

**Current Affairs • 8 October 2026****19 min**

READING TIME

**8**

KEY STORIES

**24**

IN BRIEF

**5 + 1**

MCQS + MAINS

GS1 • 1

GS2 • 28

GS3 • 28

PAPER MIX

01 – TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

**The 5 stories you can't skip****1 GST Council scraps arrest powers and raises prosecution threshold to ₹5 crore****Why it matters:** Ease of Doing Business vs Tax Compliance: a key GS3 and Fiscal Federalism case study.

GS3 • ECONOMY

P

M

**2 Supreme Court asks amicus curiae to examine if DGP rules violate Prakash Singh judgment****Why it matters:** 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.

GS2 • POLITY &amp; CONSTITUTION

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**3 Union government caps trade margins at 30% for non-scheduled cancer drugs****Why it matters:** Price capping and pharmaceutical regulation: a GS2 case study on reducing out-of-pocket healthcare costs.

GS2 • SOCIAL JUSTICE

P

M

**4 MeitY to train 10 million youth in AI via AIKOSH roadmap****Why it matters:** Digital literacy and AI governance: a GS3 Science & Technology and Ethics case study.

GS3 • SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

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**5 MoE trains 72 lakh teachers to use PRASHAST tool for 21 disability conditions****Why it matters:** Inclusive education and digital governance: a GS2 Social Justice case study on disability rights.

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NUMBER OF THE DAY

**10 million**

Target number of Indian youth to be brought into the AI space

CONNECT TO STATIC

**RPwD Act, 2016**Defines the 21 disability conditions identified by the tool. *In the news:* MoE trains 72 lakh teachers to use PRASHAST tool for 21 disability conditions.

# What to know, in 60 seconds each

8 of 57 notes · picked for exam value

GS3 · ECONOMY

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## 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.

### REMEMBER

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

**MAINS ANGLE** 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 ComplianceAdministrative DiscretionFull note → [satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/132799](https://satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/132799)

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE

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## 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%.

### REMEMBER

- Trade margin cap: 30% of the maximum retail price for non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs.
- Projected annual savings: ₹2,500 crore from reduced out-of-pocket costs.
- National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority: Body responsible for identifying mark-ups in drug pricing.

**MAINS ANGLE** 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 regulationAffordabilityFull note → [satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/132975](https://satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/132975)

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## 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.

### REMEMBER

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

**MAINS ANGLE** 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 LawFull note → [satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/132649](https://satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/132649)

GS3 · SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

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## 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.

### REMEMBER

- MeitY — Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- AIKOSH — The roadmap linked to the AI initiative for youth
- 10 million — Target number of Indian youth to be brought into the AI space

**MAINS ANGLE** 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 DevelopmentFull note → [satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/132957](https://satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/132957)

## 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.

### REMEMBER

- PRASHAST: A digital tool used to identify 21 disability conditions.
- RPwD Act, 2016: Defines the 21 disability conditions identified by the tool.
- PM DAKSH: Integrated with PRASHAST to support scholarship and data integration.

**MAINS ANGLE** *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

Full note → [satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/132955](https://satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/132955)

## 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

### REMEMBER

- BBBP dashboard recorded a rise in sex ratio at birth from 919 (2015-16) to around 930.
- The report found a 3.7 to 5.3 percentage point rise for second children after a girl.
- Goa, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, and Kerala recorded the highest sex ratios at birth.

**MAINS ANGLE** *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

Full note → [satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/132928](https://satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/132928)

## 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.

### REMEMBER

- Urbanization premium — one-time grant for urban local bodies with populations exceeding one lakh.
- Qualification criteria — publication of audited figures and 5% revenue growth.
- State eligibility — states must have disbursed at least 20% of previous grants.

**MAINS ANGLE** *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

Full note → [satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/132737](https://satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/132737)

## 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.

### REMEMBER

- 5G user base target: 1 billion by 2030
- Bharat 6G Alliance: 90 institutions involved with 7,700 patents
- GSMA: Global body called upon to create a framework against cyber frauds and deepfakes

**MAINS ANGLE** *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

Full note → [satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/132623](https://satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/132623)

# Everything else, one line each

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

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

**Mocha port seizure:** Houthis seized Mocha in September, threatening the Bab al-Mandeb strait and escalating maritime security risks.

**Voter deletion:** Nearly 70 lakh voters were permanently deleted from Telangana's electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision.

**Learn Happily:** A Kerala initiative providing counseling for academic pressure and substance abuse in government schools.

**Karunya health schemes:** Kerala allocated over ₹600 crore to clear pending claims for KASP and KBF to restore normal functioning.

**Maritime investment:** Saudi Arabia expressed interest in the Vadhavan port project and Maritime Development Fund during Sagarmathan 2026.

**Death sentence commutation:** Supreme Court judges suggested the 'forgiving nature' in commuting death sentences to life imprisonment must be re-evaluated.

**University Finance Commission:** Commission appointed by Kerala government to evaluate financial sustainability and PPP models for state universities.

**Voter registration:** Maharashtra SEC organized special camps and house-to-house verifications to address ECI SIR process discrepancies.

**Land title deeds:** Kerala Revenue Department issued over 10,000 title deeds to SC, ST, and fishing communities in Attappady.

**Tamil Nadu Assembly resolution:** The 2003 resolution to arrest The Hindu editors was withdrawn in 2004, making the legal challenge infructuous.

MAP WORK

## Places in news

|                                    |                                                                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mocha                              | A port city seized by Houthis in September.                       |
| Bab al-Mandeb                      | A strategic strait threatened by Houthi activities.               |
| Galathea Bay                       | a maritime project site of interest to Saudi Arabian investors.   |
| Teesta River                       | Source of landslides and land sinking in the region               |
| Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve | Covers 2,339 sq km across Sagar, Damoh, and Narsinghpur districts |

Russia reportedly rejects India's comprehensive ceasefire proposal to protect global energy and shipping

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

**Asiatic lion:** Population increased from 674 in 2020 to 891 in 2025.

**Paytm Payments Bank:** RBI removed PPBL from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934, following a Delhi High Court winding order.

**Repo rate hike:** RBI raised the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50% to manage currency depreciation and inflation.

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

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

**Satellite internet:** Starlink, Jio Satcom, and Eutelsat OneWeb are currently awaiting security clearances from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

**Red List Assessment:** Kerala launches a two-year project to map ecological risks across 14 districts using the IUCN RLE framework.

**PERM programme:** US Labour Department suspended PERM filings for Infosys, Wipro, TCS, Cognizant, Tata, HCL, and Capgemini.

**Renewable energy:** Andhra Pradesh mobilized ₹4 lakh crore for 97 projects including solar, wind, and pumped storage hydro.

WHO warns mercury in skin-lightening products poses health risks during Hyderabad discussion

**NH10 Upgrade:** ₹993.64 crore project to upgrade NH10 from Rangpo to Ranipool to counter Teesta River landslides.

**Nobel Prize:** Henri Kagan and Kensō Soai awarded for solving chemical asymmetry to enable side-effect-free pharmaceuticals.

## 5 questions, 5 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

- 1 What is the reduced amount for general penalties under the new GST Council guidelines?
 

☐ a ₹5,000

☐ c ₹15,000

☐ b ₹20,000

☐ d ₹10,000
- 2 Which body is responsible for identifying mark-ups in drug pricing as per the note?
 

☐ a Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation

☐ c National Health Authority

☐ b Drug Controller General of India

☐ d National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority
- 3 Which ministry is responsible for launching the AIKOSH roadmap to train Indian youth in AI?
 

☐ a Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

☐ c Ministry of Education

☐ b Ministry of Science and Technology

☐ d Ministry of Skill Development
- 4 Which act defines the 21 disability conditions identified by the PRASHAST tool?
 

☐ a Disability Rights Act, 1995

☐ c RPwD Act, 2016

☐ b Right to Education Act, 2009

☐ d National Education Policy, 2020
- 5 What is the minimum revenue growth required for urban local bodies to qualify for the urbanization premium?
 

☐ a 5%

☐ c 10%

☐ b 15%

☐ d 2%

## MAINS PRACTICE

## Write one answer today

GS3 · ECONOMY

**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

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



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