

**Current Affairs • 1 October 2026****19 min**
READING TIME**8**
KEY STORIES**24**
IN BRIEF**5 + 1**
MCQS + MAINS

GS1 • 2 GS2 • 22

GS3 • 35

PAPER MIX

01 – TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip**1 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

2 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

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M

3 Ministry mandates BAA for LPG cylinders to ensure subsidy targeting

Why it matters: DBT vs digital exclusion: a ready GS3 and Ethics case study on subsidy leakage and last-mile delivery.

GS3 • ECONOMY

P

M

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

Why it matters: Digital payment infrastructure and transaction costs: a relevant GS3 Economy and Financial Inclusion topic.

GS3 • ECONOMY

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

Why it matters: Impact of global energy price volatility on fiscal stability and manufacturing: a GS3 Economy case study.

GS3 • ECONOMY

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NUMBER OF THE DAY

11 lakh users

reported in Telangana to lack eKYC as of October 2026.

CONNECT TO STATIC

Ban Artificial Superintelligence ActA legislative proposal by Bernie Sanders and Greg Casar as a counter-measure. *In the news: Trump signs White House Accord on Super Intelligence with tech giants.*

What to know, in 60 seconds each

8 of 59 notes · picked for exam value

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

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/news/128774

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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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/news/128627

GS3 · ECONOMY

P

M

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.

REMEMBER

- Biometric Aadhaar authentication (BAA) — required for full LPG subsidy eligibility.
- Indian Oil, BPCL, and HPCL — Public Sector Undertakings mandated to implement BAA norms.
- 11 lakh users — reported in Telangana to lack eKYC as of October 2026.

MAINS ANGLE 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

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/129190

GS3 · ECONOMY

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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.

REMEMBER

- Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) — A 0.4% fee on P2M UPI payments exceeding ₹2,000.
- ₹300 — The maximum cap on MDR for transactions of ₹75,000 and above.
- NPCI — The body providing statewide UPI transaction data.

MAINS ANGLE 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

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/128866

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.

REMEMBER

- Indian crude basket — a mix of sweet (Brent-based) and sour (Oman/Dubai-based) crude
- 7.8% — India's real GDP growth in Q1 FY27
- 9.2% — Manufacturing growth in Q1 FY27

MAINS ANGLE 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

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/128822

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.

REMEMBER

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) — The institution that released the external debt data.
- Debt-to-GDP ratio — Moderated to 20.8% as of end-June.
- Net claims of non-residents — Rose to \$220.3 billion.

MAINS ANGLE 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

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/128726

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.

REMEMBER

- Gen-2 green crackers — reduce PM10 and PM2.5 pollution by 45%–60%
- CSIR-NEERI — recommended the limited and conditional relaxation for green crackers
- PESO — manufacturers must hold a Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation license to register

MAINS ANGLE 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

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/128805

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.

REMEMBER

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

MAINS ANGLE 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

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/128688

Everything else, one line each

GS1 · HISTORY · SOCIETY · GEOGRAPHY

Karnataka rainfall: State recorded a 32% deficit with Bengaluru South facing an extreme 87% shortage due to El Nino.

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

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

Electoral roll revision: ECI extended house-to-house enumeration for Special Intensive Revision in Andhra Pradesh until July 24, 2026.

Agricultural collaboration: Netherlands Minister Silvio Erkens visited Bengaluru to explore water management and climate-resilient seeds with 18 businesses.

KSTDC and Muzrai Department sign 10-year agreement to manage Tirumala Tourist Complex

Andhra Pradesh Education: State to issue DSC 2.0 notification and launch Zero Dropout Mission to address school dropouts and faculty vacancies.

Kumaraswamy requests Srirangapatna tourism hub development under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme

BC reservations: Andhra Pradesh High Court struck down local body reservations exceeding the 50% constitutional threshold.

Lenacapavir injection: Gilead's twice-yearly HIV prevention injection costs \$28,000 annually, limiting access despite clinical success.

Drug price markups: FSDA identified 253 drugs with markups up to 52.6 times the landing cost in Karnataka.

Class 9 students to learn income tax liability in new NCERT social science book

Keralam to draft Bill for Tribal University in Wayanad with ₹50 crore budget

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

Dearness Allowance: State Cabinet approved ₹2,500 crore annual installments for Dearness Allowance and suspended 10 EPC irrigation projects.

E-challan enforcement: High Court ordered blacklisting of vehicles on Parivahan portal for ₹49,194.05 crore in outstanding payments.

Pineapple cultivation: Thrissur forest office stopped PCK from using 4,261 hectares of lease-expired forestland.

11 start-ups to receive up to ₹50 lakh for climate-resilient healthcare and agriculture

National PNG Drive 3.0: Aims to establish 50 lakh new connections and convert 40 lakh existing ones by FY27.

3D Concrete Printing: Pilot project to construct 177 houses in Guntur district using additive manufacturing technology.

Elephant management: Tamil Nadu to establish a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for elephant safety and welfare during religious festivals.

Global Horticulture Hub: A ₹1 lakh-crore project in Madanapalle to double production to 435 lakh tonnes across 14.41 lakh hectares.

TGNPDCL crosses 100 MW solar capacity under PM-KUSUM-A scheme for farmers' income

Civil Aviation Ministry approves full-body scanners for 8 major Indian airports

Northeast monsoon: IMD predicts normal rainfall despite a 20% Southwest monsoon deficit.

BESS capacity: Adani Green expanded Khavda's battery storage to 6.63 GWh, the world's largest single-location installation.

MAP WORK

Places in news

NTR district	A district in Andhra Pradesh requiring completion of house-to-house enumeration.
Bengaluru	site of visit to discuss cooperation with Union government and Maharashtra
Koheda	Site for a new fruit market
Burripalem and Obulnaidupalem/Pothuru	Locations for 100 and 77 houses respectively.
Madanapalle	site for the Global Horticulture Hub launch

5 questions, 5 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

1 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

2 With reference to the LPG subsidy mandate, consider the following statements:

1. The mandate requires Indian Oil, BPCL, and HPCL to implement the BAA norms.
2. A total of 20 lakh users in Telangana were reported to lack eKYC.
3. Households without BAA are restricted to 5 kg or 10 kg cylinders at market prices.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3 With reference to the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI payments, consider the following statements:

1. The 0.4% MDR applies to all UPI transactions regardless of the amount.
2. The MDR is capped at ₹300 for transactions of ₹75,000 and above.
3. The new framework was notified by the Ministry of Finance.

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

4 With reference to India's economic data for Q1 FY27, consider the following statements:

1. India's real GDP grew by 7.8% during the quarter.
2. The manufacturing sector recorded a growth of 12.1%.
3. The Real Industry GVA rose by 7.7% year-on-year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5 Which organization recommended the limited and conditional relaxation for the use of green crackers?

- (a) NITI Aayog (b) CPCB
(c) MoEFCC (d) CSIR-NEERI

MAINS PRACTICE

Write one answer today

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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

(P) 5 (P) 4 (C) 3 (P) 2 (P) 1 · ANSWERS



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