

**SATYADHEESH**
सत्याधीश

UPSC WEEKLY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs • Week 41 • 5 Oct – 11 Oct 2026**50**

NOTES

54

STORIES MERGED

10

MCQS

GS1 • 1

GS2 • 22

GS3 • 27

PAPER MIX

CONTENTS

Every note, grouped by paper

GS1	History • Society • Geography	1 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

2 REPORTS MERGED

6 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/131729**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

Polity & Constitution

6

ELECTIONS, ECI & ELECTORAL REFORMS

P

M

5 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/130916

Supreme Court issues notices over 13 crore names deleted from electoral rolls

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court issued notices to the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the Centre following a plea challenging the alleged unilateral deletion of 13 crore names from electoral rolls across 30 States/UTs.

BODY	Election Commission of India (ECI) — tasked with maintaining electoral rolls and ensuring electoral integrity.
FIGURE	13 crore names — the number of names allegedly deleted across 30 States/Union Territories.
CONCEPT	Universal Adult Franchise — the principle of voting rights which relies on accurate electoral rolls.

MAINS Q Examine the importance of electoral roll integrity in ensuring the principle of Universal Adult Franchise and the role of the ECI in preventing arbitrary deletions.

USE: Universal Adult Franchise Electoral Integrity Administrative Arbitrariness Judicial Oversight Disenfranchisement

CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENTS & BASIC STRUCTURE

P

M

6 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/131398

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 Structure Judicial Review 42nd Amendment Minerva Mills Case Preamble Philosophy

STATUTORY, REGULATORY & QUASI-JUDICIAL BODIES

P

M

6 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/131558

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 connectivity Logistics infrastructure Inter-agency coordination Data-driven governance Infrastructure appraisal

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 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](#)

ECI caps voter deletion requests at 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 / BILL** | Representation of the People Act, 1950
- FACT** | ECI capped individual voter deletion requests at 10 during claims and objections periods
- FACT** | ECI capped individual voter deletion requests at 5 monthly during continuous updation
- FACT** | Form 7 is the application used for voter deletion

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](#)

Governance

1

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](#)

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

International Relations

11

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

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

Houthis 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

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

Economy

11

MONETARY POLICY, RBI & BANKING

P

M

5 Oct · Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/130752

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

INFRASTRUCTURE (ENERGY, PORTS, ROADS, RAILWAYS)

P

M

2 REPORTS MERGED

5 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/130847

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

EXTERNAL SECTOR, TRADE & FDI

P

M

5 Oct · BBC · satyadheesh.in/news/130956

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

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

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 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

Kerala — 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

Agriculture

1

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 variability

agrarian distress

drought-prone

rainfall deficit

climate resilience

SPACE TECHNOLOGY (ISRO, MISSIONS)

P M

5 Oct · Al Jazeera · satyadheesh.in/news/130861

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

BIOTECHNOLOGY & HEALTH RESEARCH

P

3 REPORTS MERGED

5 Oct · BBC · satyadheesh.in/news/130947

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

SPACE TECHNOLOGY (ISRO, MISSIONS)

P

7 REPORTS MERGED

6 Oct · Al Jazeera · satyadheesh.in/news/131594

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

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

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 7,700 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

Environment & Ecology

4

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

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

1

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** 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
-
- 5** What is the reservation ceiling mentioned by the Supreme Court as a limit for the State to justify breaching with empirical data?
- ☐ a 40% ☐ b 60%
☐ c 50% ☐ d 33%
-
- 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** With reference to wildlife conservation in India, consider the following statements:
1. The IUCN reported that 1,012 out of 7,516 assessed species are currently threatened.
 2. The Asiatic lion population was recorded at 900 in 2020.
 3. The Asiatic lion population reached 891 in 2025.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- ☐ a 1 only ☐ b 2 only
☐ c 1 and 2 only ☐ d 1 and 3 only
-
- 8** 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
-
- 9** With reference to the Great Nicobar project, consider the following statements:
1. The project is under litigation regarding compliance with the Forest Rights Act.
 2. The Calcutta High Court dismissed the Public Interest Litigations (PILs) regarding the project.
 3. The Supreme Court upheld the Centre's plea against the Calcutta High Court order.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- ☐ a 1 only ☐ b 2 only
☐ c 3 only ☐ d 2 and 3 only
-

10 Which protein is used in optogenetics to control neural circuits with light?

- (a) Myoglobin
- (b) Keratin
- (c) Hemoglobin
- (d) Channelrhodopsin

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



TELEGRAM



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