

**Current Affairs • October 2026****32 min**
READING TIME**12**
KEY STORIES**54**
IN BRIEF**10 + 3**
MCQS + MAINSGS1 • 2 GS2 • 57
GS3 • 61
PAPER MIX

01 – THE MONTH IN 2 MINUTES

The 6 stories you can't skip

- RBI MPC unanimously votes to hike repo rate to 5.50%**
Why it matters: Monetary policy and inflation management: a core GS3 topic regarding interest rate dynamics.
GS3 • ECONOMY P
- Union Cabinet approves ₹1.86 lakh crore Green Energy Corridor Phase-III**
Why it matters: Renewable energy infrastructure and grid integration: a key GS3 topic on energy security and sustainable development.
GS3 • ECONOMY P M
- 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
- ECI caps voter deletion requests to 10 after Karnataka bulk filing controversy**
Why it matters: Electoral roll integrity and procedural safeguards: a relevant GS2 Polity topic.
GS2 • POLITY & CONSTITUTION P M
- Navanethem Pillay awarded 2026 Nobel Peace Prize for UN inquiry oversight**
Why it matters: International judicial bodies and UN inquiries: a GS2 and Ethics case study on human rights and international law.
GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS P
- Jaishankar meets Ghana leaders to discuss trade, defense and African Union engagement**
Why it matters: South-South Cooperation and India's leadership in the Global South: a key GS2 International Relations topic.
GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS P

FIGURES WORTH REMEMBERING

5.50%

The new policy repo rate after a 25 basis point hike.

55,276

The Nifty Bank index level after gaining over 147 points.

22,680

The Nifty 50 index level after falling around 100 points.

₹1.86 lakh crore

total outlay for GEC-III.

What to know, in 60 seconds each

12 of 406 notes · picked for exam value

GS3 · ECONOMY

P

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.

REMEMBER

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

MAINS ANGLE *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

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/132013

GS3 · ECONOMY

P

M

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.

REMEMBER

- Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) — project to integrate renewable power into the national grid.
- ₹1.86 lakh crore — total outlay for GEC-III.
- ₹1.36 lakh crore — earmarked for intra-state transmission.

MAINS ANGLE *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

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/130847

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

GS2 · POLITY & CONSTITUTION

P

M

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

Why in news: The Election Commission of India capped individual voter deletion requests to prevent bulk filing of Form 7 applications following a controversy in Karnataka.

REMEMBER

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

MAINS ANGLE *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

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/133624

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.

REMEMBER

- Navanethem Pillay — South African judge and current judge at the International Court of Justice
- International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda — body where Pillay previously served
- Norwegian Nobel Committee — body responsible for awarding the Nobel Peace Prize

MAINS ANGLE 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

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/133529

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

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.

REMEMBER

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

MAINS ANGLE 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

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/131889

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.

REMEMBER

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

MAINS ANGLE 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

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/131759

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.

REMEMBER

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

MAINS ANGLE *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

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/131064

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

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

REMEMBER

- Strategic Autonomy: India's evolving role from a neutral advocate to an active mediator.
- Food Diplomacy: Focus on grain exports and energy supplies in the Ukraine conflict.
- Black Sea: Region identified for shipping safety and grain export focus.

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

USE : Strategic Autonomy Multi-alignment Mediation
Energy Security

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/130661

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.

REMEMBER

- Optogenetics: A technique using light to control neurons by expressing light-sensitive proteins.
- Channelrhodopsin: An algal protein used in optogenetics to control neural circuits.
- Retinitis pigmentosa: A condition being treated in clinical trials using optogenetic methods to restore sight.

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

USE : Optogenetics Channelrhodopsin Neural Circuits
Retinitis Pigmentosa

Full note → satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/130947

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

Everything else, one line each

54 more notes · full versions online

GS1 · HISTORY · SOCIETY · GEOGRAPHY

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

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

Major Defense Partnership: Jaishankar and Admiral Paparo discussed deepening security cooperation and regional stability.

Reservation ceiling: Supreme Court upheld strike down of 34% Backward Classes reservation in local bodies due to lack of empirical data.

Labor Certification: US suspends several tech firms from Permanent Labour Certification programme over alleged indentured servants fraud.

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

Voter disenfranchisement: Supreme Court judge stated that excluding millions from voter rolls violates Article 14 and Article 326.

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

White House Accord: A voluntary pact with Meta, Nvidia, Google, OpenAI, xAI, and Anthropic to regulate super intelligence.

Japan investment: Japan to invest 10 trillion yen over 10 years to bolster India's manufacturing and energy security.

Ganga Water Sharing Treaty: Bangladesh hopes for a new agreement before the current 30-year treaty expires on December 12, 2026.

Lebanon conflict: Israel's re-intensified attacks resulted in over 9,000 deaths and a projected 6 percent economic contraction by 2026.

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

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

Trade margin cap: Union government caps trade margins at 30% for non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs to save ₹2,500 crore annually.

PRASHAST tool: MoE trained 72 lakh teachers to use the tool for identifying 21 disability conditions across 60,000 schools.

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

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

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

Israel-Palestine conflict: Hamas and Palestinian armed groups killed over 1,200 people and took 251 hostages on 7 October 2023.

Cabinet approves proposal to set up Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority

Preamble philosophy: Supreme Court upheld socialist and secular as integral to the Preamble, dismissing challenges to the 42nd Amendment.

India-EU FTA: Meeting scheduled for December 16 in Brussels to discuss trade and middle power coalitions.

India-Switzerland ties: President Guy Parmelin and PM Modi discussed TEPA, migration partnership, and cooperation on terror financing.

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.

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

RBI interest rates: MPC raised rates by 25 bps and shifted stance to calibrated tightening to combat rising inflation.

Repo rate hike: RBI expected to raise benchmark repurchase rate by a quarter point to 5.50 per cent to combat inflation.

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

GST Enforcement: GST Council scrapped arrest powers for officers and raised prosecution threshold to ₹5 crore.

GDP Forecast: World Bank upgraded India's FY27 growth projection to 7.1 per cent due to robust domestic demand and exports.

Sol mapping: India identified 28 geographical features on the official Survey of India map in Ladakh following PLA movements.

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

Forex derivatives: RBI prohibits rebooking of cancelled rupee-linked contracts and lowers hedging threshold to \$5 million.

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

AIKOSH roadmap: MeitY initiative to integrate 10 million Indian youth into the AI space while addressing safety concerns.

Urbanization premium: One-time grant for urban local bodies over one lakh population to incentivize revenue growth and transparency.

5G expansion: India targets increasing 5G users from 550 million to one billion by 2030.

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.

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

Defence SOP: Revised SOP waives charges and reserves quarterly slots for indigenous projects at proof and firing ranges.

Indigenous smartphone: MeitY to partner with Indian firms to produce a smartphone with Indian design and Android OS by 2028.

Winter Action Plan: Mandates 'No PUCC, No Fuel' at 500 stations and bans non-BS-VI vehicles from November 1.

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

AMCA propulsion: Proposed ₹5,000 crore investment at HAL Koraput in partnership with MIDHANI to bolster aero-engine capabilities.

Project Cheetah: India-born cheetah KJP21 gave birth to five cubs in Kuno National Park, establishing a new genetic lineage.

Toy tariffs: India increased toy import tariffs from 20% to 70% as the trade deficit with China reached \$112bn.

Gaganyaan mission: India plans its human spaceflight mission for 2027 as part of global space exploration.

RBI hawkish stance: Governor Sanjay Malhotra signaled higher-for-longer interest rates to counter \$4.5 billion in capital outflows.

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.

MAP WORK

Places in news

Great Nicobar Island	Project site under litigation regarding Forest Rights Act compliance
Black Sea	Region identified for shipping safety and grain export focus.
Padma River	the name of the Ganga River upon entering Bangladesh, 22 km downstream from Farakka Barrage.
Mocha	A port city seized by Houthis in September.
Bab al-Mandeb	A strategic strait threatened by Houthi activities.

10 questions, 10 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

1 Which body is responsible for determining the repo rate in India?

- ☐ a Financial Stability Board ☐ b Securities and Exchange Board
☐ c Monetary Policy Committee ☐ d National Development Council

2 What is the target capacity for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) under the Green Energy Corridor Phase-III?

- ☐ a 100 GWh ☐ b 75 GWh
☐ c 25 GWh ☐ d 50 GWh

3 What is the revised GDP growth forecast for 2026–27 as projected by the RBI?

- ☐ a 8.2% ☐ b 7.5%
☐ c 6.7% ☐ d 7.1%

4 With reference to the voter enrollment drive by the Election Commission, consider the following statements:

1. The special drive was initiated to enroll voters after 5 crore names were deleted.
2. Booth Level Officers are required to use Form 5 to enroll eligible voters.
3. Approximately 13.3 crore names were deleted from the voter lists.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5 With reference to the Election Commission of India's measures for electoral roll maintenance, consider the following statements:

1. Form 7 is the application used for the deletion of a name from the electoral roll.
2. The ECI capped individual voter deletion requests at 10 during continuous updation.
3. The ECI has capped individual voter deletion requests at 15 during claims and objections periods.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6 Which international judicial body currently has Navanethem Pillay serving as a judge?

- ☐ a International Court of Justice ☐ b European Court of Human Rights
☐ c World Bank ☐ d International Criminal Court

7 Which Indian body signed an MoU with the University of Ghana during the visit?

- ☐ a Wildlife Institute of India ☐ b National Institute of Oceanography
☐ c Botanical Survey of India ☐ d Zoological Survey of India

8 With reference to the removal of Bitchat from Indian app stores, consider the following statements:

1. India accounted for 95% of Bitchat downloads between July 17 and July 23.
2. The order was issued by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
3. The app was removed from the App Store and Google Play following user protests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- 9 What is the maximum deadweight tonnage capacity of ships that can be built and launched at HSL's upgraded Slipway-4?
- (a) 50,000 tonnes (b) 45,000 tonnes
(c) 30,000 tonnes (d) 60,000 tonnes

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

MAINS PRACTICE

Mains questions to practise

GS3 • ECONOMY

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

GS3 • ECONOMY

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

GS3 • ECONOMY

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

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



TELEGRAM



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