

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

READING TIME

**10**

KEY STORIES

**36**

IN BRIEF

**8 + 2**

MCQS + MAINS

GS1 • 3

GS2 • 22

GS3 • 25

PAPER MIX

## 01 – THE WEEK IN 2 MINUTES

**The 6 stories you can't skip**

- India moves beyond advocacy to engage Kyiv and Moscow on Ukraine conflict**  
Why it matters: India's shift from neutral advocacy to active mediation: a key GS2 case study on Strategic Autonomy.  
GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 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
- Jaishankar meets Admiral Paparo to discuss India-U.S. maritime cooperation**  
Why it matters: India-U.S. security and Quad cooperation: a key GS2 International Relations topic.  
GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS P
- East and northeast regions record driest monsoon since 1901**  
Why it matters: Climate variability and El Niño impacts on monsoon patterns: a GS1 Geography and climate change study.  
GS1 • GEOGRAPHY P
- Union Cabinet approves ₹1,86,405 crore for Green Energy Corridor Phase-III**  
Why it matters: Energy security and grid infrastructure: a key GS3 topic on India's renewable energy transition.  
GS3 • ECONOMY P M
- Home Minister unveils PRAHAAR strategy and busts Shahzad Bhatti network**  
Why it matters: Internal Security: UAPA application and inter-agency coordination in dismantling terror modules.  
GS3 • INTERNAL SECURITY P M

## FIGURES WORTH REMEMBERING

**13.3 crore**

the approximate number of names deleted from voter lists.

**759.4 mm**

India's 2026 southwest monsoon rainfall (87% of Long Period Average)

**1,017.1 mm**

Rainfall in the east and northeast region, the lowest since 1901

**542 mm**

Rainfall in the southern peninsula, the fourth lowest since 1901

# What to know, in 60 seconds each

10 of 294 notes · picked for exam value

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

M

## 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/news/130661](https://satyadheesh.in/news/130661)

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

## Jaishankar meets Admiral Paparo to discuss India-U.S. maritime cooperation

**Why in news:** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Commander Admiral Samuel J. Paparo to discuss deepening the Major Defense Partnership and Quad cooperation.

### REMEMBER

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

**MAINS ANGLE** Examine how the deepening of the India-U.S. Major Defense Partnership and Quad cooperation contributes to maritime security and regional stability in the Indo-Pacific.

USE: Maritime Security Indo-Pacific Major Defense Partnership Quad Cooperation

Full note → [satyadheesh.in/news/130672](https://satyadheesh.in/news/130672)

GS2 · POLITY &amp; 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/news/129344](https://satyadheesh.in/news/129344)

GS1 · GEOGRAPHY

P

## East and northeast regions record driest monsoon since 1901

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

### REMEMBER

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

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

USE: El Niño Monsoon variability Climate change Hydrological stress

Full note → [satyadheesh.in/news/128578](https://satyadheesh.in/news/128578)

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

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

### REMEMBER

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

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

USE : Renewable Energy Grid Integration  
Battery Energy Storage Decarbonization

Full note → [satyadheesh.in/news/128352](https://satyadheesh.in/news/128352)

## 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/news/130363](https://satyadheesh.in/news/130363)

## Home Minister unveils PRAHAAR strategy and busts Shahzad Bhatti network

**Why in news:** Home Minister Amit Shah announced the busting of 40 modules linked to the Shahzad Bhatti network and the unveiling of the PRAHAAR strategy for counter-terrorism.

### REMEMBER

- Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) — used to declare the Shahzad Bhatti network as a terrorist organisation.
- PRAHAAR strategy — a counter-terrorism strategy unveiled by the government.
- Extradition Portal — a government initiative launched to expedite the return of fugitives.

**MAINS ANGLE** Examine the effectiveness of the UAPA and inter-agency coordination in dismantling complex terror networks in India.

USE : Counter-terrorism UAPA Inter-agency coordination  
Extradition

Full note → [satyadheesh.in/news/127298](https://satyadheesh.in/news/127298)

## 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/news/130116](https://satyadheesh.in/news/130116)

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

**Why in news:** Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal met U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer to discuss an interim trade agreement following changes in U.S. tariff policies.

### REMEMBER

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

**MAINS ANGLE** *Discuss the challenges and opportunities for India in navigating shifting U.S. tariff policies to secure competitive trade advantages in the global market.*

USE : Trade Liberalization Tariff Policy Bilateral Cooperation  
Competitive Advantage

Full note → [satyadheesh.in/news/128774](https://satyadheesh.in/news/128774)

## Supreme Court orders Delhi Police to audit lighting and CCTV after rape cases

**Why in news:** The Supreme Court took suo motu cognizance of sexual assault incidents in Delhi-NCR and directed the Delhi Police to audit lighting and CCTV coverage within four weeks.

### REMEMBER

- Astha Kunj park and Swaroop Nagar — locations in Delhi-NCR where recent sexual assault incidents occurred
- Vulnerability mapping — process mandated by the court to identify and secure high-risk areas
- Suo motu cognizance — the court's action taken on its own motion regarding sexual assault incidents

**MAINS ANGLE** *Examine the role of judicial activism in ensuring public safety and the protection of fundamental rights against crimes against women in urban areas.*

USE : Suo motu cognizance Article 21 Vulnerability mapping  
Public safety

Full note → [satyadheesh.in/news/127393](https://satyadheesh.in/news/127393)

# Everything else, one line each

36 more notes · full versions online

## GS1 · HISTORY · SOCIETY · GEOGRAPHY

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

## GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

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

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

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

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

**UAE Investment:** The UAE plans to invest an additional \$25 billion in India to reach a cumulative target of \$100 billion.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

**Zorawar light tank:** Government aims to induct a limited batch of Zorawar light tanks to counter China's Type-15 tanks along the LAC.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Winter Action Plan:** Delhi bans non-compliant vehicles from November 1 and launches 'No PUCC, No Fuel' campaign at 500 pumps.

**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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Places in news

|                                    |                                                                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Black Sea                          | Region identified for shipping safety and grain export focus.           |
| Astha Kunj park and Swaroop Nagar  | locations in Delhi–NCR where recent sexual assault incidents occurred   |
| Ladakh                             | The Union Territory where the 28 geographical features were identified. |
| Cape Canaveral Space Force Station | Launch site located in Florida, USA                                     |
| Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh             | the site of the November 2024 violence.                                 |

## 8 questions, 8 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

1 Which region was identified as a focus area for shipping safety and grain exports in the Ukraine conflict?

- (a) South China Sea (b) Black Sea  
(c) Red Sea (d) Mediterranean Sea

2 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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6 With reference to the crackdown on the Shahzad Bhatti network, consider the following statements:

1. The Shahzad Bhatti network was declared a terrorist organisation under the UAPA.
2. An Extradition Portal was launched to expedite the return of fugitives.
3. The operation resulted in the arrest of over 400 people across 15 states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

- (a) 36 (b) 42  
(c) 50 (d) 60

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

#### MAINS PRACTICE

### Mains questions to practise

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**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 Food Diplomacy

GS2 · POLITY & CONSTITUTION

**Discuss the importance of maintaining an accurate and inclusive electoral roll in ensuring the integrity of the democratic process in India.**

USE: Universal Adult Franchise Electoral Integrity Constitutional Mandate Voter Awareness Administrative Efficiency

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



TELEGRAM



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