16%
(b) 1.2%
(c) 0.3%
(d) 0.5%

MAINS PRACTICE

Write one answer today

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE

Examine the effectiveness of price capping mechanisms in making life-saving drugs affordable while ensuring the sustainability of the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector.

USE: Price Capping | Affordability | Pharmaceutical Regulation | Healthcare Equity | Market Intervention

ANSWERS · 1 (d) 2 (b) 3 (b) 4 (d) 5 (c)

TELEGRAM

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