

**SATYADHEESH**
सत्याधीश

UPSC MONTHLY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs • October 2026**120**
NOTES**114**
STORIES MERGED**10**
MCQSGS1 • 2 GS2 • 57 GS3 • 61
PAPER MIX**CONTENTS****Every note, grouped by paper**

GS1 History • Society • Geography	2 notes
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Practice — 10 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.

Indian Society

1

POPULATION, DEMOGRAPHY & MIGRATION

P

M

6 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/131729 · [Report a mistake](#)

Provisional Population Census 2027 data to be available by March or April next year

WHY IN NEWS Chief Principal Census Officer Amit Sharma announced that provisional data for the Population Census 2027 will be available by March or April 2027.

- FACT** | Ladakh is the first region to complete the entire Census exercise for 2027.
- S&T** | The 2027 Census is the first digital Census in independent India.
- FACT** | The Census 2027 includes caste enumeration for the first time beyond Scheduled Castes and Tribes.
- FACT** | The Census 2027 questionnaire includes 40 questions, with 13 new fields added since 2011.
- BODY** | The Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India (RG&CCI) manages the Census, while the Election Commission of India (ECI) manages the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of transitioning to a digital census and the inclusion of caste enumeration in the 2027 Census for India's socio-economic planning.

USE: [Demographic transition](#) [Digital governance](#) [Data integrity](#) [Socio-economic planning](#) [Census enumeration](#)

Geography

1

GEOPHYSICAL PHENOMENA (EARTHQUAKES, CYCLONES, VOLCANOES)

P

2 Oct · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/129334 · [Report a mistake](#)

2 REPORTS MERGED

IMD reports 2026 as lowest monsoon in a decade due to El Nino

WHY IN NEWS The India Meteorological Department (IMD) reported that 2026 recorded the lowest monsoon rainfall in a decade due to a strengthening El Nino causing a deficit that crossed the all-India drought threshold.

- CONCEPT** | El Nino — a climate pattern associated with warming in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean
- CONCEPT** | Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) — remained neutral during the 2026 monsoon season
- FIGURE** | 759.4 mm — rainfall received between June and September in 2026
- FIGURE** | 868.6 mm — the Long Period Average (LPA) for monsoon rainfall
- CONCEPT** | Drought threshold — the rainfall deficit level crossed in 2026 to define an all-India drought year

MAINS Q Analyze the impact of El Nino and the Indian Ocean Dipole on India's monsoon patterns and its implications for national food security.

USE: [El Nino](#) [Indian Ocean Dipole](#) [Monsoon variability](#) [Drought threshold](#) [LPA](#)

Polity & Constitution

17

ELECTIONS, ECI & ELECTORAL REFORMS

P

8 REPORTS MERGED

2 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/129344 · Report a mistake

Election Commission directs special drive to enroll voters after 13.3 crore deletions

WHY IN NEWS The Election Commission directed Chief Electoral Officers to conduct a special drive to enroll eligible voters following the deletion of approximately 13.3 crore names from voter lists.

BODY	Election Commission — directed Chief Electoral Officers to conduct a special drive for voter enrollment.
FIGURE	13.3 crore — the approximate number of names deleted from voter lists.
CONCEPT	Form 6 — the specific form used for enrolling eligible voters.
EVENT	House-to-house visits — Booth Level Officers tasked to identify left-out electors within one month.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of maintaining an accurate and inclusive electoral roll in ensuring the integrity of the democratic process in India.

USE: Universal Adult Franchise Electoral Integrity Constitutional Mandate Voter Awareness Administrative Efficiency

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

P

M

2 REPORTS MERGED

2 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/129441 · Report a mistake

Supreme Court orders blacklisting of vehicles with ₹49,194.05 crore in unpaid fines

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court ordered states to block services and blacklist vehicles for motorists with ₹49,194.05 crore in unpaid fines to ensure enforcement of traffic regulations.

CONCEPT	Blacklisting: Vehicles with unpaid fines will be blacklisted on the Parivahan portal.
FIGURE	₹49,194.05 crore: Total amount of unpaid fines across states ordered for blocking.
FIGURE	₹19,23,72,500: Amount owed in fines by government vehicles in Karnataka.
FIGURE	99.22 lakh: Number of unpaid challans reported in Hyderabad by late 2025.
BODY	Parivahan: The portal used for vehicle registration and service blocking.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in enforcing traffic regulations and the role of judicial intervention in ensuring fiscal accountability of state-owned vehicles.

USE: Judicial oversight Fiscal accountability Regulatory enforcement Public administration Statutory compliance

CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES (CAG, UPSC, FC, NCSC...)

P

M

3 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/129803 · Report a mistake

Union Law Ministry publishes rules for National Tribunals Commission

WHY IN NEWS The Union Law Ministry published rules for the National Tribunals Commission to oversee 16 tribunals following the passage of the Tribunals Reforms Bill in August.

BODY	National Tribunals Commission — Body established to oversee 16 tribunals to ensure independence and transparency.
PLACE	Delhi — Headquarters of the National Tribunals Commission.
FIGURE	₹2.5 lakh — Monthly remuneration for the chairperson of the Commission.
FIGURE	₹2.25 lakh — Monthly remuneration for members of the Commission.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the National Tribunals Commission in ensuring the independence of judicial bodies and reducing the pendency of cases in Indian tribunals.

USE: Judicial Independence Tribunal Reforms Administrative Oversight Transparency Judicial Pendency

State Election Commission releases schedule for four-phase Panchayati Raj elections

WHY IN NEWS The State Election Commission released a schedule for four-phase elections to Panchayati Raj institutions to be held from October 23 to November 17.

BODY	State Election Commission — Body responsible for releasing the Panchayati Raj election schedule.
CONCEPT	50% reservation for women — Mandated for Panchayati Raj institutions.
FIGURE	4.03 crore voters — Registered to elect members for 14,403 village panchayats.
DATE	November 20 — Date on which the results for the four-phase elections are due.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of women's reservation in Panchayati Raj institutions in promoting grassroots democracy and local governance in India.

USE: Panchayati RajGrassroots DemocracyWomen's ReservationLocal GovernanceState Election Commission

Supreme Court judge says disenfranchising millions violates Article 14 and 326

WHY IN NEWS Justice Ujjal Bhuyan of the Supreme Court stated that disenfranchising millions of Indian citizens violates Article 14 and Article 326, arguing that voting is central to the Basic Structure doctrine.

CONCEPT	Basic Structure Doctrine: Voting is considered central to this doctrine.
CONCEPT	Article 14: Right to Equality violated by disenfranchisement.
FIGURE	13 crore: Number of names reportedly excluded from draft rolls across three phases.

MAINS Q Examine the constitutional implications of voter disenfranchisement and discuss the significance of the right to vote as a component of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

USE: Basic Structure DoctrineRight to EqualityUniversal Adult FranchiseElectoral Roll IntegrityConstitutionalism

Supreme Court upholds socialist and secular as vital to Preamble philosophy

WHY IN NEWS A Bench led by CJI Sanjiv Khanna dismissed writ petitions challenging the 42nd Amendment, upholding 'socialist' and 'secular' as integral to the Preamble's philosophy.

ACT	42nd Amendment — added the words socialist and secular to the Preamble
CASE	Minerva Mills v. Union of India (1980) — Supreme Court case upholding the Preamble changes
CONCEPT	Indian socialism — defined as a commitment to welfare and equality

MAINS Q Examine the judicial role in safeguarding the basic structure of the Preamble against legislative amendments, with reference to the 42nd Amendment.

USE: Basic StructureJudicial Review42nd AmendmentMinerva Mills CasePreamble Philosophy

Cabinet approves proposal to set up Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority

WHY IN NEWS The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of the Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITLA) to oversee multi-modal transport planning and appraise large-scale infrastructure projects.

BODY	ITLA: Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority
FACT	ITLA appraisal threshold: Projects costing ₹500 crore or more
FACT	ITLA mandate: Oversees roads, railways, ports, shipping, aviation, waterways, and urban mobility
FACT	ITLA objective: Creation of a unified transport data repository

MAINS Q Discuss how the creation of a unified transport authority like ITLA can address the challenges of multi-modal connectivity and infrastructure bottlenecks in India.

USE: Multi-modal connectivityLogistics infrastructureInter-agency coordinationData-driven governanceInfrastructure appraisal

Supreme Court strength reaches 37 as Chief Justice Surya Kant swears in three judges

WHY IN NEWS Chief Justice Surya Kant administered the oath of office to three new judges, bringing the Supreme Court's working strength to 37.

BODY	Supreme Court — Working strength is 37 judges after recent appointments.
FIGURE	Sanctioned strength — The Supreme Court's sanctioned strength is 38 judges.
CONCEPT	Supreme Court Collegium — Recommended the elevations on September 28.
FIGURE	Women judges — Justice Sunita Agarwal's appointment brings the total to three.
PERSON	Justice Sunita Agarwal — Served as Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court before elevation.

MAINS Q Examine the role of the Supreme Court Collegium in ensuring judicial independence while balancing the need for timely appointments to the higher judiciary.

USE: [Judicial Independence](#) [Supreme Court Collegium](#) [Judicial Appointments](#) [Gender Representation](#) [Sanctioned Strength](#)

West Bengal CEO seeks clarity on 38.31 lakh voters with stuck tribunal cases

WHY IN NEWS The West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer sought clarity from the ECI on whether 38.31 lakh voters with pending appellate tribunal cases qualify for a fresh re-enrolment drive.

CONCEPT	Form 6: Used for the enrolment of eligible voters
BODY	Election Commission of India (ECI): Directed CEOs to enrol eligible voters left out during Special Intensive Revision
FIGURE	38.31 lakh: Number of voters in West Bengal with cases stuck in State's Appellate Tribunals
FIGURE	1.26 lakh: Number of appeals cleared out of 38.31 lakh in West Bengal
CONCEPT	Special Intensive Revision (SIR): Process to identify and enrol eligible voters

MAINS Q Examine the challenges in ensuring universal and inclusive voter registration in India, particularly regarding judicial delays in electoral disputes.

USE: [Universal Suffrage](#) [Voter Enrolment](#) [Appellate Tribunal](#) [Special Intensive Revision](#) [Election Commission of India](#)

Supreme Court asks amicus curiae to examine if DGP rules violate Prakash Singh judgment

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court directed amicus curiae Raju Ramachandran to examine whether state rules for DGP appointments violate the 2006 Prakash Singh judgment following a complaint regarding Tadasha Mishra's appointment.

POST	Raju Ramachandran: Appointed as amicus curiae by the Supreme Court to examine DGP appointment rules.
FACT	Prakash Singh judgment: A 2006 Supreme Court ruling governing the appointment process of State Police chiefs.

MAINS Q Examine the significance of the Prakash Singh judgment in ensuring the autonomy of state police forces and the necessity of a transparent appointment process for Director Generals of Police.

USE: [Judicial Review](#) [Police Autonomy](#) [Administrative Law](#) [Rule of Law](#) [Executive Overreach](#)

Supreme Court declares 2003 resolution to arrest The Hindu editors infructuous

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court disposed of a reference regarding a 2003 Tamil Nadu Assembly resolution to arrest editors of The Hindu for criticizing Jayalalithaa, declaring the matter infructuous.

CONCEPT	Infructuous — a legal matter that has become redundant or ineffective.
CONCEPT	Freedom of Speech — a fundamental right protected under the Constitution.

MAINS Q Examine the constitutional conflict between the privileges of the House and the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression.

USE: [Freedom of Speech](#) [Legislative Privileges](#) [Constitutionalism](#) [Judicial Review](#) [Infructuous](#)

Telangana deletes nearly 70 lakh voters during Special Intensive Revision

WHY IN NEWS The Chief Electoral Officer of Telangana reported the permanent deletion of nearly 70 lakh voters during the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls.

PERSON	C. Sudarshan Reddy — Chief Electoral Officer of Telangana
FIGURE	73,39,235 — Number of names deleted from the electoral rolls
PLACE	Hyderabad district — Recorded the highest number of inclusion applications with 1,98,331 filings
CONCEPT	Special Intensive Revision — Process used to update and clean electoral rolls

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of periodic electoral roll revisions in ensuring the integrity of the democratic process and the challenges in managing large-scale voter deletions.

USE: electoral roll Special Intensive Revision voter disenfranchisement demographic shift electoral integrity

Supreme Court hears arguments on closure of 57 metro stations

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court addressed the 'shutting down' of the national capital, including the closure of 57 metro stations, ahead of planned protests for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

PERSON	Gyanesh Kumar — Chief Election Commissioner whose resignation was the subject of the protests
CONCEPT	Right to association and peaceful protest — recognized as a fundamental right of every citizen
FIGURE	57 metro stations — reported shut in the national capital ahead of the October 10 protests

MAINS Q Discuss the constitutional balance between the fundamental right to peaceful protest and the state's obligation to ensure the free movement of the general public.

USE: Fundamental Rights Right to Association Proportionality Public Order Freedom of Movement

Supreme Court upholds strike down of 34% Backward Classes reservation

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court dismissed an appeal by the Andhra Pradesh government, upholding a High Court ruling that struck down a 34% reservation for Backward Classes in local bodies.

CONCEPT	50% reservation ceiling — the limit beyond which the State must provide empirical data to justify a breach.
BODY	Supreme Court — upheld the High Court ruling against the Andhra Pradesh government's reservation attempt.
PERSON	Justices Dipankar Datta and Sheel Nagu — the bench that dismissed the appeal.

MAINS Q Examine the constitutional validity of exceeding the 50% reservation ceiling and the necessity of empirical data in justifying affirmative action for Backward Classes.

USE: Affirmative Action Reservation Ceiling Empirical Data Judicial Review Social Justice

Tamil Nadu accuses Karnataka of resource hoarding in Supreme Court

WHY IN NEWS Tamil Nadu filed a Supreme Court affidavit accusing Karnataka of resource hoarding and failing to meet the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) mandated daily release of 4000 cusecs.

CONCEPT	Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) — mandated daily release of 4000 cusecs
FIGURE	29.60 TMC — Mettur reservoir storage as of October 9, 2026
FIGURE	22.519 TMC — Alleged shortfall in supply by Karnataka by early October

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in inter-state water sharing in India and the role of judicial and statutory bodies in resolving federal disputes over natural resources.

USE: Inter-state disputes Federalism Water Governance Resource Allocation Judicial Oversight

ECI caps voter deletion requests to 10 after Karnataka bulk filing controversy

WHY IN NEWS The Election Commission of India capped individual voter deletion requests to prevent bulk filing of Form 7 applications following a controversy in Karnataka.

ACT	Representation of the People Act, 1950 — provides the legal framework for voter list maintenance and actions under Section 31.
CONCEPT	Form 7 — the specific application form used for the deletion of a name from the electoral roll.
FIGURE	10 requests — the cap on individual voter deletion requests during claims and objections periods.
FIGURE	5 requests — the cap on individual voter deletion requests during continuous updation.

MAINS Q Examine the measures taken by the Election Commission of India to ensure the integrity of the electoral roll against fraudulent deletions.

USE:

electoral integrity

voter list maintenance

procedural safeguards

Representation of the People Act

MP High Court strikes down law increasing OBC reservation from 14% to 27%

WHY IN NEWS The Madhya Pradesh High Court struck down the Madhya Pradesh Public Service (Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes) Amendment Act, 2019

PLACE	Madhya Pradesh High Court: Judicial body that ruled the 2019 Amendment Act unconstitutional.
CONCEPT	OBC reservation increase: The contested amendment sought to raise the quota from 14% to 27%.
FIGURE	Unreserved quota: The court ordered filling 13% of held posts with unreserved candidates.
DATE	Timeline: The court mandated the filling of unreserved posts within three months.

MAINS Q Critically examine the constitutional validity of state-level legislative amendments regarding reservation quotas and their impact on the principle of equality of opportunity.

USE:

Constitutional Validity

Affirmative Action

Judicial Review

Equality of Opportunity

Reservation Policy

Governance

2

The Ministry of Education approved five Centres of Excellence for Classical Assamese, Bengali, Pali

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Education approved five Centres of Excellence to strengthen the research, digitisation, and preservation of Classical Assamese, Bengali, Pali, Marathi, and Prakrit.

BODY	Tezpur University, Visva Bharati University, Central University of Odisha, Central University of Gujarat, and Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute are the designated centres.
FACT	The initiative covers five specific languages: Classical Assamese, Bengali, Pali, Marathi, and Prakrit.
POST	The initiative was praised by Mohan Charan Majhi.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of establishing Centres of Excellence in preserving and digitising India's linguistic heritage in the era of rapid technological advancement.

USE:

Linguistic heritage

Digitisation

Cultural preservation

Research infrastructure

Classical languages

Supreme Court dismisses Centre's plea against Great Nicobar project order

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court dismissed the Centre's plea against a Calcutta High Court order upholding Public Interest Litigations (PILs) alleging violations of the Forest Rights Act in the Great Nicobar Island project.

PLACE	Great Nicobar Island — Project site under litigation regarding Forest Rights Act compliance
ACT	Forest Rights Act — Legislation cited in PILs regarding the Great Nicobar project
CONCEPT	Public Interest Litigation — Mechanism used to allege violations of forest rights in the project

MAINS Q *Examine the conflict between large-scale infrastructure development and the protection of indigenous forest rights under the Forest Rights Act.*

USE:

Judicial Review

Forest Rights Act

Environmental Governance

Infrastructure Development

Public Interest Litigation

Social Justice

8

Tamil Nadu launches Vettri Payanam for free bus travel for women and transgender persons

WHY IN NEWS Tamil Nadu CM C. Joseph Vijay launched the 'Vettri Payanam' scheme to provide free bus travel for women and transgender persons across seven State Transport Corporations.

SCHEME	Vettri Payanam — Tamil Nadu state government scheme providing no-fare travel for women and transgender persons.
FIGURE	12,695 buses — Total number of buses covered across seven State Transport Corporations.
PLACE	Chengalpattu and Tiruppur — Districts excluded from the scheme due to bypolls.
PLACE	Koyambedu bus terminus — Location in Chennai where the scheme was launched.

MAINS Q *Examine how targeted free public transport schemes can facilitate women's economic participation and social mobility in rural and urban India.*

USE:

Social Inclusion

Gender Equality

Public Transport

Mobility Rights

Subsidized Services

ICMR study estimates 5,726 annual rabies deaths despite Health Ministry recording only 54

WHY IN NEWS An ICMR study published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases revealed a massive discrepancy between the Health Ministry's recorded rabies deaths (54) and estimated annual deaths (5,726), highlighting surveillance gaps.

BODY	IDSP–IHIP: Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme – Integrated Health Information Platform
BODY	NCDC: National Centre for Disease Control
FACT	ICMR estimated annual rabies deaths: 5,726
FACT	Health Ministry recorded rabies deaths in 2024: 54
POST	Registrar General of India: Records show significant surveillance gaps in rabies reporting

MAINS Q *Discuss the challenges in establishing a robust disease surveillance mechanism in India and suggest measures to achieve the goal of eliminating dog-mediated human rabies by 2030.*

USE:

Disease Surveillance

Notifiable Diseases

Epidemiological Gap

Public Health Infrastructure

One Health Approach

Finance Ministry mandates bank-wise data on SC beneficiaries for Mudra and Stand Up India

WHY IN NEWS The Finance Ministry issued an advisory mandating SLBCs/UTLBCs to report bank-wise data on SC beneficiaries for Mudra, Stand Up India, and PM SVANidhi schemes to the NCSC.

CONCEPT	Financial Inclusion: Enhancing credit flow and accessibility for marginalized communities.
SCHEME	Mudra Yojana, Stand Up India, and PM SVANidhi: Targeted schemes for data reporting.
BODY	NCSC: National Commission for Scheduled Castes, the recipient of the mandated data.
BODY	SLBCs/UTLBCs: Bodies responsible for reporting bank-wise data to the Finance Ministry.

MAINS Q How does data-driven monitoring of credit flow to marginalized communities enhance the efficacy of financial inclusion schemes in India?

USE: Financial Inclusion Data-driven Governance Social Justice Credit Accessibility Institutional Oversight

Supreme Court directs Union government to form committee on legally enforceable pharmaceutical marketing code

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court directed the Union government to form an expert committee to make the Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP), 2024, legally enforceable following a petition by the FMRAI.

BODY	FMRAI: Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives' Associations of India
FACT	UCPMP: Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices, 2024
POST	Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta: Bench of the Supreme Court

MAINS Q Discuss the necessity of a legally enforceable marketing code for the pharmaceutical industry to ensure ethical practices and public health safety in India.

USE: Ethical marketing Regulatory framework Public health safety Judicial activism Pharmaceutical industry

BBBP programme improved birth outcomes, adding about 15 girls per 1,000 births

WHY IN NEWS A report titled 'Policy Interventions and the Sex Ratio at Birth: Evidence from India' revealed that the Beti Bachao

FACT	BBBP dashboard recorded a rise in sex ratio at birth from 919 (2015-16) to around 930.
FACT	The report found a 3.7 to 5.3 percentage point rise for second children after a girl.
PLACE	Goa, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, and Kerala recorded the highest sex ratios at birth.
SCHEME	Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) is a large-scale social and behavioural intervention to address gender imbalance at birth.

MAINS Q Examine how large-scale social and behavioural interventions like BBBP can effectively address the deep-seated cultural drivers of son preference in India.

USE: Sex Ratio at Birth Son Preference Behavioral Intervention Gender Imbalance Social Engineering

MoE trains 72 lakh teachers to use PRASHAST tool for 21 disability conditions

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Education (MoE) trained 72 lakh teachers across 60,000 schools to utilize the PRASHAST digital tool for identifying 21 disability conditions.

CONCEPT	PRASHAST: A digital tool used to identify 21 disability conditions.
ACT	RPwD Act, 2016: Defines the 21 disability conditions identified by the tool.
SCHEME	PM DAKSH: Integrated with PRASHAST to support scholarship and data integration.
ACT	RTE Act 2009: The primary legislative framework supported by this initiative.

MAINS Q How does the integration of digital identification tools like PRASHAST enhance the inclusive education framework for children with disabilities in India?

USE: Inclusive Education Digital Governance Disability Rights Data Integration Social Inclusion

Union government caps trade margins at 30% for non-scheduled cancer drugs

WHY IN NEWS The Union government decided to cap trade margins at 30% for non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs to reduce out-of-pocket costs, which currently reach 75%.

CONCEPT	Trade margin cap: 30% of the maximum retail price for non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs.
FIGURE	Projected annual savings: ₹2,500 crore from reduced out-of-pocket costs.
BODY	National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority: Body responsible for identifying mark-ups in drug pricing.
BODY	Directorate General of Health Services: Body overseeing the expert committee for drug list finalization.

MAINS Q Discuss the measures required to reduce out-of-pocket expenditures in healthcare and the role of price capping in ensuring the accessibility of life-saving drugs.

USE: Out-of-pocket expenditure Price capping Pharmaceutical regulation Affordability Public health policy

P

Dr. Koyyala Ruth John Paul became India's first transgender person to complete a postgraduate

WHY IN NEWS Dr. Koyyala Ruth John Paul became India's first transgender person to complete a postgraduate medical course in Emergency Medicine after securing admission via a Telangana High Court order.

POST	Dr. Koyyala Ruth John Paul: India's first transgender person to complete a postgraduate medical course.
FACT	Admission year: 2023.

MAINS Q Discuss the institutional and social barriers faced by the transgender community in accessing higher education and healthcare professions in India.

USE: Gender diversity Inclusive education Social justice Judicial activism Marginalized communities

International Relations

30

P M2 REPORTS MERGED

Trump signs White House Accord on Super Intelligence with tech giants

WHY IN NEWS President Donald Trump signed the voluntary 'White House Accord on Super Intelligence' with major tech firms (Meta, Nvidia, Google, OpenAI, xAI)

CONCEPT	White House Accord on Super Intelligence: A voluntary pact mandating internal guardrails, independent audits, and oversight committees.
ACT	Ban Artificial Superintelligence Act: A legislative proposal by Bernie Sanders and Greg Casar as a counter-measure.

MAINS Q Discuss the necessity of voluntary industry accords versus mandatory legislative frameworks in regulating the development of super-intelligent AI systems.

USE: Super Intelligence Regulatory Framework AI Governance Corporate Accountability Technological Oversight

P M

Russia warns NATO it will use entire arsenal including nuclear weapons over Kaliningrad blockade

WHY IN NEWS Russia issued a diplomatic memo to NATO warning of the use of its entire arsenal, including nuclear weapons, in response to a potential air and naval blockade of Kaliningrad.

POST	Mark Rutte: Secretary-General of NATO
PLACE	Kaliningrad: Russian exclave on the Baltic Sea
FACT	Russia warned of using its entire arsenal including nuclear weapons

MAINS Q Analyze the implications of escalating nuclear rhetoric and regional blockades on the stability of the European security architecture.

USE: Nuclear deterrence Security architecture Diplomatic memo Strategic blockade Regional instability

Piyush Goyal meets Jamieson Greer to discuss interim trade agreement amid US tariff changes

WHY IN NEWS Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal met U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer to discuss an interim trade agreement following changes in U.S. tariff policies.

- POST | Jamieson Greer: U.S. Trade Representative
- FACT | India is seeking competitive advantages over ASEAN countries, China, and Bangladesh
- PLACE | Milwaukee: Location of the trade discussion

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges and opportunities for India in navigating shifting U.S. tariff policies to secure competitive trade advantages in the global market.

USE: Trade Liberalization Tariff Policy Bilateral Cooperation Competitive Advantage

India and Canada aim to scale bilateral trade to USD 70 billion by 2031

WHY IN NEWS India and Canada aim to scale bilateral trade from USD 30 billion to USD 70 billion by 2031, initiating the fifth round of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations in Ottawa.

- CONCEPT | Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) — trade agreement between India and Canada
- FIGURE | USD 30 billion — current bilateral trade volume between India and Canada
- FIGURE | USD 70 billion — target bilateral trade volume between India and Canada by 2031
- PLACE | Ottawa — location for the fifth round of CEPA negotiations
- CONCEPT | Key focus areas — energy, critical minerals, and supply chain diversification

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of diversifying supply chains and securing critical minerals in strengthening India's bilateral trade relations with North American partners.

USE: bilateral trade supply chain diversification critical minerals trade liberalization

Putin praises Modi's ideas for Ukraine conflict settlement

WHY IN NEWS Vladimir Putin stated at the Valdai International Discussion Club that Narendra Modi offered 'very good ideas' for a mutual settlement of the Ukraine conflict during talks preceding the BRICS summit.

- PLACE | New Delhi — Venue of the BRICS summit
- DATE | February 2022 — Start date of the Ukraine war
- CONCEPT | Valdai International Discussion Club — Forum where Putin's statement was made

MAINS Q Analyze India's role as a mediator in the Ukraine conflict and the significance of its 'multi-aligned' diplomacy in global peace-building efforts.

USE: Strategic Autonomy Multi-alignment Conflict Resolution Diplomatic Mediation Global South

India rescues five nationals from Kuwait-flagged tanker in Strait of Hormuz

WHY IN NEWS The Embassy of India in Oman reported the rescue of five Indian nationals from the Kuwait-flagged tanker MT Kazimah III after it was struck by a projectile in the Strait of Hormuz.

- PLACE | Strait of Hormuz — a critical maritime passage in the Persian Gulf
- FIGURE | Over 4,500 Indian seafarers — currently operating in the Persian Gulf area as of September 2026
- BODY | MT Kazimah III — a Kuwait-flagged crude oil tanker
- PLACE | Lomé — a port city in Togo

MAINS Q Examine the significance of the Strait of Hormuz for global energy security and the challenges faced by Indian seafarers in volatile maritime corridors.

USE: Maritime Security Strait of Hormuz Seafarer Safety Energy Security Bilateral Cooperation

Russia to recruit 70,000 Indian skilled workers this year

WHY IN NEWS External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar briefed a parliamentary committee on India's engagement with Russia, highlighting a plan for Russia to recruit approximately 70,000 Indian skilled workers this year.

FIGURE	70,000 — Number of Indian skilled workers Russia plans to take this year
PLACE	Bishkek — Location of the meeting between PM Modi and Vladimir Putin
CONCEPT	Trade expansion — India and Russia plan to expand trade in seven specific areas

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of labor migration and trade diversification in strengthening India's strategic partnership with Russia amidst evolving global geopolitical dynamics.

USE: Strategic Partnership Labor Migration Trade Diversification Geopolitical Diplomacy Human Capital

India's High Commissioner clarifies Sheikh Hasina arrived on Bangladeshi military aircraft

WHY IN NEWS India's High Commissioner in Dhaka, Dinesh Trivedi, clarified that former Bangladeshi PM Sheikh Hasina arrived in India on a Bangladeshi military aircraft, not Indian forces

PERSON	Dinesh Trivedi — India's High Commissioner in Dhaka
EVENT	Bay of Bengal Conversation — Venue where the clarification was made
CONCEPT	Sovereign transport — Sheikh Hasina arrived via Bangladeshi military aircraft
EVENT	Bangladesh government fall — Occurred in August 2024

MAINS Q Discuss the evolving dynamics of India-Bangladesh bilateral relations in the wake of the 2024 political transition in Bangladesh.

USE: bilateral relations extradition_process sovereign transport diplomatic protocol regional stability

Seychelles secures world's first ocean debt conversion for conservation

WHY IN NEWS The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation and other funders backed a world's first ocean debt conversion deal with Seychelles to turn \$21.6 million in foreign debt into conservation funding.

CONCEPT	Debt-for-nature swap — converting foreign debt into funding for marine conservation efforts.
PLACE	Seychelles — the first nation to participate in an ocean debt conversion deal.
FIGURE	\$21.6 million — the total amount of foreign debt converted into conservation funding.
FIGURE	30% — the target percentage of protected areas to be achieved by 2020.
BODY	Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation — a key funder of the ocean debt conversion initiative.

MAINS Q Discuss the potential of 'debt-for-nature' swaps as a viable mechanism for financing marine conservation in developing and island nations.

USE: Debt-for-nature swap Marine conservation Sovereign debt Blue economy Climate finance

Germany announces 1.3-billion euro support package for Ukraine

WHY IN NEWS German Chancellor Friedrich Merz visited Kyiv to announce a 1.3-billion euro support package amidst a massive Russian drone strike on Ukrainian infrastructure.

PLACE	Pivnichnyi Bridge — a major bridge located in Kyiv, Ukraine
FIGURE	1.3-billion euro package — support announced by Germany during Chancellor Friedrich Merz's visit
FIGURE	8.5 billion euros — total value of agreements signed between Germany and Ukraine
CONCEPT	Infrastructure Warfare — targeting of bridges, pharmaceutical warehouses, and communications facilities

MAINS Q Analyze the role of European diplomatic and financial support in sustaining Ukraine's defense against Russian infrastructure-targeted warfare.

USE: Geopolitics Infrastructure Warfare Bilateral Agreements Humanitarian Crisis Strategic Support

Zelenskyy announces readiness for trilateral talks with US and Russia

WHY IN NEWS President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced Ukraine's readiness for trilateral talks with the US and Russia this month, while India's External Affairs Minister S.

- PLACE** | Kyiv — Capital of Ukraine where Zelenskyy announced readiness for trilateral talks.
- PLACE** | Munich Security Conference — Venue where India's mediation role was discussed.
- FIGURE** | October 2026 — Washington's target date for initiating technical-level talks.

MAINS Q Discuss the evolving role of middle powers like India in mediating global conflicts and the geopolitical implications of trilateral negotiations in the Ukraine-Russia crisis.

USE: Strategic Autonomy Mediation Trilateral Diplomacy Geopolitical Alignment Multipolar World Order

India moves beyond advocacy to engage Kyiv and Moscow on Ukraine conflict

WHY IN NEWS External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar stated at the Munich Leaders' Meeting that India is moving beyond advocacy to engage both Kyiv and Moscow on the Ukraine conflict.

- CONCEPT** | Strategic Autonomy: India's evolving role from a neutral advocate to an active mediator.
- CONCEPT** | Food Diplomacy: Focus on grain exports and energy supplies in the Ukraine conflict.
- PLACE** | Black Sea: Region identified for shipping safety and grain export focus.
- EVENT** | Munich Leaders' Meeting: Forum where India's shift in engagement strategy was stated.

MAINS Q Discuss India's evolving role from a neutral advocate to an active mediator in the Ukraine conflict. How does this align with India's strategic autonomy?

USE: Strategic Autonomy Multi-alignment Mediation Energy Security Food Diplomacy

Jaishankar meets Admiral Paparo to discuss India-U.S. maritime cooperation

WHY IN NEWS External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Commander Admiral Samuel J. Paparo to discuss deepening the Major Defense Partnership and Quad cooperation.

- PERSON** | Admiral Samuel J. Paparo — Commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command
- CONCEPT** | Major Defense Partnership — A framework for India-U.S. security and maritime cooperation
- CONCEPT** | Quad Cooperation — A multilateral framework for regional stability and maritime security

MAINS Q Examine how the deepening of the India-U.S. Major Defense Partnership and Quad cooperation contributes to maritime security and regional stability in the Indo-Pacific.

USE: Maritime Security Indo-Pacific Major Defense Partnership Quad Cooperation Strategic Autonomy

Swiss President Guy Parmelin meets PM Modi to discuss TEPA and migration

WHY IN NEWS Swiss President Guy Parmelin visited New Delhi to discuss the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) and cooperation on terror financing and AI.

- CONCEPT** | TEPA: Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement between India and Switzerland
- DATE** | October 2025: Date when TEPA is set to enter into force
- BODY** | FATF: Financial Action Task Force standards discussed for cooperation against terror financing
- PLACE** | Geneva: Host city for a global AI summit scheduled for 2027

MAINS Q Examine how bilateral trade agreements like TEPA can bolster India's position in global value chains while addressing security concerns like terror financing.

USE: bilateral trade economic partnership terror financing regulatory alignment strategic cooperation

France urges India to use influence to bring Russia to peace talks

WHY IN NEWS French Minister-Delegate Benjamin Haddad urged India to leverage its influence to bring Russia to peace talks during a meeting with S. Jaishankar in Delhi.

PERSON	Benjamin Haddad — French Minister-Delegate for European Affairs
EVENT	India-EU FTA meeting — scheduled for December 16 in Brussels
CONCEPT	Strategic autonomy — India's approach to navigating geopolitical dynamics between US, China, and Russia
BODY	France — preparing a 22nd sanctions package against Russia

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of 'strategic autonomy' for India in navigating the evolving geopolitical dynamics between the US, China, and Russia.

USE: [strategic autonomy](#) [middle power](#) [multilateralism](#) [geopolitical leverage](#) [trade diplomacy](#)

India and UAE armies begin Exercise Mountain Guardian 2026 in Uttarakhand

WHY IN NEWS The Indian Army and UAE Army commenced Exercise Mountain Guardian 2026 in Uttarakhand to enhance mountain warfare drills and inter-operability.

PLACE	Chaubatia, Uttarakhand — Site of the Foreign Training Node and Exercise Mountain Guardian 2026
CONCEPT	Mountain warfare — Focus of the exercise to enhance tactical proficiency and inter-operability
FIGURE	92 personnel — Total participants from the Bhairav Battalion and a Mountain Infantry Battalion

MAINS Q Discuss how bilateral military exercises like Exercise Mountain Guardian 2026 contribute to India's strategic objectives and regional security architecture.

USE: [inter-operability](#) [tactical proficiency](#) [bilateral cooperation](#) [mountain warfare](#) [strategic synergy](#)

Bhutan and Adani Power sign agreement for 770 MW Chamkharchhu-I Hydropower Project

WHY IN NEWS Bhutan's Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay attended the signing of a Shareholders Agreement between Druk Green Power Corporation Limited (DGPC) and Adani Power Limited for the 770 MW Chamkharchhu-I Hydropower Project.

CONCEPT	BOOT model — the operational framework for the Chamkharchhu-I and Wangchhu projects.
FIGURE	770 MW — the capacity of the Chamkharchhu-I Hydropower Project.
FIGURE	570 MW — the capacity of the Wangchhu Hydroelectric Project.
FIGURE	49:51 — the equity partnership ratio between DGPC and Adani Power.
FIGURE	2,471 MW — the current installed capacity of Druk Green Power Corporation Limited.

MAINS Q Examine the significance of hydropower cooperation between India and Bhutan in ensuring regional energy security and promoting carbon-negative economic models.

USE: [Energy Security](#) [Hydropower](#) [Carbon-negative](#) [BOOT Model](#) [Bilateral Cooperation](#)

Jaishankar meets Ghana leaders to discuss trade, defense and African Union engagement

WHY IN NEWS External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Ghanaian leaders to discuss trade, defense, and deepening engagement with the African Union and ECOWAS.

CONCEPT	South-South Cooperation: Framework for deepening engagement with African Union and ECOWAS.
BODY	ICAR: Indian Council of Agricultural Research
BODY	CSIR-Crops Research Institute: Involved in MoU exchange with Ghana
BODY	Zoological Survey of India: Signed MoU with University of Ghana

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of India's deepening engagement with the African Union and ECOWAS in the context of its 'Global South' leadership aspirations.

USE: [South-South Cooperation](#) [Strategic Autonomy](#) [Trade Diversification](#) [Multilateralism](#) [Global South](#)

Hamas and Palestinian groups kill over 1,200 in Israel and take 251 hostages

WHY IN NEWS The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas/Palestinian groups is being contextualized through the historical and religious narrative of the 'Promised Land' and the 1917 Balfour Declaration.

CONCEPT	Balfour Declaration — 1917 declaration providing historical context to the conflict.
CONCEPT	Promised Land — religious and historical narrative central to the conflict.
PLACE	Canaan — ancient name for the region encompassing parts of present-day Israel and Palestinian territories.
CONCEPT	Partition Plan — 1947 UN proposal to partition the land.
PERSON	David Ben-Gurion — declared the State of Israel in 1948.

MAINS Q Analyze how historical narratives and religious claims over the 'Promised Land' complicate modern diplomatic efforts to resolve the Israel-Palestine conflict.

USE: Balfour Declaration Nakba Promised Land Partition Plan Geopolitical Conflict

Houthi seize Mocha port, threatening Bab al-Mandeb strait security

WHY IN NEWS The assassination of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the Houthi seizure of Mocha have escalated maritime security risks in the Bab al-Mandeb strait.

PLACE	Mocha: A port city seized by Houthis in September.
PLACE	Bab al-Mandeb: A strategic strait threatened by Houthi activities.
CONCEPT	Security pact: Signed in August by Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, and Pakistan.
BODY	Royal United Services Institute: Organization associated with analysis on US influence.

MAINS Q Analyze the implications of maritime insecurity in the Bab al-Mandeb strait on global trade routes and regional geopolitical stability.

USE: maritime security geopolitical realignment supply chain disruption strategic chokepoints regional security pacts

India accuses Pakistan of state support for terrorism at UN General Assembly Sixth Committee

WHY IN NEWS India's Permanent Mission to the UN accused Pakistan of state-sponsored terrorism and 'doublespeak' during the UN General Assembly Sixth Committee's session on eliminating international terrorism.

BODY	UN General Assembly Sixth Committee: The committee responsible for the agenda of the UN's Security Council.
FACT	Pakistan announced a seven million rupee bounty on Masood Azhar.
POST	Raghoo Puri: First Secretary in the Permanent Mission of India to the UN.
FACT	Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM): A terrorist organization whose leader, Masood Azhar, is UN-listed.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in international cooperation against state-sponsored terrorism and the role of multilateral forums in holding sponsoring states accountable.

USE: State-sponsored terrorism Doublespeak Multilateralism Counter-terrorism Diplomatic accountability

Ethiopian forces enter Mekelle as TPLF withdraws, ending 2022 Pretoria ceasefire

WHY IN NEWS Ethiopian federal forces entered Mekelle following a TPLF withdrawal, effectively ending the 2022 Pretoria ceasefire and sparking regional alarm over Ethiopia's Red Sea ambitions.

PLACE	Mekelle: Capital of the Tigray region in Ethiopia
FACT	Pretoria ceasefire: Agreement signed in 2022 to end the Tigray conflict
FACT	Amhara Fano and Oromo Liberation Army (OLA): Internal insurgent groups active in Ethiopia

MAINS Q Analyze how Ethiopia's pursuit of a Red Sea outlet impacts the geopolitical stability of the Horn of Africa and its relations with neighboring states.

USE: Geopolitical instability Maritime access Regional hegemony Internal insurgency Security dilemma

US bars Microsoft, Tata, Wipro and 6 others from PERM programme over worker replacement

WHY IN NEWS The Donald Trump administration barred eight IT firms, including Microsoft and Tata, from the PERM programme, alleging the companies use the process to replace American workers.

BODY	PERM: Permanent Labour Certification programme used by the US for employment-based residency.
FACT	Eight firms barred: Microsoft, Tata, Wipro, Infosys, Adobe, Cognizant, HCL, and Capgemini.
PLACE	The action was taken by the United States government.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of restrictive labor certification policies on the global IT services trade and the mobility of skilled professionals between the US and India.

USE: Labor Certification Protectionism Skilled Migration Trade Relations Employment Policy

Israel re-intensifies attacks in Lebanon as World Bank warns of economic contraction

WHY IN NEWS Israel re-intensified attacks in Lebanon resulting in over 9,000 deaths, prompting a World Bank warning of a 6 percent economic contraction by 2026.

REPORT	World Bank — projected a 6 percent economic contraction by 2026 due to the conflict
FIGURE	9,000+ deaths — total fatalities resulting from re-intensified attacks by March 2026
PERSON	Hassan Nasrallah — assassinated in 2024 prior to the invasion of southern Lebanon

MAINS Q Analyze the impact of prolonged regional conflicts on the economic stability and infrastructure of neighboring nations in the Middle East.

USE: Economic contraction Regional instability Asymmetric warfare Humanitarian impact Geopolitical friction

Bangladesh seeks new Ganga Water Sharing Treaty before December 2026 expiry

WHY IN NEWS Bangladesh's Water Resources Minister Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee expressed hope for a new Ganga Water Sharing Treaty with India before the current 30-year agreement expires on December 12, 2026.

CONCEPT	Ganga Water Sharing Treaty — governs water sharing at Farakka Barrage during the lean season (January 1 to May 31).
BODY	Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) — the bilateral mechanism for discussing water cooperation between India and Bangladesh.
PLACE	Padma River — the name of the Ganga River upon entering Bangladesh, 22 km downstream from Farakka Barrage.

MAINS Q Examine the significance of transboundary water-sharing agreements in fostering bilateral cooperation and regional stability between India and Bangladesh.

USE: Transboundary water Hydro-diplomacy Joint Rivers Commission Water security Bilateral cooperation

US suspends Microsoft, Infosys, TCS from labor program over fraud

WHY IN NEWS US Vice President JD Vance and Labour Secretary Keith Sonderling announced the suspension of several tech firms from the Permanent Labour Certification programme over alleged fraud.

CONCEPT	Permanent Labour Certification programme: A US program for tech firms to certify the need for foreign workers.
PERSON	JD Vance: Vice President of the United States
PERSON	Keith Sonderling: US Labour Secretary
CONCEPT	Green Card Backlog: Impacted by the replacement of US workers with lower-paid foreign workers.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of US labor certification policies on the Indian IT workforce and the broader dynamics of bilateral labor migration.

USE: Labor Certification Green Card Backlog Bilateral Migration Regulatory Compliance Labor Market Dynamics

Japan plans 10 trillion yen investment in India over 10 years

WHY IN NEWS Japan announced a plan to invest 10 trillion yen (approx. \$100 billion) in India over the next 10 years to bolster manufacturing and energy security.

FIGURE	10 trillion yen (approx. \$100 billion) — Japan's planned investment in India over 10 years
FIGURE	\$48 billion — Japan's investment in India between 2000 and 2025
FIGURE	\$98 billion — Japan's investment in China between 2000 and 2025
FIGURE	1,460 — Number of Japanese companies currently operating in India

MAINS Q Discuss how deepening bilateral investment from Japan can enhance India's manufacturing capabilities and energy security goals.

USE: Foreign Direct Investment Energy Security Manufacturing Hub Bilateral Trade Capital Infusion

Navanethem Pillay awarded 2026 Nobel Peace Prize for UN inquiry oversight

WHY IN NEWS The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize to South African judge Navanethem Pillay for her work in international law and overseeing a UN inquiry into the Gaza situation.

PERSON	Navanethem Pillay — South African judge and current judge at the International Court of Justice
BODY	International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda — body where Pillay previously served
BODY	Norwegian Nobel Committee — body responsible for awarding the Nobel Peace Prize
DATE	2026 — the year Navanethem Pillay was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

MAINS Q Discuss the role of international judicial bodies and UN inquiries in upholding international law and addressing allegations of genocide in modern conflicts.

USE: International Law Genocide Judicial Oversight Human Rights Multilateralism

India delivers Right of Reply at UN General Assembly against nuclear blackmail

WHY IN NEWS Anmol Sher Singh Bedi of India's Permanent Mission to the Conference on Disarmament delivered a Right of Reply at the UN General Assembly First Committee

PERSON	Anmol Sher Singh Bedi — Representative of the Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament
PLACE	UN General Assembly First Committee — The committee responsible for disarmament and regulation of armaments
EVENT	Operation Sindoor — Conducted in May 2025 as a response to an April 22, 2025 attack
CONCEPT	Right of Reply — Statement delivered by India to counter nuclear blackmail and tactics by Pakistan

MAINS Q Discuss India's strategy of using multilateral forums like the UN to counter cross-border terrorism and nuclear coercion by neighboring states.

USE: Nuclear blackmail Cross-border terrorism Multilateral diplomacy Strategic autonomy Right of Reply

Trump administration suspends eight firms from Green Card programme

WHY IN NEWS KOCHI GTech chairman Jijo G. John is urging the Indian government to intervene following the Trump administration's suspension of eight major firms from the Green Card programme.

CONCEPT	Green Card programme: Suspended for eight firms including Infosys, TCS, Wipro, HCL Technologies, Cognizant, Microsoft, Adobe, and Capgemini
BODY	Ministry of External Affairs: Clarified that H-1B visas remain valid despite the suspension
PERSON	Jijo G. John: Chairman of KOCHI GTech who urged government intervention

MAINS Q Analyze the impact of US immigration policy shifts on India's IT services sector and discuss measures to diversify the Indian tech workforce's global mobility.

USE: Labor Mobility Bilateral Relations IT Services Sector Immigration Policy Economic Diplomacy

Economy

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INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT & MSMES

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India proposes \$25 billion pool to support Deep Tech startups and reduce foreign dependence

WHY IN NEWS The Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association (IVCA) proposed a \$25 billion pool to support Deep Tech startups to reduce foreign technology dependence.

FACT	Proposed Deep Tech startup pool: \$25 billion
BODY	IVCA: Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association
FACT	Deep Tech funding (2015–July 2026): \$11.4 billion across 957 deals

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of fostering a domestic Deep Tech ecosystem in achieving India's goal of technological sovereignty and reducing import dependence.

USE: Deep Tech Technological Sovereignty Venture Capital Private Equity Import Substitution

GROWTH, INFLATION & MACRO INDICATORS

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1 Oct · Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/128726 · Report a mistake

India's external debt reaches \$778.2 billion by end-June

WHY IN NEWS The RBI released data showing India's external debt reached \$778.2 billion by end-June, reflecting a rise of \$15.4 billion.

BODY	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) — The institution that released the external debt data.
FIGURE	Debt-to-GDP ratio — Moderated to 20.8% as of end-June.
FIGURE	Net claims of non-residents — Rose to \$220.3 billion.
FIGURE	August services trade — Exports reached \$35.5 billion against \$18.9 billion in imports.

MAINS Q Analyze the factors influencing India's external debt profile and its implications for macroeconomic stability and the current account balance.

USE: External Debt Debt-to-GDP Ratio Current Account Balance Services Trade Macroeconomic Stability

GROWTH, INFLATION & MACRO INDICATORS

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2 REPORTS MERGED

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Finance Ministry flags economic risks as crude oil prices jump 28.66%

WHY IN NEWS The Finance Ministry flagged risks to India's economy due to a 28.66% jump in crude oil prices to \$116.04 per barrel in September and uncertainty over a US bill regarding tariffs on Russian crude buyers.

CONCEPT	Indian crude basket — a mix of sweet (Brent-based) and sour (Oman/Dubai-based) crude
FIGURE	7.8% — India's real GDP growth in Q1 FY27
FIGURE	9.2% — Manufacturing growth in Q1 FY27
FIGURE	12.1% — Services growth in Q1 FY27
FIGURE	7.7% — Real Industry GVA rise year-on-year in Q1 FY27

MAINS Q Discuss how volatile global energy prices and shifting trade policies in major economies impact India's fiscal stability and manufacturing competitiveness.

USE: Current Account Deficit Import Dependency Supply Chain Resilience Inflationary Pressure Trade Policy

Ministry of Finance introduces 0.4% MDR on UPI payments above ₹2,000

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Finance notified a framework (S.O. 5067(E)) to introduce a 0.4% Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI payments above ₹2,000, sparking resistance from retail associations and consumer pushback.

CONCEPT	Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) — A 0.4% fee on P2M UPI payments exceeding ₹2,000.
FIGURE	₹300 — The maximum cap on MDR for transactions of ₹75,000 and above.
BODY	NPCI — The body providing statewide UPI transaction data.
DATE	15 October 2026 — The effective date for the new MDR framework.

MAINS Q Discuss the economic implications of introducing a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI payments and its potential impact on the digital payment ecosystem in India.

USE: Merchant Discount Rate UPI Digital Payments Financial Inclusion Transaction Costs

Ministry mandates BAA for LPG cylinders to ensure subsidy targeting

WHY IN NEWS The Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas mandated that households lacking biometric Aadhaar authentication (BAA) will only receive 5 kg or 10 kg cylinders at market prices to ensure subsidy targeting.

CONCEPT	Biometric Aadhaar authentication (BAA) — required for full LPG subsidy eligibility.
BODY	Indian Oil, BPCL, and HPCL — Public Sector Undertakings mandated to implement BAA norms.
FIGURE	11 lakh users — reported in Telangana to lack eKYC as of October 2026.
DATE	1 October 2026 — date the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas issued the mandate.

MAINS Q Discuss how the integration of biometric authentication in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes balances the goal of subsidy leakage prevention with the challenge of digital exclusion.

USE: Direct Benefit Transfer Digital Inclusion Subsidy Targeting eKYC Last-mile Delivery

SEBI study reveals 87.7% of individual equity derivative traders incurred net losses

WHY IN NEWS Shoonya MD Sarvejit Singh Virk highlighted a SEBI FY25–26 study revealing that 87.7% of individual equity derivative traders incurred net losses, primarily due to options trading and high transaction costs.

BODY	SEBI — conducted the study for FY25–26 on equity derivative traders
FIGURE	87.7% — percentage of individual equity derivative traders who incurred net losses
FIGURE	92% — proportion of net losses in equity derivatives attributed to options trading
FIGURE	Rs 24,859 crore — transaction costs that turned 4.4 lakh profitable traders into net losers

MAINS Q Discuss the risks associated with retail participation in equity derivatives and suggest measures to protect individual investors from excessive transaction costs and speculative losses.

USE: Retail participation Equity derivatives Transaction costs Investor protection Market volatility

Telangana Government to release two pending DA instalments worth ₹2,500 crore

WHY IN NEWS The Telangana Government announced the release of two out of five pending dearness allowance (DA) instalments worth ₹2,500 crore to address arrears since July 1, 2023.

CONCEPT	Dearness Allowance (DA) — periodic pay revision to offset inflation, with full release potentially increasing salaries by 15.43%.
PERSON	N. Siva Sankar — head of the Pay Revision Commission in Telangana responsible for revised pay scale recommendations.
FIGURE	₹2,500 crore — the value of two out of five pending DA instalments being released by the Telangana Government.

MAINS Q Discuss the fiscal implications and administrative challenges of managing large-scale arrears and periodic pay revisions in state-level public service structures.

USE: Fiscal Federalism Public Service Pay Dearness Allowance Budgetary Allocation State Governance

PNGRB launches National PNG Drive 3.0 to enroll 50 lakh domestic-piped gas connections

WHY IN NEWS The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) launched National PNG Drive 3.0 to accelerate the adoption of domestic-piped natural gas connections to meet net-zero goals.

BODY	PNGRB: Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board
FACT	National PNG Drive 3.0 target: 50 lakh domestic-piped gas connections by FY 2027
FACT	National PNG Drive 3.0 target: 40 lakh connections to be converted into active users
FACT	National PNG Drive 2.0 closure report was released on July 7, 2026

MAINS Q Discuss how the expansion of piped natural gas infrastructure contributes to India's net-zero commitments and the transition towards a cleaner energy mix.

USE: Net-zero goals Energy transition Piped Natural Gas (PNG) Infrastructure development Regulatory oversight

Railway Ministry increases Vande Bharat speed limit on USBRL project

WHY IN NEWS The Railway Ministry increased the speed limit for Vande Bharat Express on the Katra-Banihal section of the USBRL project to 100 kmph.

CONCEPT	USBRL project — includes the Chenab Bridge and Anji Khad Railway Bridge
FIGURE	100 kmph — the new speed limit for Vande Bharat Express on the Katra-Banihal section
FIGURE	111 km — the length of the Katra-Banihal section
FIGURE	75 kmph — the previous speed limit for the section

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the USBRL project in enhancing regional connectivity and the logistical challenges of constructing railway infrastructure in high-altitude terrains.

USE: Infrastructure development Regional connectivity Logistics High-altitude engineering Railway modernization

Centre considers ₹5,129 crore Sawalkot hydropower project in J&K

WHY IN NEWS The Union Power Secretary announced that the Centre is considering the ₹5,129 crore Sawalkot hydropower project in J&K following India's suspension of the Indus Water Treaty.

BODY	NHPC — The agency behind the Sawalkot hydropower project initiative.
FIGURE	800 megawatts — The power generation capacity of the Sawalkot project.
FIGURE	₹5,129 crores — The estimated cost of the Sawalkot hydropower project.
PLACE	Pahalgam — Location of the 2025 attack leading to the Indus Water Treaty suspension.
SCHEME	PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana — Scheme under which J&K reached a 100 MW milestone.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of suspending the Indus Water Treaty on India's energy security and regional hydro-politics.

USE: Energy Security Transboundary Water Hydro-politics Infrastructure Development Bilateral Relations

FPIs sell Rs 45,536 crore in September amid global yield and crude pressures

WHY IN NEWS Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) sold Rs 45,536 crore in September as analysts cited high US 10-year Treasury yields, elevated crude prices, and rupee volatility as key deterrents.

FIGURE	Rs 45,536 crore — Total equity sold by FPIs in September
FIGURE	5.34% — US 10-year Treasury yield reached in late September
CONCEPT	Capital Outflow — Driven by high US yields, elevated crude prices, and rupee volatility

MAINS Q Analyze the impact of global interest rate fluctuations and commodity price volatility on India's capital account and currency stability.

USE: Foreign Portfolio Investment Capital Outflow Current Account Deficit Yield Curve Currency Risk

Shaktikanta Das says Viksit Bharat by 2047 is achievable with 7.9 per cent growth

WHY IN NEWS Shaktikanta Das, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, stated at the 5th Kautilya Economic Conclave 2026 that India can achieve 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 with a 7.9 per cent growth rate.

FACT	India recorded a 7.8 per cent real GDP growth in the first quarter of the year.
FACT	Average real GDP growth between fiscal 2022 and fiscal 2026 was 7.9 per cent.
POST	Shaktikanta Das serves as the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.
PLACE	The 5th Kautilya Economic Conclave 2026 was held in Delhi.

MAINS Q Discuss the structural requirements and macroeconomic conditions necessary for India to achieve the 'Viksit Bharat' goal by 2047.

USE: Viksit Bharat Real GDP Growth Macroeconomic Stability Economic Conclave Capital Formation

RBI Governor signals higher-for-longer interest rates amid capital outflows

WHY IN NEWS RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra delivered a hawkish speech at the Fifth Kautilya Economic Conclave, signaling a 'higher-for-longer' interest rate environment to counter \$4.5 billion in capital outflows and global risks.

CONCEPT	Hawkish stance — signaling a higher-for-longer interest rate environment to counter capital outflows.
FIGURE	Capital outflows — reached \$4.5 billion during the reporting period.
FIGURE	Yield spread — the gap between 10-year benchmark Indian yield and 10-year US treasury yield narrowed to 193 basis points.
FIGURE	Oil prices — noted to be above \$100 a barrel.
FIGURE	US treasury yield — reached a 24-year high.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced by emerging economies like India in managing capital outflows and maintaining financial stability amidst tightening global financial conditions.

USE: Hawkish stance Capital outflows Monetary policy Yield spread Financial stability

Union Cabinet approves ₹1.86 lakh crore Green Energy Corridor Phase-III

WHY IN NEWS The Union Cabinet approved the ₹1.86 lakh crore Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) to integrate renewable power into the national grid.

SCHEME	Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) — project to integrate renewable power into the national grid.
FIGURE	₹1.86 lakh crore — total outlay for GEC-III.
FIGURE	₹1.36 lakh crore — earmarked for intra-state transmission.
FIGURE	₹50,000 crore — allocated for 50 GWh Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).
FIGURE	135 GW — target for renewable power evacuation by FY2032-33.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of integrating renewable energy into the national grid and the role of storage systems in achieving India's 2030 energy targets.

USE: Renewable Energy Green Energy Corridor Battery Energy Storage System Viability Gap Funding Grid Integration

India raises toy import tariffs to 70% to curb trade deficit

WHY IN NEWS India increased toy import tariffs from 20% to 70% to curb imports, while the trade deficit with China reached \$112bn.

CONCEPT	Trade Deficit — India's trade deficit with China reached \$112bn in 2026.
FIGURE	Toy Import Tariffs — Increased from 20% to 70% to curb imports.
FIGURE	Toy Imports — Dropped from \$300m in 2020 to \$100m in 2026.
PLACE	BRICS summit — Platform where leaders discussed trade imbalances.

MAINS Q Examine the challenges India faces in reducing industrial dependencies on China despite implementing protective tariff measures.

USE: Trade Deficit Import Substitution Industrial Dependency Tariff Barriers Trade Imbalance

Sonowal flags off DLB Patkai carrying 540 metric tons of methanol to Bangladesh

WHY IN NEWS Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off the vessel DLB Patkai carrying 540 metric tons of methanol from Assam to Bangladesh via National Waterway-2.

FACT	DLB Patkai carried 540 metric tons of methanol from Assam to Bangladesh.
PLACE	Bogibee Terminal is located in Dibrugarh, Assam.
PLACE	Pangaon Port is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
FACT	The transport route covers 1,300 kms via National Waterway-2 and IBPR.
BODY	Assam Petro-Chemicals Ltd. (APCL) is the producer of the methanol cargo.

MAINS Q Discuss how the development of inland waterways and regional trade corridors can enhance India's economic integration with its neighbours.

USE: Inland Waterways Regional Integration Logistics Trade Corridor Economic Diplomacy

RBI expected to raise benchmark repurchase rate to 5.50 per cent

WHY IN NEWS The Reserve Bank of India is expected to raise the benchmark repurchase rate to 5.50 per cent to combat inflation nearing 5 per cent and high oil prices.

CONCEPT	Benchmark repurchase rate — Expected to be raised to 5.50 per cent
CONCEPT	Inflation — Nearing 5 per cent
FIGURE	Oil prices — Exceeding \$100 a barrel

MAINS Q Discuss the role of the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy tools in managing headline inflation amidst volatile global commodity prices.

USE: Monetary Policy Repo Rate Inflation Targeting Liquidity Management Macroeconomic Stability

Rajnath Singh proposes ₹5,000 crore investment for AMCA propulsion at HAL Koraput

WHY IN NEWS Defence Minister Rajnath Singh proposed a ₹5,000 crore investment for AMCA propulsion at HAL Koraput to bolster indigenous aero-engine capabilities.

FIGURE	₹5,000 crore — Proposed investment for AMCA propulsion
FIGURE	₹335 crore — HAL investment for AL-31FP production
FIGURE	₹218 crore — HAL investment for a second Shakti engine line
DATE	2028-29 — Target year for the second Shakti engine line
CONCEPT	MIDHANI — Partnering with HAL for AMCA propulsion

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative in the aerospace and defence manufacturing sector to reduce import dependency.

USE: Atmanirbhar Bharat Aerospace manufacturing Propulsion systems Defence indigenization Capital expenditure

World Bank raises India's FY27 GDP growth forecast to 7.1 per cent

WHY IN NEWS The World Bank raised India's FY27 GDP growth forecast to 7.1 per cent from 6.6 per cent due to robust domestic demand and strong exports.

FIGURE	FY27 GDP growth forecast: 7.1 per cent
FIGURE	FY26 GDP growth rate: 7.8 per cent
FIGURE	FY25 GDP growth rate: 7.2 per cent
CONCEPT	Growth drivers: Strong investment, private consumption, and robust domestic demand
BODY	World Bank, Asian Development Bank, OECD, S&P, and Fitch all raised India's growth projections

MAINS Q Analyze the factors contributing to India's resilient GDP growth despite global geopolitical uncertainties and external risks.

USE: GDP Growth Domestic Demand Private Consumption External Risks Investment Outlook

MeitY to collaborate with Indian companies for indigenous smartphone by 2028

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) announced a collaboration with Indian companies to manufacture a completely indigenous smartphone by the end of 2028.

BODY	MeitY — Nodal ministry for the indigenous smartphone manufacturing project.
CONCEPT	Indigenous production — Transitioning from assembly-based manufacturing to self-reliant production.
FIGURE	Rs 35,000 crore — Value of components currently exported by India to China.
DATE	End of 2028 — Target deadline for manufacturing the indigenous smartphone.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of transitioning from assembly-based manufacturing to indigenous production in India's electronics sector to achieve self-reliance.

USE: Atmanirbhar Bharat Value Chain Import Substitution Indigenous Manufacturing Electronics Manufacturing Hub

Kerala and NTPC to establish 2,000 MWh battery energy storage system

WHY IN NEWS The Kerala government announced a partnership with NTPC Ltd and NTPC Green Energy Limited to establish a 2,000 MWh battery energy storage system (BESS) at Kayamkulam to address state electricity shortages.

CONCEPT	Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) — technology to address electricity shortages and ensure grid stability.
PLACE	Kayamkulam, Alappuzha district — site for the 2,000 MWh BESS facility on NTPC land.
FIGURE	300 MW — power to be supplied by NTPC from Sinnar project at ₹5.18 per unit.
FIGURE	80 MWh — capacity of KSEB BESS projects at Pothencode and Sreekandapuram.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in achieving India's renewable energy targets and ensuring grid stability.

USE: Battery Energy Storage System Grid Stability Renewable Energy Power Purchase Agreement Energy Security

RBI MPC unanimously votes to hike repo rate to 5.50%

WHY IN NEWS The RBI Monetary Policy Committee unanimously voted to hike the policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50% to manage monetary variables.

BODY	Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) — The body responsible for determining the repo rate.
FIGURE	5.50% — The new policy repo rate after a 25 basis point hike.
FIGURE	55,276 — The Nifty Bank index level after gaining over 147 points.
FIGURE	22,680 — The Nifty 50 index level after falling around 100 points.

MAINS Q Analyze the impact of repo rate hikes on inflation management and capital market volatility in a developing economy like India.

USE: Monetary Policy Repo Rate Inflation Targeting Liquidity Management Capital Markets

RBI reserves fall to \$734.6 billion after four consecutive weeks of decline

WHY IN NEWS The RBI reported a four-week consecutive decline in foreign exchange reserves to \$734.6 billion as the rupee weakened against the dollar despite intervention measures.

FIGURE	RBI reserves: \$734.6 billion as of the week ended October 2
FIGURE	Rupee exchange rate: 96.8450 per dollar as of the week ended October 2
FIGURE	Rupee all-time low: 96.96
CONCEPT	Foreign exchange swaps: selling dollars in the spot market with a contract to buy them back at a future date

MAINS Q Analyze the factors influencing the volatility of the Indian Rupee and the role of the RBI's intervention mechanisms in maintaining exchange rate stability.

USE: Foreign Exchange Reserves Monetary Policy Currency Depreciation Foreign Exchange Swaps Capital Outflow

RBI removes Paytm Payments Bank from Second Schedule after winding order

WHY IN NEWS The RBI removed Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934, following a Delhi High Court order to wind up the bank after its license was cancelled for non-compliance.

ACT	Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 — governs the inclusion of banking entities in the Second Schedule
CONCEPT	Second Schedule — a list of banking entities managed by the RBI as the regulatory body
EVENT	License Cancellation — PPBL license was cancelled in April 2026 due to non-compliance and detrimental affairs
PLACE	Delhi High Court — issued the winding up order for Paytm Payments Bank Ltd

MAINS Q Examine the regulatory challenges faced by fintech entities in India and the role of the RBI in ensuring compliance with banking norms.

USE: Regulatory Compliance Fintech Oversight Monetary Stability Banking License Systemic Risk

16th Finance Commission recommends urbanization premium for large urban bodies

WHY IN NEWS The 16th Finance Commission recommended a one-time urbanization premium grant for urban local bodies with populations exceeding one lakh to incentivize revenue growth and audited transparency.

CONCEPT	Urbanization premium — one-time grant for urban local bodies with populations exceeding one lakh.
CONCEPT	Qualification criteria — publication of audited figures and 5% revenue growth.
CONCEPT	State eligibility — states must have disbursed at least 20% of previous grants.
CONCEPT	Grant focus — cleanliness and water for the period 2026–27 to 2030–31.
PLACE	Keralam — no city from this state was selected for waste water management.

MAINS Q Discuss how fiscal devolution and performance-linked grants can address the infrastructure and sanitation deficit in India's rapidly urbanizing landscape.

USE: Fiscal Devolution Urban Local Bodies Performance-linked Incentives Revenue Growth Urbanization

GST Council scraps arrest powers and raises prosecution threshold to ₹5 crore

WHY IN NEWS The GST Council approved scrapping arrest powers for GST officers and raising the prosecution threshold from ₹1 crore to ₹5 crore to ease enforcement.

CONCEPT	Prosecution threshold — increased from ₹1 crore to ₹5 crore
CONCEPT	General penalties — reduced from ₹25,000 to ₹10,000
BODY	Committee of Officers — formed to study input tax credit protections within three months

MAINS Q Discuss how the shift from punitive enforcement to threshold-based prosecution in GST aims to balance tax compliance with ease of doing business.

USE: Ease of Doing Business Fiscal Federalism Tax Compliance Administrative Discretion Input Tax Credit

RBI raises interest rates by 25 bps and shifts to calibrated tightening

WHY IN NEWS The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) raised interest rates by 25 bps and shifted its stance to 'calibrated tightening' to combat rising inflation.

BODY	Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) — the body responsible for setting interest rates and policy stance.
CONCEPT	Calibrated Tightening — the new policy stance adopted by the RBI to combat inflation.
FIGURE	7.1% — the revised GDP growth forecast for 2026–27.
FIGURE	6% — the projected retail inflation for Q3 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the limitations of monetary policy in controlling inflation driven by supply-side shocks like crude oil prices and monsoon-related food shortages.

USE: Monetary Policy Committee Calibrated Tightening Supply-side Inflation Inflation Expectations GDP Growth Forecast

RBI prohibits rebooking of cancelled rupee-linked forex derivatives

WHY IN NEWS The RBI issued a circular prohibiting Authorised Dealers from allowing the rebooking of cancelled rupee-linked forex derivative contracts and lowered the hedging threshold.

CONCEPT	Hedging threshold without underlying exposure: Reduced from \$100 million to \$5 million equivalent.
FIGURE	Cash Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve: 20% required for transactions exceeding \$2 million equivalent.
BODY	Authorised Dealers: Entities permitted by RBI to deal in foreign exchange.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of RBI's regulatory measures on forex derivatives in maintaining exchange rate stability and curbing speculative activities in the Indian economy.

USE: Monetary Policy Exchange Rate Stability Forex Derivatives Risk Mitigation Regulatory Compliance

Reliance and Jio prepare Rs 10.3 lakh crore IPO

WHY IN NEWS Reliance Industries and Jio are preparing for a potential Rs 10.3 lakh crore IPO, which would be India's largest-ever listing.

FIGURE	Rs 10.3 lakh crore — The proposed value of the IPO.
FIGURE	270 million — The number of new shares to be issued.
FIGURE	Rs 1,065–Rs 1,119 — The price band for the shares.
CONCEPT	Existing Investors — Includes Meta, Google, and Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of large-scale corporate IPOs on India's capital markets and the potential for deepening domestic equity participation.

USE: Capital Market Liquidity Equity Participation Corporate Governance Foreign Direct Investment

Houthi risks maintain Brent crude premium, pressuring India's import bill

WHY IN NEWS Brent crude prices are maintaining a geopolitical premium due to supply risks in the Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea caused by Houthi forces.

FIGURE	5.26 million barrels per day — India's oil import volume in September
FIGURE	\$100 per barrel — Current price threshold for Brent crude
CONCEPT	Geopolitical premium — Price pressure due to supply risks in the Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea
FIGURE	41 countries — The number of countries from which India procures oil

MAINS Q Analyze the impact of geopolitical instability in the Middle East on India's energy security and its current account deficit.

USE: Geopolitical premium Energy security Current account deficit Maritime chokepoints Import bill

Agriculture

4

Andhra Pradesh CM announces rural development and Rayalaseema horticulture funds

WHY IN NEWS Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu announced a ₹1.30 lakh crore rural development fund and a ₹1 lakh crore horticulture investment for Rayalaseema during the Swarnandhra–Swachhandhra Awards–2026.

FIGURE	₹1.30 lakh crore — Amount allocated for rural development in Andhra Pradesh
FIGURE	₹1 lakh crore — Amount allocated for horticulture in Rayalaseema
PLACE	Rayalaseema — A region in Andhra Pradesh
CONCEPT	Net-Zero goals — Supported by IIT-Kanpur through an MoU with the state government

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of targeted regional investments in horticulture and rural infrastructure for achieving balanced regional development in India.

USE: Regional Development Horticulture Net-Zero Goals Rural Infrastructure Public-Private Partnership

Union government sanctions six lakh additional houses for Andhra Pradesh

WHY IN NEWS Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced an additional six lakh houses for Andhra Pradesh under PMAY-G 2.0 and launched a 3D concrete-printed housing pilot project.

SCHEME	PMAY-G 2.0: Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin 2.0 provides housing for rural-poor households.
CONCEPT	3D concrete printing: Technology used for a pilot project of 177 houses in Andhra Pradesh.
PLACE	Burripalem and Obulanayudupalem: Locations of the 3D concrete-printed house pilot project.
FIGURE	₹6,000: Annual amount provided by the Centre to farmers.
FIGURE	₹14,000: Amount added by the State under Annadata Sukhibhava.

MAINS Q Discuss how innovative construction technologies like 3D concrete printing can address the rural housing shortage while ensuring structural durability and cost-effectiveness.

USE: Rural Housing3D Concrete PrintingPMAY-G 2.0Infrastructure DevelopmentFiscal Federalism

Karnataka seeks central aid after drought causes ₹46,000 crore crop losses

WHY IN NEWS The Government of Karnataka submitted two memoranda to the Centre seeking assistance after a severe drought hit 217 taluks, causing estimated crop losses of ₹46,000 crore.

PLACE	Karnataka is the second most drought-prone state in India after Rajasthan, with 80% of its area prone to drought.
CONCEPT	Southwest monsoon (SWM) accounts for approximately 74% of the calendar year rainfall in Karnataka.
FIGURE	Karnataka received 551 mm of rainfall during the southwest monsoon, a 35% deficit from the 852 mm normal.
FIGURE	State reported losses of ₹18,748.23 crore on standing crops across 19.52 lakh hectares.

MAINS Q Analyze the vulnerability of Karnataka's agrarian economy to southwest monsoon variability and suggest measures to mitigate drought-induced crop losses.

USE: monsoon variabilityagrarian distressdrought-pronerainfall deficitclimate resilience

El Nino and Maharashtra drought could reduce 2026 sucrose content, WMO warns

WHY IN NEWS World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Secretary-General Celeste Saulo warned that El Nino and Maharashtra drought could reduce 2026 sucrose content, impacting sugar production.

FACT	Retail price of sugar rose from Rs 46.49 per kg (Oct 2025) to Rs 55.21 per kg (Oct 2026)
PLACE	Maharashtra is the primary state identified for drought-related sucrose content reduction
BODY	World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is the body issuing the warning
FACT	The Department of Consumer Affairs cited factors affecting five crore farmers

MAINS Q Analyze how climate-induced phenomena like El Nino impact India's agricultural output and food security, and suggest measures to mitigate price volatility in the sugar sector.

USE: El Ninosucrose contentPrice volatilityClimate-resilient agricultureFood security

Supreme Court rejects nationwide firecracker ban, allows Gen-2 green crackers

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court rejected a nationwide firecracker ban, instead accepting CSIR-NEERI's recommendation for limited and conditional relaxation for Gen-2 green crackers.

CONCEPT	Gen-2 green crackers — reduce PM10 and PM2.5 pollution by 45%-60%
BODY	CSIR-NEERI — recommended the limited and conditional relaxation for green crackers
BODY	PESO — manufacturers must hold a Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation license to register
EVENT	Winter Action Plan 2026-27 — announced by Delhi Government on September 29

MAINS Q Discuss the balance between environmental protection and industrial freedom in the context of regulating air pollutants from firecrackers in urban India.

USE: [Environmental Governance](#) [Pollution Mitigation](#) [Regulatory Relaxation](#) [Public Health](#) [Sustainable Development](#)

Jessica Watkins leads first Black woman-led crew to orbit in record flight

WHY IN NEWS SpaceX launched a crew to the International Space Station (ISS) led by Jessica Watkins, the first Black woman to lead a crew to orbit, setting a U.S. speed record.

PERSON	Jessica Watkins — NASA commander and first Black woman to lead a crew to orbit
PLACE	Cape Canaveral Space Force Station — Launch site located in Florida, USA
FIGURE	Eight hours — The duration of the flight to the International Space Station (ISS)

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of private-public partnerships in expanding human space exploration and the socio-cultural implications of diversifying space missions.

USE: [Space Exploration](#) [Public-Private Partnership](#) [Orbital Logistics](#) [Diversity in STEM](#) [Aerospace Technology](#)

Tamil Nadu launches first booth-less toll plaza using FASTag and ANPR

WHY IN NEWS Tamil Nadu launched its first booth-less toll plaza at Paranur on the Chennai-Tiruchi National Highway to improve traffic flow and reduce emissions using automated technologies.

PLACE	Paranur — Location of the first booth-less toll plaza on the Chennai-Tiruchi National Highway
CONCEPT	Multi-lane free flow — System integrating FASTag, RFID, and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)
FIGURE	50% discount — Available on double-fee e-notices if payments are made within 72 hours

MAINS Q Discuss how the integration of RFID and ANPR technologies in toll collection contributes to infrastructure efficiency and environmental sustainability in India.

USE: [Multi-lane free flow](#) [Automatic Number Plate Recognition](#) [Infrastructure efficiency](#) [Carbon footprint reduction](#) [Digital governance](#)

India orders Apple to remove Bitchat from App Store under Section 69A

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology ordered Apple to remove Bitchat from its App Store under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act.

BODY	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) — Nodal ministry for IT regulations in India.
ACT	Section 69A of the Information Technology Act — Provision used to order the removal of Bitchat.
FIGURE	85% — Percentage of Bitchat downloads accounted for by India between July 17 and July 23.

MAINS Q Discuss the balance between state security measures under Section 69A and the fundamental right to freedom of speech and privacy in the digital age.

USE: [Digital Sovereignty](#) [Platform Liability](#) [Right to Privacy](#) [Content Regulation](#) [Cybersecurity](#)

India plans Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission for 2027

WHY IN NEWS India plans its Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission for 2027 as the world observes World Space Week.

CONCEPT

Karman line — the boundary of space generally used by international bodies at 100km above Earth

ACT

Outer Space Treaty — entered into force on October 10, 1967, establishing space as a peaceful domain

EVENT

Sputnik 1 — the first satellite to orbit Earth, launched by the Soviet Union

PERSON

Yuri Gagarin — first human in space, completed one orbit on Vostok 1 on April 12, 1961

FIGURE

Space travelers — at least 746 people from 52 countries have traveled to space

MAINS Q

Discuss the significance of the Outer Space Treaty in ensuring the peaceful use of outer space and the challenges of establishing a legal boundary for space.

USE :

Space Governance

Outer Space Treaty

Human Spaceflight

Sputnik

Karman Line

Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann, and Georg Nagel awarded Nobel Prize for optogenetics

WHY IN NEWS Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann, and Georg Nagel were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their pioneering work in optogenetics.

CONCEPT

Optogenetics: A technique using light to control neurons by expressing light-sensitive proteins.

CONCEPT

Channelrhodopsin: An algal protein used in optogenetics to control neural circuits.

CONCEPT

Retinitis pigmentosa: A condition being treated in clinical trials using optogenetic methods to restore sight.

FIGURE

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026: Awarded to Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann, and Georg Nagel.

MAINS Q

Discuss the potential of optogenetics in revolutionizing neurological treatments and the ethical considerations surrounding neural circuit manipulation.

USE :

Optogenetics

Channelrhodopsin

Neural Circuits

Retinitis Pigmentosa

Biotechnology

Francis Halzen wins 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics for IceCube Neutrino Observatory

WHY IN NEWS The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced Belgian physicist Francis Halzen as the winner of the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on the IceCube Neutrino Observatory.

PERSON

Francis Halzen — Belgian physicist and 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics winner

CONCEPT

Neutrinos — Subatomic particles whose interactions produce light flashes recorded by the IceCube observatory

BODY

Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences — Body responsible for awarding the Nobel Prize in Physics

MISSION

IceCube Neutrino Observatory — Facility in Antarctica that tracks neutrinos from deep space to study high-energy particles

MAINS Q

Discuss the significance of neutrino astronomy in understanding the evolution of the universe and the role of international scientific cooperation in large-scale observatories.

USE :

Neutrino Astronomy

High-energy particles

Astrophysics

Scientific Cooperation

Deep Space Exploration

DRDO flight-tests indigenous HAPS platform reaching 21 km altitude in milestone trial

WHY IN NEWS DRDO successfully flight-tested an indigenous High-Altitude Platform (HAPS) reaching 21 km altitude, marking a milestone in India's aerial surveillance and communication capabilities.

BODY

ADRDE: The Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment is located in Agra.

S&T

HAPS: High-Altitude Platform (HAPS) is an indigenous platform tested by DRDO.

FACT

The platform reached a peak altitude of 21 km during the flight test.

POST

Rajnith Singh: Served as the Defence Minister during the milestone trial.

MAINS Q

Discuss how indigenous High-Altitude Platform (HAPS) technology can enhance India's strategic surveillance and telecommunication infrastructure in remote and border regions.

USE :

Strategic Autonomy

Persistent Surveillance

Indigenous Technology

Aerospace Engineering

Defense Modernization

Rajnath Singh launches FSS-1 and lays keel for FSS-5 at HSL

WHY IN NEWS Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the 43,500-tonne FSS-1 and laid the keel for FSS-5 at Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) to enhance Indian Navy's maritime reach.

BODY	Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) — Yard producing ships up to 45,000 deadweight tonnes.
CONCEPT	Fleet Support Ship (FSS) — Vessel designed to refuel and resupply warships at sea.
FIGURE	Rs 1,969 crore — Production value recorded by HSL in 2025-26.
FIGURE	43,500 tonnes — The weight of the FSS-1 vessel.

MAINS Q Discuss how the expansion of domestic shipbuilding infrastructure like HSL contributes to India's maritime security and the 'Aatmanirbharta' initiative in the Indian Ocean Region.

USE: Aatmanirbharta Maritime Security Shipbuilding Fleet Support Ships Blue-water Navy

Henri Kagan and Kenso Soai win 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

WHY IN NEWS The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced Henri Kagan and Kenso Soai as the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry winners for their work on asymmetric organic synthesis.

PERSON	Henri Kagan — French scientist awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry
PERSON	Kenso Soai — Japanese scientist awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry
CONCEPT	Homochirality — The property of a molecule to have a specific handedness in organic synthesis
CONCEPT	Asymmetric organic synthesis — Research focusing on nonlinear effects and autocatalysis to explain homochirality
BODY	Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences — The body responsible for awarding the Nobel Prize in Chemistry

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of asymmetric organic synthesis in the pharmaceutical industry and its role in addressing the challenges of molecular chirality.

USE: Asymmetric synthesis Homochirality Autocatalysis Pharmaceutical manufacturing Nonlinear effects

India ranks 10th on AI Readiness Index as country attracts US\$4.1 billion investment

WHY IN NEWS The World Bank released a report ranking India 10th among emerging markets on the AI Readiness Index, highlighting a gap between high investment and low individual tool adoption.

REPORT	World Bank's AI Readiness Index ranks India 10th among emerging markets with a score of 23.8
FACT	India attracted US\$4.1 billion in private AI investment in 2025
FACT	AI-related job postings in India rose from 2.2% in November 2022 to 6% by April 2025
FACT	Only 4% of Indian internet users reported using ChatGPT in April 2025

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges and opportunities for India in bridging the gap between high AI investment and low individual adoption among the population.

USE: AI Readiness Digital Divide Skill Gap Private Investment Emerging Markets

MoEFCC grants environmental and CRZ clearance for Shree Jagannath International Airport

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change granted environmental and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance for the greenfield Shree Jagannath International Airport in Puri District.

BODY	Zoological Survey of India — conducting bird hazard studies near Chilka Lake for the project.
CONCEPT	Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) — regulatory framework for environmental clearance in coastal areas.
FIGURE	4.6 million — expected annual passenger capacity of the airport.
BODY	Expert Appraisal Committee — provided recommendations for the environmental and CRZ clearance.

MAINS Q Discuss the environmental challenges and regulatory frameworks involved in developing greenfield airport infrastructure in ecologically sensitive coastal zones of India.

USE: Coastal Regulation Zone Greenfield Project Environmental Clearance Biodiversity Conservation Infrastructure Development

India aims to double 5G user base to one billion by 2030

WHY IN NEWS Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announced India's target to double its 5G user base to one billion by 2030 and called for a global framework with the GSMA to curb cyber frauds and deepfakes.

CONCEPT	5G user base target: 1 billion by 2030
CONCEPT	Bharat 6G Alliance: 90 institutions involved with 7700 patents
BODY	GSMA: Global body called upon to create a framework against cyber frauds and deepfakes
BODY	ITU: Accepted India's proposal to host the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2030
FIGURE	Broadband customers: Grew from 60 million to over 1.1 billion since 2017

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of India's leadership in 6G technology and the necessity of a global framework to mitigate the risks of deepfakes and cyber fraud.

USE: Digital Infrastructure Cybersecurity Deepfakes 6G Technology Telecommunications

Telecom Department clarifies Starlink and Jio Satcom await security clearances

WHY IN NEWS Elon Musk alleged that Starlink spent five years complying with Indian laws without receiving a license, while the Telecom Department clarified that Starlink, Jio Satcom

BODY	Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) — responsible for providing security clearances for satellite services.
CONCEPT	Security Clearance — the primary regulatory requirement currently pending for Starlink, Jio Satcom, and Eutelsat OneWeb.

MAINS Q Discuss the regulatory challenges and security considerations involved in the deployment of low-earth orbit (LEO) satellite internet services in India.

USE: Security Clearance Satellite Internet Data Sovereignty Regulatory Framework Telecommunications Policy

MeitY to train 10 million youth in AI via AIKOSH roadmap

WHY IN NEWS MeitY announced a roadmap to train 10 million Indian youth in AI and a consultation paper to address AI-related harms like deepfakes and psychological disorders.

BODY	MeitY — Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
CONCEPT	AIKOSH — The roadmap linked to the AI initiative for youth
FIGURE	10 million — Target number of Indian youth to be brought into the AI space
CONCEPT	Deepfakes and psychological disorders — AI-related harms addressed in the consultation paper

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of large-scale AI literacy programs in India and the regulatory challenges posed by deepfakes and AI-driven psychological harms.

USE: Digital Literacy AI Governance Deepfakes Skill Development Technological Ethics

Indian Navy to commission Mangrol, third indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare craft, in Mumbai

WHY IN NEWS The Indian Navy is set to commission the Mangrol, its third indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, in Mumbai to bolster coastal defense capabilities.

S&T	Mangrol: The third indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft to be commissioned by the Indian Navy.
BODY	Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL): The entity responsible for building the Mangrol craft.
FACT	The Mangrol craft features over 80% indigenous content under the Make in India initiative.
S&T	Abhay sonar and Mareech decoy system: Specific technologies integrated into the Mangrol craft.

MAINS Q Discuss how the 'Make in India' initiative in the defence sector contributes to India's strategic autonomy and maritime security.

USE: Strategic Autonomy Indigenization Maritime Security Make in India Defence Procurement

SPECIES, PROTECTED AREAS & WETLANDS

P

2 REPORTS MERGED

3 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/129993 · Report a mistake

NTCA releases tigress T138 into Buxa Tiger Reserve

WHY IN NEWS The National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Institute of India released tigress T138 from Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve into West Bengal's Buxa Tiger Reserve to establish a self-sustaining tiger population.

FIGURE | Buxa Tiger Reserve area — 760.87 sq km

BODY | National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) — oversees tiger conservation in India

MAINS Q Discuss the ecological and logistical challenges involved in establishing self-sustaining tiger populations through the phased reintroduction of individuals into fragmented habitats.

USE: [phased reintroduction](#) [self-sustaining population](#) [habitat fragmentation](#) [wildlife conservation](#) [ecological corridors](#)

SPECIES, PROTECTED AREAS & WETLANDS

P

5 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/131180 · Report a mistake

India-born cheetah KJP21 gives birth to five cubs in Kuno National Park

WHY IN NEWS Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced that an India-born cheetah (KJP21) gave birth to five cubs in Kuno National Park, marking a milestone for Project Cheetah.

CONCEPT | Project Cheetah — an in-situ conservation initiative to restore apex predators

FIGURE | 60 — total cheetah population in India as of October 2026

FIGURE | 41 — number of cheetahs born on Indian soil out of the total population

PERSON | KJP21 — the third female cheetah born in India

MAINS Q Examine the ecological and genetic implications of the cheetah reintroduction program in India, focusing on the challenges of establishing a self-sustaining population.

USE: [Project Cheetah](#) [In-situ conservation](#) [Genetic lineage](#) [Apex predator](#) [Biodiversity restoration](#)

SPECIES, PROTECTED AREAS & WETLANDS

P

2 REPORTS MERGED

6 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/131233 · Report a mistake

Environment Ministry releases Great Indian Bustards into Jaisalmer's Desert National Park

WHY IN NEWS Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav released two male Great Indian Bustards into the wild at Desert National Park, Rajasthan, as part of a captive breeding and release initiative.

CONCEPT | Captive breeding: Initiative to produce and release Great Indian Bustards into the wild.

PLACE | Desert National Park, Jaisalmer: Site for the release of the birds.

BODY | Wildlife Institute of India: Collaborating body for the captive breeding initiative.

FIGURE | 97 birds: Current number of birds housed in Sam and Ramdevra facilities.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of ex-situ conservation measures like captive breeding in preserving critically endangered species in India's arid ecosystems.

USE: [ex-situ conservation](#) [captive breeding](#) [biodiversity conservation](#) [Great Indian Bustard](#) [habitat restoration](#)

POLLUTION (AIR, WATER, PLASTIC)

P

M

7 Oct · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/131863 · Report a mistake

Delhi and Centre unveil Winter Action Plan 2026-27 to tackle NCR air pollution

WHY IN NEWS The Delhi government and the Centre unveiled the Winter Action Plan 2026-27 to combat NCR air pollution, featuring fuel station restrictions and vehicle bans.

FIGURE | 500 fuel stations: Number of stations mandated to enforce fuel restrictions.

CONCEPT | Non-BS-VI vehicles: Vehicles prohibited from entry into NCR starting November 1.

DATE | January 31: Deadline for phased construction prohibitions.

MAINS Q Critically analyze the effectiveness of seasonal action plans in addressing the structural causes of air pollution in the National Capital Region.

USE: [Air Quality Management](#) [Regulatory Framework](#) [Pollution Mitigation](#) [Inter-agency Coordination](#) [Sustainable Urbanization](#)

Plantations and climate change reduced Western Ghats native habitats to one-third

WHY IN NEWS A review in Nature Reviews Biodiversity highlights that plantations, infrastructure, and climate change have reduced native habitats in the Western Ghats to just one-third of their original extent.

- PLACE | Western Ghats: A biodiversity hotspot in India significantly impacted by plantation expansion.
- FACT | Coffee plantation area: 3,000 sq km.
- FACT | Tea plantation area: 1,134 sq km.
- FACT | Rubber plantation area: 5,000 sq km.
- FACT | Cashew expansion: 53,500 ha.

MAINS Q Discuss the ecological consequences of large-scale plantation expansion on biodiversity hotspots like the Western Ghats and suggest measures for sustainable land-use management.

USE:

Biodiversity Hotspots

Habitat Fragmentation

Monoculture

Ecological Integrity

Sustainable Land-Use

Asiatic lion population grows to 891 in 2025

WHY IN NEWS The Government of India highlighted the growth of the Asiatic lion population from 674 in 2020 to 891 in 2025 during Wildlife Week.

- FIGURE | Asiatic lion population: 891 in 2025 (up from 674 in 2020)
- REPORT | IUCN: 1,012 out of 7,516 assessed species are currently threatened
- SCHEME | Project Nilgiri Tahr and Phoenix Species Project are active conservation efforts
- PLACE | Great Indian Bustard chick was spotted in Kutch

MAINS Q Evaluate the effectiveness of species-specific conservation projects in ensuring the recovery of endangered fauna in India.

USE:

Biodiversity conservation

Species recovery

In-situ conservation

Wildlife management

IUCN status

Internal Security

5

India identifies 28 geographical features on SoI map following PLA movements

WHY IN NEWS The Government of India identified 28 geographical features on the official Survey of India (SoI) map following PLA troop movements along the LAC since April 2020.

- BODY | Survey of India (SoI) — The official body responsible for mapping and geographical features in India.
- PLACE | Ladakh — The Union Territory where the 28 geographical features were identified.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of accurate cartographic mapping in maintaining territorial integrity and managing border disputes in the context of the LAC.

USE:

territorial integrity

cartographic sovereignty

LAC

border management

geospatial data

IAF targets 42 squadrons requiring 36-40 annual jet inductions

WHY IN NEWS Air Chief Marshal AP Singh stated the IAF requires 36-40 annual jet inductions to reach its target of 42 squadrons amid delays in Tejas Mark-1A production and ongoing MRFA negotiations with France.

- CONCEPT | Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) — programme for procuring 114 Rafale jets from France.
- FIGURE | 42 squadrons — the target strength for the Indian Air Force.
- FIGURE | 30 squadrons — the current fighter squadron count of the IAF.
- FIGURE | Rs 48,000 crore and Rs 62,370 crore — production deals for Tejas Mark-1A.

MAINS Q Analyze the challenges in achieving the IAF's squadron expansion targets and the strategic importance of indigenous production versus international procurement.

USE:

Indigenization

Defense Procurement

Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft

Strategic Autonomy

Squadron Strength

Armed forces submit Agnipath scheme recommendations to Department of Military Affairs

WHY IN NEWS The Army, Navy, and Air Force submitted recommendations to the Department of Military Affairs regarding the Agnipath scheme as the first batch of Agniveers completes their four-year tenure in October 2026.

SCHEME	Agnipath scheme: Recruitment into Army, Navy, and Air Force with a four-year tenure launched in June 2022.
FIGURE	Seva Nidhi package: ₹11.71 lakh provided to 75% of Agniveers exiting the scheme.
FIGURE	Retention ratio: Up to 25% of Agniveers are retained after the four-year tenure.
BODY	Department of Military Affairs: The body receiving recommendations from the three services.

MAINS Q Discuss the structural and operational implications of the Agnipath scheme on the long-term readiness and human resource management of India's armed forces.

USE: [Human Resource Management](#) [Operational Readiness](#) [Fiscal Sustainability](#) [Institutional Memory](#) [Defense Policy](#)

SPIR 2026 study finds 13% of respondents were victims of cybercrimes

WHY IN NEWS The Status of Policing in India Report (SPIR) 2026 revealed that 13% of respondents were victims of cybercrimes, highlighting systemic failures in banking accountability and data security.

REPORT	SPIR 2026: A study by Common Cause, Lokniti, and CSDS on the status of policing in India.
FIGURE	13% of respondents in the SPIR 2026 study were victims of cybercrimes.
FIGURE	54% of cybercrime victims specifically faced digital financial frauds.
BODY	RBI: The body responsible for issuing guidelines on mule accounts and digital fraud.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in curbing digital financial frauds in India despite existing regulatory guidelines and the role of banking institutions in victim redressal.

USE: [cybercrime](#) [digital financial fraud](#) [mule accounts](#) [data privacy](#) [banking accountability](#)

Defence Ministry approves revised SOP for indigenous project testing

WHY IN NEWS Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved a revised SOP to streamline access to proof and firing ranges for indigenous projects to support 'atmanirbharta'.

CONCEPT	Atmanirbharta — The goal of making India self-reliant in defence manufacturing.
SCHEME	iDEX — A scheme to support indigenous defence projects.
SCHEME	Technology Development Fund (TDF) — A scheme to support R&D for indigenous technology.
BODY	DRDO — Defence Research and Development Organisation involved in testing facilities.
FIGURE	Three-day quarterly slots — Reserved for government-sponsored and indigenous projects.

MAINS Q Discuss how streamlining access to testing infrastructure can accelerate the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative in the defence manufacturing sector.

USE: [Atmanirbharta](#) [Defence Procurement](#) [R&D Infrastructure](#) [iDEX](#) [Technology Development Fund](#)

10 questions, 10 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

- 1** Which body is responsible for determining the repo rate in India?
- (a) Financial Stability Board (b) Securities and Exchange Board
(c) Monetary Policy Committee (d) National Development Council
-
- 2** What is the target capacity for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) under the Green Energy Corridor Phase-III?
- (a) 100 GWh (b) 75 GWh
(c) 25 GWh (d) 50 GWh
-
- 3** What is the revised GDP growth forecast for 2026–27 as projected by the RBI?
- (a) 8.2% (b) 7.5%
(c) 6.7% (d) 7.1%
-
- 4** With reference to the voter enrollment drive by the Election Commission, consider the following statements:
1. The special drive was initiated to enroll voters after 5 crore names were deleted.
 2. Booth Level Officers are required to use Form 5 to enroll eligible voters.
 3. Approximately 13.3 crore names were deleted from the voter lists.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 3 only (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
-
- 5** With reference to the Election Commission of India's measures for electoral roll maintenance, consider the following statements:
1. Form 7 is the application used for the deletion of a name from the electoral roll.
 2. The ECI capped individual voter deletion requests at 10 during continuous updation.
 3. The ECI has capped individual voter deletion requests at 15 during claims and objections periods.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
-
- 6** Which international judicial body currently has Navanethem Pillay serving as a judge?
- (a) International Court of Justice (b) European Court of Human Rights
(c) World Bank (d) International Criminal Court
-
- 7** Which Indian body signed an MoU with the University of Ghana during the visit?
- (a) Wildlife Institute of India (b) National Institute of Oceanography
(c) Botanical Survey of India (d) Zoological Survey of India
-
- 8** With reference to the removal of Bitchat from Indian app stores, consider the following statements:
1. India accounted for 95% of Bitchat downloads between July 17 and July 23.
 2. The order was issued by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
 3. The app was removed from the App Store and Google Play following user protests.
- 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
-
- 9** What is the maximum deadweight tonnage capacity of ships that can be built and launched at HSL's upgraded Slipway-4?
- (a) 50,000 tonnes (b) 45,000 tonnes
(c) 30,000 tonnes (d) 60,000 tonnes
-

10 With reference to the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy, consider the following statements:

1. The benchmark repurchase rate is expected to be raised to 5.50 per cent.
2. Oil prices are currently trending below \$50 a barrel.
3. Inflation is currently expected to remain below 3 per cent.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANSWERS · 1 (c) 2 (d) 3 (d) 4 (a) 5 (a) 6 (a) 7 (d) 8 (d) 9 (b) 10 (a)



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