

**Current Affairs • Week 40 • 28 Sep – 4 Oct 2026****25 min**

READING TIME

10

KEY STORIES

36

IN BRIEF

8 + 2

MCQS + MAINS

GS1 • 3

GS2 • 23

GS3 • 24

PAPER MIX

01 – THE WEEK IN 2 MINUTES

The 6 stories you can't skip

- 1 Election Commission directs special drive to enroll voters after 13.3 crore deletions**
Why it matters: Electoral integrity and administrative procedures: a key GS2 topic regarding the democratic process.
GS2 • POLITY & CONSTITUTION P
- 2 Jaishankar meets Admiral Paparo to discuss India-U.S. maritime cooperation**
Why it matters: India-U.S. security and Quad cooperation: a key GS2 International Relations topic.
GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS P
- 3 IAF targets 42 squadrons requiring 36-40 annual jet inductions**
Why it matters: Defense procurement and indigenization: a GS3 case study on balancing domestic production and strategic imports.
GS3 • INTERNAL SECURITY P M
- 4 India orders Apple to remove Bitchat from App Store under Section 69A**
Why it matters: Digital sovereignty and content regulation: a GS3 and Ethics case study on state security vs. privacy.
GS3 • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY P M
- 5 Piyush Goyal meets Jamieson Greer to discuss interim trade agreement amid US tariff changes**
Why it matters: Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal met U.S.
GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS P
- 6 Trump signs White House Accord on Super Intelligence with tech giants**
Why it matters: AI Governance and Corporate Accountability: a key GS2 topic on international tech regulation.
GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS P M

FIGURES WORTH REMEMBERING

13.3 crore

the approximate number of names deleted from voter lists.

42 squadrons

the target strength for the Indian Air Force.

30 squadrons

the current fighter squadron count of the IAF.

85%

Percentage of Bitchat downloads accounted for by India between July 17 and July 23.

What to know, in 60 seconds each

10 of 331 notes · picked for exam value

GS2 · POLITY & CONSTITUTION

P

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.

REMEMBER

- Election Commission — directed Chief Electoral Officers to conduct a special drive for voter enrollment.
- 13.3 crore — the approximate number of names deleted from voter lists.
- Form 6 — the specific form used for enrolling eligible voters.

MAINS ANGLE 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

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/129344

GS3 · INTERNAL SECURITY

P

M

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.

REMEMBER

- Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) — programme for procuring 114 Rafale jets from France.
- 42 squadrons — the target strength for the Indian Air Force.
- 30 squadrons — the current fighter squadron count of the IAF.

MAINS ANGLE 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

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/130363

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

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.

REMEMBER

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

MAINS ANGLE 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

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/130672

GS3 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

P

M

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.

REMEMBER

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

MAINS ANGLE 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

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/130116

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.

REMEMBER

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

MAINS ANGLE 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

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/128774

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)

REMEMBER

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

MAINS ANGLE 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

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/128627

East and northeast regions record driest monsoon since 1901

Why in news: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) reported that India's 2026 southwest monsoon ended at 759.4 mm, with the east and northeast region recording its driest monsoon since 1901.

REMEMBER

- India Meteorological Department (IMD) — responsible for systematic monsoon records and forecasting
- El Niño — attributed by IMD as a cause for the subdued monsoon rainfall
- 759.4 mm — India's 2026 southwest monsoon rainfall (87% of Long Period Average)

MAINS ANGLE Analyze the impact of El Niño and climate variability on the Indian monsoon and suggest measures to mitigate the risks of diminishing rainfall in the Northeast region.

USE : El Niño Monsoon variability Climate change

Hydrological stress

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/128578

Union Cabinet approves ₹1,86,405 crore for Green Energy Corridor Phase-III

Why in news: The Union Cabinet approved the 'Green Energy Corridor Phase-III' scheme with a ₹1,86,405 crore outlay to facilitate the evacuation of 135 GW of renewable energy.

REMEMBER

- Green Energy Corridor Phase-III — A scheme to facilitate the evacuation of 135 GW of renewable energy.
- ₹1,36,378 crore — Allocation for Intra-State Transmission Systems under the scheme.
- 50 GWh — Target for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) under the scheme.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of developing robust transmission infrastructure and battery storage systems in achieving India's non-fossil fuel capacity targets.

USE : Renewable Energy Grid Integration

Battery Energy Storage

Decarbonization

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/128352

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.

REMEMBER

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

MAINS ANGLE *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 Doctrine Right to Equality
Universal Adult Franchise Electoral Roll Integrity

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/130692

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.

REMEMBER

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

MAINS ANGLE *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

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/129798

Everything else, one line each

36 more notes · full versions online

GS1 · HISTORY · SOCIETY · GEOGRAPHY

UNESCO Tentative List: India added five new sites including Udaigiri Caves and Satyagraha sites, bringing the total to 78.

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

Ukraine conflict: India is moving beyond advocacy to engage both Kyiv and Moscow on the conflict.

Press freedom: Supreme Court to examine if Article 194(3) can be used to limit press freedom under Article 19(1)(a).

NSA detention: Supreme Court quashed Mulla Afroz's detention, ruling the UP government failed to consider relevant material.

Judicial appointments: Supreme Court Collegium recommended elevation of Chief Justices from Gujarat, Delhi, and Telangana High Courts.

Trilateral talks: Ukraine ready for talks with US and Russia, with Washington pushing for technical-level talks by October 2026.

Ukraine drone strike: Russia launched 135 drones targeting Kyiv, Sumy, and Dnipro infrastructure during German Chancellor's visit.

Ocean debt conversion: Seychelles converted \$21.6 million in foreign debt into funding to increase protected areas to 30%.

Labor migration: Russia plans to recruit approximately 70,000 Indian skilled workers this year.

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

Tribunals Commission: The Union Law Ministry published rules for the Commission to oversee 16 tribunals.

CEPA negotiations: India and Canada to start fifth round of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement talks in Ottawa.

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

US-China trade: US paused a record USD 14 billion arms package for Taiwan during negotiations with China.

CEC petition: Petition seeks independent inquiry into alleged database tampering and voter disenfranchisement by the CEC.

Great Nicobar project: Union government seeks stay on petitions alleging Forest Rights Act violations in the ₹92,000-crore project.

SCO meeting: India attended its first SCO preparatory meeting in Islamabad since Operation Sindoor.

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

Green crackers: Supreme Court allows Gen-2 green crackers which reduce PM10 and PM2.5 pollution by 45%-60%.

Demographic transition: India is projected to become a super-aged society by 2065 with a current fertility rate of 1.9.

Cybercrime policing: SPIR 2026 report finds 27% of victims pay bribes, with recovery rates rising from 12% to 41%.

Delhi Police audit: The Supreme Court ordered an audit of lighting and CCTV coverage in Delhi-NCR within four weeks.

PRAHAAR strategy: Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled the PRAHAAR strategy and busted 40 modules linked to the Shahzad Bhatti network.

Agnipath scheme: Army, Navy, and Air Force submitted recommendations as the first batch of Agniveers completes their tenure in 2026.

Sawalkot project: Centre considers ₹5,129 crore project in J&K to generate 800 megawatts following Indus Water Treaty suspension.

SpaceX mission: Jessica Watkins led a crew to the ISS in an eight-hour flight from Cape Canaveral, setting a U.S. speed record.

LPG subsidy: Households without biometric Aadhaar authentication will only receive 5kg or 10kg cylinders at market prices.

UPI MDR: A 0.4% Merchant Discount Rate applies to person-to-merchant UPI payments above ₹2,000 from 15 October 2026.

Crude oil prices: Prices jumped 28.66% to \$116.04 per barrel in September, posing risks to India's economy.

External debt: India's external debt rose by \$15.4 billion to \$778.2 billion by end-June.

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

Hosted-payloads: Indian entities must seek IN-SPaCE authorization to ensure international treaty compliance and national security.

Rabi crop MSP: Union Cabinet approved MSP hikes for six rabi crops with a total farmer payout of ₹90,962 crore.

MOF-303 technology: Omar Yaghi won the 2025 Nobel Prize for extracting water from air in arid conditions using MOF-303.

CAFE-3 norms: New norms target a 16.7% reduction in fuel consumption benchmarks for passenger vehicles by 2031-32.

Polysilicon production: MNRE is developing an incentive scheme to boost domestic production to 10 GW by August and 30 GW by 2030.

Doxxing and deepfakes: Supreme Court directed Union Ministries to address these as key surveillance and privacy concerns.

MAP WORK

Places in news

Black Sea	Region identified for shipping safety and grain export focus.
Seychelles	the first nation to participate in an ocean debt conversion deal.
Furnace Creek, Death Valley National Park	Location of the successful water extraction experiment
Sea of Japan	Location for planned Quad naval exercises
Ladakh	The Union Territory where the 28 geographical features were identified.

8 questions, 8 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

1 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

2 With reference to the India–U.S. Major Defense Partnership, consider the following statements:

1. The partnership focuses on maritime cooperation and regional stability.
2. The discussions were exclusively limited to digital transformation without any maritime focus.
3. Admiral Samuel J. Paparo is the Commander of the U.S. Atlantic Command.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- ☐ a 1 only ☐ b 1 and 3 only
☐ c 2 and 3 only ☐ d 1, 2 and 3

3 What is the target number of fighter squadrons for the Indian Air Force?

- ☐ a 36 ☐ b 42
☐ c 50 ☐ d 60

4 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

5 Which of the following mechanisms is mandated by the White House Accord on Super Intelligence?

- ☐ a Universal data mining ☐ b Public infrastructure grants
☐ c Mandatory export bans ☐ d Independent audits

6 With reference to the 2026 southwest monsoon in India, consider the following statements:

1. The east and northeast region recorded its driest monsoon since 1901.
2. The total southwest monsoon rainfall was 759.4 mm, representing 95% of the Long Period Average.
3. The IMD attributed the subdued monsoon rainfall to one of the strongest El Niños in recent history.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- ☐ a 2 only ☐ b 1 and 2 only
☐ c 1 and 3 only ☐ d 1, 2 and 3

7 With reference to the Green Energy Corridor Phase–III scheme, consider the following statements:

1. India aims to achieve a non-fossil capacity of 500 GW by 2035.
2. The scheme allocates ₹1,36,378 crore specifically for Battery Energy Storage Systems.
3. The scheme aims to facilitate the evacuation of 135 GW of renewable energy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- ☐ a 1 only ☐ b 3 only
☐ c 2 and 3 only ☐ d 1, 2 and 3

8 With reference to the Supreme Court's observations on voter disenfranchisement, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court upheld the exclusion of 20 crore names from the draft rolls.
2. Disenfranchising millions of citizens violates Article 14 and Article 326.
3. The right to vote is considered a component of the Basic Structure doctrine.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

MAINS PRACTICE

Mains questions to practise

GS2 · POLITY & CONSTITUTION

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

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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

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



TELEGRAM



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