

**SATYADHEESH**
सत्याधीश

UPSC WEEKLY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs • Week 40 • 28 Sep – 4 Oct 2026**50**

NOTES

31

STORIES MERGED

10

MCQS

GS1 • 3

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PAPER MIX

CONTENTS

Every note, grouped by paper

GS1	History • Society • Geography	3 notes
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	Economy	10
	Agriculture	1
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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.

History & Culture

2

ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL INDIA

P

M

29 Sep · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/127859 · Report a mistake

NCERT replaces European Revolutions with Medieval India history in Class 9

WHY IN NEWS NCERT released a new Class 9 Social Science textbook replacing European Revolutions with a focus on India's medieval history and regional resistance movements.

- CONCEPT** | Medieval History Period — The new textbook covers the period between 1,000 and 1,700 CE.
- EVENT** | Jat Uprising of 1669 — Featured as a key regional resistance movement.
- PERSON** | Sikh Gurus — The textbook includes content on their persecution under Mughal emperors.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of incorporating regional resistance movements and medieval history into the school curriculum to foster a nuanced understanding of Indian identity.

USE: Pedagogical shift Historical agency Regional resistance Curriculum design Historiography

HERITAGE SITES, UNESCO & GI TAGS

P

30 Sep · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/128055 · Report a mistake

India adds five new sites including Udaigiri Caves to UNESCO Tentative List

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Culture (PIB) announced the addition of five new sites, including the Udaigiri Caves and Satyagraha-linked sites, to UNESCO's Tentative List for World Heritage.

- CONCEPT** | UNESCO Tentative List — A list of properties that have been identified as having potential for being inscribed on the World Heritage List.
- FIGURE** | 78 — The total number of Indian sites currently on the UNESCO Tentative List.
- PLACE** | Udaigiri Caves, Bagh Cave Paintings, and Ginnorgarh Fort — New additions to the tentative list.
- EVENT** | Satyagraha sites — Included as a serial transnational proposal involving India and South Africa.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of preserving and promoting transnational heritage sites in strengthening cultural diplomacy and international cooperation.

USE: Cultural Diplomacy Transnational Heritage UNESCO Tentative List Satyagraha Heritage Conservation

Geography

1

GEOPHYSICAL PHENOMENA (EARTHQUAKES, CYCLONES, VOLCANOES)

P

3 REPORTS MERGED

30 Sep · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/128578 · Report a mistake

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.

- BODY** | India Meteorological Department (IMD) — responsible for systematic monsoon records and forecasting
- CONCEPT** | El Niño — attributed by IMD as a cause for the subdued monsoon rainfall
- FIGURE** | 759.4 mm — India's 2026 southwest monsoon rainfall (87% of Long Period Average)
- FIGURE** | 1,017.1 mm — Rainfall in the east and northeast region, the lowest since 1901
- FIGURE** | 542 mm — Rainfall in the southern peninsula, the fourth lowest since 1901

MAINS Q 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 IMD forecasting

Polity & Constitution

7

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

P

2 REPORTS MERGED

28 Sep · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/127339 · Report a mistake

Supreme Court Collegium recommends three High Court Chiefs for elevation

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court Collegium recommended the elevation of three High Court Chief Justices to the Supreme Court, initiating the formal appointment process.

CONCEPT	Supreme Court Collegium: A mechanism consisting of the Chief Justice of India and four other judges for recommending judicial appointments.
PERSON	Justice Sunita Agarwal: Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court.
PERSON	Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya: Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.
PERSON	Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh: Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court.

MAINS Q Critically analyze the Collegium system of judicial appointments in India, discussing its role in maintaining judicial independence and the need for transparency.

USE: Judicial Independence Collegium System Judicial Appointments Separation of Powers Transparency

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, DPSP & DUTIES

P

M

2 REPORTS MERGED

29 Sep · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/127546 · Report a mistake

Supreme Court quashes Mulla Afroz's detention under NSA

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court quashed the preventive detention of Mulla Afroz under the National Security Act (NSA), ruling that the Uttar Pradesh government illegally exercised its power by failing to consider relevant material.

ACT	National Security Act (NSA) — allows for the preventive detention of individuals.
CONCEPT	Confessional statement — the court ruled this alone cannot justify preventive detention.
FIGURE	₹10 lakh — the cost imposed by the Supreme Court on the Uttar Pradesh government.
PLACE	Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh — the site of the November 2024 violence.

MAINS Q Critically examine the safeguards required to prevent the arbitrary exercise of preventive detention powers under the National Security Act to protect individual liberty.

USE: Preventive Detention National Security Act Judicial Review Personal Liberty Due Process

ELECTIONS, ECI & ELECTORAL REFORMS

P

M

30 Sep · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/128140 · Report a mistake

Petition seeks inquiry into CEC database tampering and voter disenfranchisement

WHY IN NEWS Supreme Court advocate Shailendra Mani Tripathi filed a petition seeking an independent inquiry into allegations of database tampering and voter disenfranchisement by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

ACT	Representation of the People Act, 1950: Section 32 relates to offences regarding electoral rolls.
CONCEPT	Cognisable offences: Allegations suggest actions under Section 32 of the Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.
CONCEPT	Article 361: Provides immunity to the President and Governors; petition argues it does not apply to the CEC.
BODY	Election Commission of India (ECI): Responsible for maintaining electoral rolls and conducting elections.

MAINS Q Examine the constitutional and legal implications of ensuring the independence and accountability of the Election Commission of India in safeguarding the integrity of the electoral process.

USE: Constitutional Democracy Statutory Immunity Electoral Integrity Cognisable Offences Accountability

Supreme Court to examine press freedom vs legislative privileges

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court agreed to examine a 2003 case involving *The Hindu* and Tamil Nadu's legislative privilege to determine if Article 194(3) can be used to limit press freedom under Article 19(1)(a).

- CONCEPT** | Article 19(1)(a) — Guarantees freedom of speech and expression, including press freedom.
- CONCEPT** | Article 194(3) — Relates to the privileges of the House in State Legislatures.
- BODY** | Seven-judge Bench — Scheduled to examine the 2003 case involving The Hindu and Tamil Nadu.

MAINS Q Critically examine the conflict between legislative privileges and the fundamental right to freedom of the press in the Indian constitutional framework.

USE: Legislative Privilege Freedom of Press Harmonious Construction Fundamental Rights Judicial Review

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.

- BODY** | Election Commission — directed Chief Electoral Officers to conduct a special drive for voter enrollment.
- FIGURE** | 13.3 crore — the approximate number of names deleted from voter lists.
- CONCEPT** | Form 6 — the specific form used for enrolling eligible voters.
- EVENT** | House-to-house visits — Booth Level Officers tasked to identify left-out electors within one month.

MAINS Q 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

Union Law Ministry publishes rules for National Tribunals Commission

WHY IN NEWS The Union Law Ministry published rules for the National Tribunals Commission to oversee 16 tribunals following the passage of the Tribunals Reforms Bill in August.

- BODY** | National Tribunals Commission — Body established to oversee 16 tribunals to ensure independence and transparency.
- PLACE** | Delhi — Headquarters of the National Tribunals Commission.
- FIGURE** | ₹2.5 lakh — Monthly remuneration for the chairperson of the Commission.
- FIGURE** | ₹2.25 lakh — Monthly remuneration for members of the Commission.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the National Tribunals Commission in ensuring the independence of judicial bodies and reducing the pendency of cases in Indian tribunals.

USE: Judicial Independence Tribunal Reforms Administrative Oversight Transparency Judicial Pendency

Supreme Court judge says disenfranchising millions violates Article 14 and 326

WHY IN NEWS Justice Ujjal Bhuyan of the Supreme Court stated that disenfranchising millions of Indian citizens violates Article 14 and Article 326, arguing that voting is central to the Basic Structure doctrine.

- CONCEPT** | Basic Structure Doctrine: Voting is considered central to this doctrine.
- CONCEPT** | Article 14: Right to Equality violated by disenfranchisement.
- FIGURE** | 13 crore: Number of names reportedly excluded from draft rolls across three phases.

MAINS Q *Examine the constitutional implications of voter disenfranchisement and discuss the significance of the right to vote as a component of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.*

USE: Basic Structure Doctrine Right to Equality Universal Adult Franchise Electoral Roll Integrity Constitutionalism

Governance

2

Union Government seeks Supreme Court stay on Great Nicobar Island project petitions

WHY IN NEWS The Union government sought a Supreme Court stay on petitions filed by retired IAS officer Meena Gupta alleging violations of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) in the ₹92,000-crore Great Nicobar Island project.

- CONCEPT** | Forest Rights Act (FRA) — Legislation governing rights of forest-dwelling communities
- FIGURE** | ₹92,000 crore — Total value of the Great Nicobar Island project
- PERSON** | Meena Gupta — Retired IAS officer and former Secretary in Environment and Tribal Affairs Ministries

MAINS Q *Examine the conflict between large-scale infrastructure development and the statutory rights of forest-dwelling communities under the Forest Rights Act.*

USE: Forest Rights Act Locus Standi Environmental Governance Tribal Rights Infrastructure Development

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

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Education approved five Centres of Excellence to strengthen the research, digitisation, and preservation of Classical Assamese, Bengali, Pali, Marathi, and Prakrit.

- BODY** | Tezpur University, Visva Bharati University, Central University of Odisha, Central University of Gujarat, and Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute are the designated centres.
- FACT** | The initiative covers five specific languages: Classical Assamese, Bengali, Pali, Marathi, and Prakrit.
- POST** | The initiative was praised by Mohan Charan Majhi.

MAINS Q *Discuss the significance of establishing Centres of Excellence in preserving and digitising India's linguistic heritage in the era of rapid technological advancement.*

USE: Linguistic heritage Digitisation Cultural preservation Research infrastructure Classical languages

India and China discuss Xinjiang airspace for alternate flight routes

WHY IN NEWS India is in talks with China to explore Xinjiang airspace as an alternate route for Indian airlines due to Pakistan's airspace ban.

- PLACE** | Hotan: A region in Xinjiang, China, being discussed as an alternate flight route.
- EVENT** | China Southern Airlines resumed direct flights between Guangzhou and New Delhi on September 21, 2026.
- CONCEPT** | Restoration of air connectivity as a tool for de-escalating border tensions and fostering economic cooperation.

MAINS Q Examine how the restoration of air connectivity between India and China serves as a tool for de-escalating border tensions and fostering economic cooperation.

USE: bilateral diplomacy connectivity geopolitical strategy de-escalation

Japan urges India to expedite UNICORN radar deal for Quad naval plans

WHY IN NEWS A Japanese Ministry of Defence official urged India to expedite the internal processing of the UNICORN naval radar agreement signed during Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's July visit.

- CONCEPT** | UNICORN: Naval radar system involved in the India-Japan defence agreement
- PLACE** | Sea of Japan: Location for planned Quad naval exercises
- CONCEPT** | FOIP: Free and Open Indo-Pacific principles guiding military collaboration

MAINS Q Examine how the deepening of India-Japan defence cooperation under the FOIP framework serves as a strategic counterweight to regional maritime challenges.

USE: Free and Open Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness Strategic Autonomy Defence Diplomacy Quad Collaboration

India attends SCO preparatory meeting in Islamabad

WHY IN NEWS Pakistan announced it will host the SCO Summit in August 2027, leading to India's first attendance at an SCO preparatory meeting in Islamabad since Operation Sindoor.

- CONCEPT** | SCO: Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
- EVENT** | SCO National Coordinators' meeting: A three-day meeting held in Islamabad
- DATE** | August 2027: Scheduled date for Pakistan to host the SCO Summit

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in shaping the geopolitical dynamics of Central and South Asia.

USE: multilateralism strategic autonomy regional cooperation geopolitical dynamics

US pauses USD 14 billion arms package for Taiwan as trade bargaining chip

WHY IN NEWS Donald Trump and Xi Jinping met in Washington, resulting in a two-month trade truce extension and the revelation that the US paused a USD 14 billion arms package for Taiwan as a bargaining chip.

- FIGURE** | USD 14 billion — the record arms package amount paused by the US for Taiwan.
- EVENT** | Trade truce extension — a two-month extension and a new agricultural working group were established.
- PLACE** | Washington — the location where Donald Trump and Xi Jinping met for a summit.
- FIGURE** | 50% tariff hike — the increase on Indian goods by the US in August 2025.

MAINS Q *Analyze how the shift towards 'managed competition' between the US and China impacts India's strategic autonomy and its leverage in bilateral trade negotiations.*

USE: managed competition strategic autonomy trade truce geopolitical leverage repricing

3 REPORTS MERGED

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)

- CONCEPT** | White House Accord on Super Intelligence: A voluntary pact mandating internal guardrails, independent audits, and oversight committees.
- ACT** | Ban Artificial Superintelligence Act: A legislative proposal by Bernie Sanders and Greg Casar as a counter-measure.

MAINS Q *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 Technological Oversight

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

WHY IN NEWS Russia issued a diplomatic memo to NATO warning of the use of its entire arsenal, including nuclear weapons, in response to a potential air and naval blockade of Kaliningrad.

- POST** | Mark Rutte: Secretary-General of NATO
- PLACE** | Kaliningrad: Russian exclave on the Baltic Sea
- FACT** | Russia warned of using its entire arsenal including nuclear weapons

MAINS Q *Analyze the implications of escalating nuclear rhetoric and regional blockades on the stability of the European security architecture.*

USE: Nuclear deterrence Security architecture Diplomatic memo Strategic blockade Regional instability

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.

POST | Jamieson Greer: U.S. Trade Representative

FACT | India is seeking competitive advantages over ASEAN countries, China, and Bangladesh

PLACE | Milwaukee: Location of the trade discussion

MAINS Q 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](#)

India and Canada aim to scale bilateral trade to USD 70 billion by 2031

WHY IN NEWS India and Canada aim to scale bilateral trade from USD 30 billion to USD 70 billion by 2031, initiating the fifth round of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations in Ottawa.

CONCEPT | Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) — trade agreement between India and Canada

FIGURE | USD 30 billion — current bilateral trade volume between India and Canada

FIGURE | USD 70 billion — target bilateral trade volume between India and Canada by 2031

PLACE | Ottawa — location for the fifth round of CEPA negotiations

CONCEPT | Key focus areas — energy, critical minerals, and supply chain diversification

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of diversifying supply chains and securing critical minerals in strengthening India's bilateral trade relations with North American partners.

USE: [bilateral trade](#) [supply chain diversification](#) [critical minerals](#) [trade liberalization](#)

Russia to recruit 70,000 Indian skilled workers this year

WHY IN NEWS External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar briefed a parliamentary committee on India's engagement with Russia, highlighting a plan for Russia to recruit approximately 70,000 Indian skilled workers this year.

FIGURE | 70,000 — Number of Indian skilled workers Russia plans to take this year

PLACE | Bishkek — Location of the meeting between PM Modi and Vladimir Putin

CONCEPT | Trade expansion — India and Russia plan to expand trade in seven specific areas

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of labor migration and trade diversification in strengthening India's strategic partnership with Russia amidst evolving global geopolitical dynamics.

USE: [Strategic Partnership](#) [Labor Migration](#) [Trade Diversification](#) [Geopolitical Diplomacy](#) [Human Capital](#)

Seychelles secures world's first ocean debt conversion for conservation

WHY IN NEWS The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation and other funders backed a world's first ocean debt conversion deal with Seychelles to turn \$21.6 million in foreign debt into conservation funding.

CONCEPT	Debt-for-nature swap — converting foreign debt into funding for marine conservation efforts.
PLACE	Seychelles — the first nation to participate in an ocean debt conversion deal.
FIGURE	\$21.6 million — the total amount of foreign debt converted into conservation funding.
FIGURE	30% — the target percentage of protected areas to be achieved by 2020.
BODY	Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation — a key funder of the ocean debt conversion initiative.

MAINS Q Discuss the potential of 'debt-for-nature' swaps as a viable mechanism for financing marine conservation in developing and island nations.

USE: Debt-for-nature swap Marine conservation Sovereign debt Blue economy Climate finance

Germany announces 1.3-billion euro support package for Ukraine

WHY IN NEWS German Chancellor Friedrich Merz visited Kyiv to announce a 1.3-billion euro support package amidst a massive Russian drone strike on Ukrainian infrastructure.

PLACE	Pivnichnyi Bridge — a major bridge located in Kyiv, Ukraine
FIGURE	1.3-billion euro package — support announced by Germany during Chancellor Friedrich Merz's visit
FIGURE	8.5 billion euros — total value of agreements signed between Germany and Ukraine
CONCEPT	Infrastructure Warfare — targeting of bridges, pharmaceutical warehouses, and communications facilities

MAINS Q Analyze the role of European diplomatic and financial support in sustaining Ukraine's defense against Russian infrastructure-targeted warfare.

USE: Geopolitics Infrastructure Warfare Bilateral Agreements Humanitarian Crisis Strategic Support

Zelenskyy announces readiness for trilateral talks with US and Russia

WHY IN NEWS President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced Ukraine's readiness for trilateral talks with the US and Russia this month, while India's External Affairs Minister S.

PLACE	Kyiv — Capital of Ukraine where Zelenskyy announced readiness for trilateral talks.
PLACE	Munich Security Conference — Venue where India's mediation role was discussed.
FIGURE	October 2026 — Washington's target date for initiating technical-level talks.

MAINS Q Discuss the evolving role of middle powers like India in mediating global conflicts and the geopolitical implications of trilateral negotiations in the Ukraine-Russia crisis.

USE: Strategic Autonomy Mediation Trilateral Diplomacy Geopolitical Alignment Multipolar World Order

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.

- CONCEPT** | Strategic Autonomy: India's evolving role from a neutral advocate to an active mediator.
- CONCEPT** | Food Diplomacy: Focus on grain exports and energy supplies in the Ukraine conflict.
- PLACE** | Black Sea: Region identified for shipping safety and grain export focus.
- EVENT** | Munich Leaders' Meeting: Forum where India's shift in engagement strategy was stated.

MAINS Q 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

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.

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

MAINS Q 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 Strategic Autonomy

GS3

Economy · S&T · Environment · Security

24 NOTES

Economy

10

India aims for 10 GW polysilicon production by August to cut China dependence

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is developing an incentive scheme to boost domestic polysilicon production to reduce India's heavy reliance on Chinese imports.

- BODY** | Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) — Nodal body for the polysilicon incentive scheme
- FIGURE** | 213 GW — India's current solar module manufacturing capacity
- FIGURE** | 32 GW — India's current solar cell capacity
- FIGURE** | 30 GW — Long-term target for polysilicon production by 2030

MAINS Q Examine the significance of developing a vertically integrated solar supply chain in India to achieve energy security and reduce import dependencies.

USE: Vertical Integration Energy Security Supply Chain Resilience Import Substitution Renewable Energy Infrastructure

Centre notifies CAFE-3 norms to reduce fuel consumption by 16.7% by 2031-32

WHY IN NEWS The Centre notified the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE-3) norms for passenger vehicles, setting a target to reduce fuel consumption benchmarks by 16.7% by 2031–32.

CONCEPT	CAFE-3: Corporate Average Fuel Economy norms for passenger vehicles manufactured or imported for sale in India.
FIGURE	16.7%: Target reduction in fuel consumption benchmarks by 2031–32.
FIGURE	1,229 kg: The increased reference weight under the CAFE-3 norms.
CONCEPT	Carbon Neutrality Factor (CNF): Introduced to allow concessions based on eligible technologies.
DATE	April 1, 2027 to March 31, 2032: The effective period for CAFE-3 norms.

MAINS Q Discuss how the CAFE-3 norms align with India's commitment to decarbonizing the transport sector while balancing industrial growth.

USE: decarbonization fuel efficiency regulatory framework carbon neutrality industrial policy

India to become super-aged by 2065 as fertility rate hits 1.9

WHY IN NEWS A Moody's report and an EAC-PM paper highlight India's transition to a 'super-aged' society by 2065 due to a fertility rate of 1.9, posing a risk of aging before becoming rich.

CONCEPT	Super-aged society — India is projected to reach this status by 2065.
FIGURE	Fertility rate — Currently at 1.9 (1.6 excluding Bihar and Uttar Pradesh).
FIGURE	Annual births — Dropped to 2.32 crore.
FIGURE	Female labor force participation — Currently at 32 per cent.
EVENT	Ageing category — India entered this category around 2024.

MAINS Q Discuss the economic implications of India becoming a 'super-aged' society before achieving high-income status and suggest measures to mitigate the shrinking working-age population.

USE: Demographic Transition Fertility Rate Dependency Ratio Super-aged Society Female Labor Force Participation

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.

SCHEME	Green Energy Corridor Phase-III — A scheme to facilitate the evacuation of 135 GW of renewable energy.
FIGURE	₹1,36,378 crore — Allocation for Intra-State Transmission Systems under the scheme.
FIGURE	50 GWh — Target for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) under the scheme.
CONCEPT	900 GW — India's national non-fossil capacity target by 2035.
CONCEPT	500 GW — India's renewable energy target by 2030.

MAINS Q 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 Energy Security

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.

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

MAINS Q 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 Import Substitution

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.

- BODY** | Reserve Bank of India (RBI) — The institution that released the external debt data.
- FIGURE** | Debt-to-GDP ratio — Moderated to 20.8% as of end-June.
- FIGURE** | Net claims of non-residents — Rose to \$220.3 billion.
- FIGURE** | August services trade — Exports reached \$35.5 billion against \$18.9 billion in imports.

MAINS Q 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 Macroeconomic Stability

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.

- CONCEPT** | Indian crude basket — a mix of sweet (Brent-based) and sour (Oman/Dubai-based) crude
- FIGURE** | 7.8% — India's real GDP growth in Q1 FY27
- FIGURE** | 9.2% — Manufacturing growth in Q1 FY27
- FIGURE** | 12.1% — Services growth in Q1 FY27
- FIGURE** | 7.7% — Real Industry GVA rise year-on-year in Q1 FY27

MAINS Q 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 Trade Policy

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.

CONCEPT	Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) — A 0.4% fee on P2M UPI payments exceeding ₹2,000.
FIGURE	₹300 — The maximum cap on MDR for transactions of ₹75,000 and above.
BODY	NPCI — The body providing statewide UPI transaction data.
DATE	15 October 2026 — The effective date for the new MDR framework.

MAINS Q 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 Transaction Costs

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.

CONCEPT	Biometric Aadhaar authentication (BAA) — required for full LPG subsidy eligibility.
BODY	Indian Oil, BPCL, and HPCL — Public Sector Undertakings mandated to implement BAA norms.
FIGURE	11 lakh users — reported in Telangana to lack eKYC as of October 2026.
DATE	1 October 2026 — date the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas issued the mandate.

MAINS Q 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 Last-mile Delivery

Centre considers ₹5,129 crore Sawalkot hydropower project in J&K

WHY IN NEWS The Union Power Secretary announced that the Centre is considering the ₹5,129 crore Sawalkot hydropower project in J&K following India's suspension of the Indus Water Treaty.

BODY	NHPC — The agency behind the Sawalkot hydropower project initiative.
FIGURE	800 megawatts — The power generation capacity of the Sawalkot project.
FIGURE	₹5,129 crores — The estimated cost of the Sawalkot hydropower project.
PLACE	Pahalgam — Location of the 2025 attack leading to the Indus Water Treaty suspension.
SCHEME	PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana — Scheme under which J&K reached a 100 MW milestone.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of suspending the Indus Water Treaty on India's energy security and regional hydro-politics.

USE: Energy Security Transboundary Water Hydro-politics Infrastructure Development Bilateral Relations

Union Cabinet approves rabi crop MSP hikes for 2027-28 marketing year

WHY IN NEWS The Union Cabinet approved increased Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for six rabi crops for the 2027-28 marketing year, with a total estimated farmer payout of ₹90,962 crore.

CONCEPT	Minimum Support Price (MSP) — price at which the government purchases crops from farmers to ensure income security.
BODY	CACP (Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices) — the body that provides recommendations for MSP.
FIGURE	Wheat MSP 2027-28 — ₹2,610 per quintal, which is more than double its production cost of ₹1,264 per quintal.
FIGURE	Barley MSP 2027-28 — ₹2,286 per quintal.
FIGURE	Masur MSP 2027-28 — ₹7,390 per quintal.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of Minimum Support Price (MSP) in ensuring farmer income security and its impact on the fiscal health of the public distribution system.

USE: Minimum Support Price Rabi crops CACP Food Security Agricultural Economics

Science & Technology

Omar Yaghi wins Nobel Prize for extracting water in Death Valley

WHY IN NEWS Omar Yaghi and his team won the 2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for developing a device that extracts liquid water from air in extremely arid conditions.

PERSON	Omar Yaghi — Saudi national and UC Berkeley professor who won the 2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry
CONCEPT	MOF-303 — A material used in a device to extract liquid water from air
PLACE	Furnace Creek, Death Valley National Park — Location of the successful water extraction experiment
FIGURE	14% humidity — The level of humidity at which the device successfully extracted water

MAINS Q Discuss how advancements in Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs) can address global water scarcity in arid and semi-arid regions.

USE: Metal-Organic Frameworks Atmospheric Water Generation Water Scarcity Sustainable Technology Nobel Prize in Chemistry

IN-SPACe mandates authorization for hosted-payloads under Space Policy 2023

WHY IN NEWS IN-SPACe released guidelines under the Indian Space Policy 2023 requiring Indian entities to seek authorization for hosted-payloads to ensure international treaty compliance and national security.

CONCEPT	Hosted-payloads: Require specific authorization from IN-SPACe for Indian entities under the Space Policy 2023.
FIGURE	DPIIT: Currently lists 440 startups in the space sector.
FIGURE	IN-SPACe authorizations: 113 authorizations granted to 52 Non-Government Entities.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the Indian Space Policy 2023 in fostering private sector participation while ensuring national security and international treaty compliance.

USE: Space Policy 2023 Hosted-payloads National Security Private Sector Participation Regulatory Framework

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.

CONCEPT	Gen-2 green crackers — reduce PM10 and PM2.5 pollution by 45%–60%
BODY	CSIR-NEERI — recommended the limited and conditional relaxation for green crackers
BODY	PESO — manufacturers must hold a Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation license to register
EVENT	Winter Action Plan 2026–27 — announced by Delhi Government on September 29

MAINS Q 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

Sustainable Development

Jessica Watkins leads first Black woman-led crew to orbit in record flight

WHY IN NEWS SpaceX launched a crew to the International Space Station (ISS) led by Jessica Watkins, the first Black woman to lead a crew to orbit, setting a U.S. speed record.

PERSON	Jessica Watkins — NASA commander and first Black woman to lead a crew to orbit
PLACE	Cape Canaveral Space Force Station — Launch site located in Florida, USA
FIGURE	Eight hours — The duration of the flight to the International Space Station (ISS)

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of private-public partnerships in expanding human space exploration and the socio-cultural implications of diversifying space missions.

USE:

Space Exploration

Public-Private Partnership

Orbital Logistics

Diversity in STEM

Aerospace Technology

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.

BODY	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) — Nodal ministry for IT regulations in India.
ACT	Section 69A of the Information Technology Act — Provision used to order the removal of Bitchat.
FIGURE	85% — Percentage of Bitchat downloads accounted for by India between July 17 and July 23.

MAINS Q 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

Cybersecurity

POLLUTION (AIR, WATER, PLASTIC)

P

M

29 Sep · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/127829 · [Report a mistake](#)

Delhi bans non-compliant vehicles from November 1 under Winter Action Plan

WHY IN NEWS The Delhi government and the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change unveiled the Winter Action Plan 2026-27 to combat air pollution in the NCR region.

CONCEPT	Winter Action Plan 2026-27: A plan by Delhi government and MoEFCC to combat NCR air pollution.
SCHEME	No PUCC, No Fuel: Campaign at 500 fuel pumps equipped with ANPR systems starting October 1.
EVENT	Vehicle Ban: Non-compliant vehicles prohibited from entering Delhi from November 1.

MAINS Q Critically analyze the effectiveness of multi-agency collaborative frameworks like the CAQM in addressing the recurring winter air pollution crisis in the National Capital Region.

USE: [Air Quality Management](#) [Inter-agency collaboration](#) [Pollution mitigation](#) [Regulatory enforcement](#) [Urban governance](#)

Internal Security

TERRORISM & INSURGENCY (J&K, NORTH-EAST)

P

M

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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.

ACT	Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) — used to declare the Shahzad Bhatti network as a terrorist organisation.
CONCEPT	PRAHAAR strategy — a counter-terrorism strategy unveiled by the government.
CONCEPT	Extradition Portal — a government initiative launched to expedite the return of fugitives.
FIGURE	350 people arrested and over 100 FIRs registered across 15 states in the Bhatti network crackdown.

MAINS Q 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](#) [Internal Security](#)

CYBER SECURITY

P

M

2 REPORTS MERGED

29 Sep · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/127393 · [Report a mistake](#)

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.

PLACE	Astha Kunj park and Swaroop Nagar — locations in Delhi-NCR where recent sexual assault incidents occurred
CONCEPT	Vulnerability mapping — process mandated by the court to identify and secure high-risk areas
CONCEPT	Suo motu cognizance — the court's action taken on its own motion regarding sexual assault incidents
BODY	Delhi Police — directed to audit infrastructure and step up patrolling
CONCEPT	Article 21 — Constitutional provision ensuring the right to dignity and security

MAINS Q 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](#) [Judicial activism](#)

Supreme Court directs Union Ministries to address doxxing and deepfakes

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court directed Union Ministries to address doxxing and deepfakes following a PIL regarding surveillance and privacy.

- CONCEPT** | Doxxing and deepfakes: Identified as key surveillance and privacy concerns by the Supreme Court.
- PERSON** | A.A. Rahim: Rajya Sabha member who petitioned against Delhi Police's use of facial recognition.
- CONCEPT** | Special Intensive Revision (SIR): Election Commission's initiative upheld by the Supreme Court in May 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges posed by deepfakes and doxxing to the right to privacy and the necessity of a robust legal framework to regulate digital surveillance.

USE: Right to Privacy Digital Surveillance Deepfakes Doxxing Data Protection

SPIR 2026 report reveals 27% of cybercrime victims pay bribes

WHY IN NEWS The Status of Policing in India Report (SPIR) 2026 revealed that while half of cybercrime victims report to police, 27% are forced to pay bribes to ensure case handling.

- REPORT** | Status of Policing in India Report (SPIR) 2026 — published by Lokniti–CSDS and Common Cause
- CONCEPT** | Bribe-linked recovery — cybercrime recovery rates increase from 12% to 41% when bribes are paid
- CONCEPT** | Socio-economic disparity — rural poor (51%) and women (35%) are more likely to pay bribes than urban affluent (12%) and men (22%)
- FIGURE** | 37% of cybercrime victims utilize personal networks for resolution

MAINS Q Discuss the systemic challenges in India's cybercrime policing and the socio-economic disparities in access to formal justice mechanisms.

USE: Institutional integrity Socio-economic disparity Cybercrime policing Access to justice Systemic corruption

India identifies 28 geographical features on SoI map following PLA movements

WHY IN NEWS The Government of India identified 28 geographical features on the official Survey of India (SoI) map following PLA troop movements along the LAC since April 2020.

- BODY** | Survey of India (SoI) — The official body responsible for mapping and geographical features in India.
- PLACE** | Ladakh — The Union Territory where the 28 geographical features were identified.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of accurate cartographic mapping in maintaining territorial integrity and managing border disputes in the context of the LAC.

USE: territorial integrity cartographic sovereignty LAC border management geospatial data

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.

- CONCEPT** | Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) — programme for procuring 114 Rafale jets from France.
- FIGURE** | 42 squadrons — the target strength for the Indian Air Force.
- FIGURE** | 30 squadrons — the current fighter squadron count of the IAF.
- FIGURE** | Rs 48,000 crore and Rs 62,370 crore — production deals for Tejas Mark-1A.

MAINS Q 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 Squadron Strength

Armed forces submit Agnipath scheme recommendations to Department of Military Affairs

WHY IN NEWS The Army, Navy, and Air Force submitted recommendations to the Department of Military Affairs regarding the Agnipath scheme as the first batch of Agniveers completes their four-year tenure in October 2026.

SCHEME	Agnipath scheme: Recruitment into Army, Navy, and Air Force with a four-year tenure launched in June 2022.
FIGURE	Seva Nidhi package: ₹11.71 lakh provided to 75% of Agniveers exiting the scheme.
FIGURE	Retention ratio: Up to 25% of Agniveers are retained after the four-year tenure.
BODY	Department of Military Affairs: The body receiving recommendations from the three services.

MAINS Q Discuss the structural and operational implications of the Agnipath scheme on the long-term readiness and human resource management of India's armed forces.

USE :

Human Resource Management

Operational Readiness

Fiscal Sustainability

Institutional Memory

Defense Policy

10 questions, 10 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

1 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

2 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

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

- ☐ a 36 ☐ b 42
☐ c 50 ☐ d 60

4 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

5 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

6 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

7 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

8 With reference to the Supreme Court's observations on voter disenfranchisement, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court upheld the exclusion of 20 crore names from the draft rolls.
2. Disenfranchising millions of citizens violates Article 14 and Article 326.
3. The right to vote is considered a component of the Basic Structure doctrine.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9 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

10 With reference to the geographical features identified on the Survey of India (Sol) map, consider the following statements:

1. The identification was conducted in consultation with the administration of Ladakh.
2. The list includes a total of 15 peaks and mountains.
3. A total of 28 geographical features were identified on the official map.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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



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