

**SATYADHEESH**
सत्याधीश

UPSC WEEKLY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs • Week 41 • 5 Oct – 11 Oct 2026**50**
NOTES**39**
STORIES MERGED**10**
MCQSGS1 • 1 GS2 • 24 GS3 • 25
PAPER MIX

CONTENTS

Every note, grouped by paper

GS1 History • Society • Geography	1 notes
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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.

Indian Society

1

POPULATION, DEMOGRAPHY & MIGRATION

P

M

6 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/131729 · Report a mistake

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

WHY IN NEWS Chief Principal Census Officer Amit Sharma announced that provisional data for the Population Census 2027 will be available by March or April 2027.

- FACT** | Ladakh is the first region to complete the entire Census exercise ahead of the national February 2027 deadline.
- S&T** | The Census 2027 is the first digital Census in independent India.
- FACT** | The Census 2027 includes caste enumeration for the first time beyond Scheduled Castes and Tribes.
- FACT** | The Census 2027 questionnaire includes 40 questions, with 13 new fields added compared to Census 2011.
- BODY** | The Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India (RG&CCI) is the body responsible for the Census.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of transitioning to a digital census and the inclusion of caste enumeration in the 2027 Census for India's socio-economic planning.

USE: Demographic transition Digital governance Socio-economic indicators Data integrity Caste enumeration

Polity & Constitution

6

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

P

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3 REPORTS MERGED

5 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/131064 · Report a mistake

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) regarding the Great Nicobar Island project.

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

MAINS Q Examine the judicial role in balancing large-scale infrastructure development with environmental protections and the rights of local communities in ecologically sensitive zones.

USE: Judicial Review Public Interest Litigation Environmental Governance Infrastructure Development

STATUTORY, REGULATORY & QUASI-JUDICIAL BODIES

P

M

6 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/131558 · Report a mistake

Cabinet approves proposal to set up Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority

WHY IN NEWS The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of the Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITLA) to oversee multi-modal transport planning and appraise large-scale infrastructure projects.

- BODY** | ITLA: Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority
- FACT** | ITLA appraisal threshold: Projects costing ₹500 crore or more
- FACT** | ITLA mandate: Oversight of roads, railways, ports, shipping, aviation, waterways, and urban mobility
- FACT** | ITLA objective: Creation of a unified transport data repository

MAINS Q Discuss how the creation of a unified transport authority like ITLA can address the challenges of multi-modal connectivity and infrastructure bottlenecks in India.

USE: Multi-modal connectivity Logistics efficiency Infrastructure appraisal Data repository Inter-ministerial coordination

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

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court directed amicus curiae Raju Ramachandran to examine whether state rules for DGP appointments violate the 2006 Prakash Singh judgment following a complaint regarding Tadasha Mishra's appointment.

- POST** | Raju Ramachandran: Appointed as amicus curiae by the Supreme Court to examine DGP appointment rules.
- FACT** | Prakash Singh judgment: A 2006 Supreme Court ruling governing the appointment process of State Police chiefs.
- BODY** | Supreme Court: The body overseeing the legality of state-level DGP appointment rules.

MAINS Q *Examine the constitutional implications of state governments exercising unilateral discretion in the appointment of Director Generals of Police (DGP) against the principles of institutional autonomy.*

USE: Institutional Autonomy Executive Discretion Judicial Review Police Reforms Meritocracy

Supreme Court upholds strike down of 34% Backward Classes reservation

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court dismissed an appeal by the Andhra Pradesh government, upholding a High Court ruling that struck down a 34% reservation for Backward Classes in local bodies.

- CONCEPT** | 50% reservation ceiling — the limit beyond which the State must provide empirical data to justify a breach.
- BODY** | Supreme Court — upheld the High Court ruling against the Andhra Pradesh government's reservation attempt.
- PERSON** | Justices Dipankar Datta and Sheel Nagu — the bench that dismissed the appeal.

MAINS Q *Examine the constitutional validity of exceeding the 50% reservation ceiling and the necessity of empirical data in justifying affirmative action for Backward Classes.*

USE: Affirmative Action Reservation Ceiling Empirical Data Judicial Review Backward Classes

ECI caps Form 7 submissions to prevent bulk voter name deletions

WHY IN NEWS The Election Commission of India (ECI) capped Form 7 submissions to prevent the bulk deletion of voter names during the Special Intensive Revision.

- CONCEPT** | Form 7: The specific form used for the deletion of names from the electoral roll.
- BODY** | Election Commission of India (ECI): The body overseeing the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls.
- FIGURE** | Cap: Individual electors limited to 10 applications during claims and objections and 5 per month during continuous updation.

MAINS Q *Discuss the importance of maintaining the integrity of electoral rolls and the role of the Election Commission in preventing systematic voter suppression.*

USE: Electoral Integrity Voter Suppression Administrative Oversight Election Commission Special Intensive Revision

Special Bench issues notices over alleged violation of October 9 order

WHY IN NEWS A Special Bench issued notices to the Union Home Secretary, Delhi Police Commissioner, and DMRC chairperson for allegedly violating an October 9 order regarding movement and internet access.

ACT	Section 163 BNSS: Provision under which prohibitory orders were issued in and around the Supreme Court.
CONCEPT	Prohibitory zone: A four-km zone in central Delhi, including Jantar Mantar, where detentions were restricted.
PLACE	Jantar Mantar: Designated site for protests in central Delhi.
BODY	DMRC: Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, whose chairperson received a notice.

MAINS Q Discuss the judicial balancing act between upholding the fundamental right to free movement and the State's power to impose reasonable restrictions for maintaining public order.

USE:

Judicial Review

Fundamental Rights

Public Order

Proportionality

Rule of Law

Social Justice

4

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

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court directed the Union government to form an expert committee to make the Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP), 2024, legally enforceable following a petition by the FMRAI.

BODY	FMRAI: Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives' Associations of India
FACT	UCPMP: Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices, 2024
POST	Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta: Bench of the Supreme Court

MAINS Q Discuss the necessity of a legally enforceable marketing code for the pharmaceutical industry to ensure ethical practices and patient safety in India.

USE:

Regulatory framework

Ethical marketing

Judicial activism

Public health governance

Statutory enforcement

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

WHY IN NEWS A report titled 'Policy Interventions and the Sex Ratio at Birth: Evidence from India' revealed that the Beti Bachao

FACT	India's sex ratio at birth rose from 919 in 2015–16 to around 930 on the BBBP dashboard.
FACT	The BBBP programme added about 15 additional girls per 1,000 births in initial districts.
PLACE	Goa, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, and Kerala recorded the highest sex ratios at birth.
FACT	The probability of a girl being born among second and later births increased by 2.1 percentage points.

MAINS Q Discuss how large-scale social and behavioural interventions like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao can address the structural issues of gender imbalance at birth in India.

USE:

Sex Ratio at Birth

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

Gender Imbalance

Social and Behavioural Intervention

Demographic Dividend

MoE trains 72 lakh teachers to use PRASHAST tool for 21 disability conditions

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Education (MoE) trained 72 lakh teachers across 60,000 schools to utilize the PRASHAST digital tool for identifying 21 disability conditions.

CONCEPT	PRASHAST: A digital tool used to identify 21 disability conditions.
ACT	RPwD Act, 2016: Defines the 21 disability conditions identified by the tool.
SCHEME	PM DAKSH: Integrated with PRASHAST to support scholarship and data integration.
ACT	RTE Act 2009: The primary legislative framework supported by this initiative.

MAINS Q *How does the integration of digital identification tools like PRASHAST facilitate the inclusive education mandate of the RTE Act 2009 for children with disabilities?*

USE: [Inclusive Education](#) [Digital Governance](#) [Disability Rights](#) [Data Interoperability](#) [Social Inclusion](#)

Union government caps trade margins at 30% for non-scheduled cancer drugs

WHY IN NEWS The Union government decided to cap trade margins at 30% for non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs to reduce out-of-pocket costs, which currently reach 75%.

CONCEPT	Trade margin cap: 30% of the maximum retail price for non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs.
FIGURE	Projected annual savings: ₹2,500 crore from reduced out-of-pocket costs.
BODY	National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority: Body responsible for identifying mark-ups in drug pricing.
BODY	Directorate General of Health Services: Body overseeing the expert committee for drug list finalization.

MAINS Q *Discuss the measures required to regulate pharmaceutical trade margins to ensure affordable access to life-saving medicines for the common man.*

USE: [out-of-pocket expenditure](#) [pharmaceutical pricing](#) [market regulation](#) [public health accessibility](#) [price capping](#)

International Relations

14

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.

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

MAINS Q *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](#) [Economic Diplomacy](#) [Multilateralism](#) [Global South](#)

India proposes three-part ceasefire plan to Ukraine during S Jaishankar's Kyiv visit

WHY IN NEWS India proposed a three-part ceasefire plan to Ukraine during External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to Kyiv to mediate the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

CONCEPT	Three-part ceasefire plan: halting attacks on energy infrastructure, ensuring grain/energy flow through Black Sea ports, and ending strikes on commercial shipping.
PLACE	Black Sea: The strategic waterway central to the grain and energy flow discussions.
CONCEPT	Comparative proposals: Ukraine received ceasefire initiatives from India, Turkey, Egypt, and the United States.

MAINS Q *Analyze India's evolving role as a mediator in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the strategic significance of its 'comprehensive' ceasefire proposal.*

USE: [Strategic Autonomy](#) [Mediation](#) [Black Sea Security](#) [Energy Diplomacy](#) [Multilateralism](#)

Hamis and Palestinian groups kill over 1,200 in Israel and take 251 hostages

WHY IN NEWS The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas was highlighted following the October 7, 2023, attack, which resulted in over 1,200 deaths and 251 hostages, sparking a massive military response in Gaza.

CONCEPT	Balfour Declaration — 1917 declaration providing historical context to the conflict.
CONCEPT	Promised Land — religious and historical narrative central to the conflict.
PLACE	Canaan — ancient name for the region encompassing parts of present-day Israel and Palestinian territories.
CONCEPT	Partition Plan — 1947 UN proposal to partition the land.
PERSON	David Ben-Gurion — declared the State of Israel in 1948.

MAINS Q *Analyze the historical and religious dimensions of the Israel-Palestine conflict and discuss the complexities involved in achieving a lasting regional resolution.*

USE: [Geopolitical Conflict](#) [Sovereignty](#) [Religious Legitimacy](#) [Territorial Dispute](#) [Asymmetric Warfare](#)

Houthis seize Mocha port, threatening Bab al-Mandeb strait security

WHY IN NEWS The assassination of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the Houthi seizure of Mocha have escalated maritime security risks in the Bab al-Mandeb strait.

PLACE	Mocha: A port city seized by Houthis in September.
PLACE	Bab al-Mandeb: A strategic strait threatened by Houthi activities.
CONCEPT	Security pact: Signed in August by Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, and Pakistan.
BODY	Royal United Services Institute: Organization associated with analysis on US influence.

MAINS Q *Analyze the implications of maritime insecurity in the Bab al-Mandeb strait on global trade routes and regional geopolitical stability.*

USE: [Maritime Security](#) [Geopolitical Realignment](#) [Supply Chain Disruption](#) [Strategic Strait](#) [Regional Stability](#)

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

WHY IN NEWS Ethiopian federal forces entered Mekelle following a TPLF withdrawal, effectively ending the 2022 Pretoria ceasefire and raising regional tensions over Ethiopia's Red Sea ambitions.

PLACE	Mekelle: Capital of the Tigray region in Ethiopia
FACT	Pretoria ceasefire: Agreement signed in 2022 to end the Tigray conflict
FACT	Amhara Fano and Oromo Liberation Army (OLA): Active insurgent groups within Ethiopia

MAINS Q *Analyze how Ethiopia's pursuit of a Red Sea outlet impacts the geopolitical stability of the Horn of Africa and its relations with neighboring states.*

USE: [Geopolitical stability](#) [Regional security dilemma](#) [Maritime access](#) [Sovereign aspirations](#) [Insurgency](#)

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

WHY IN NEWS The Donald Trump administration barred eight major IT firms, including Microsoft and Tata, from the PERM programme, alleging the companies use the process to replace American workers.

BODY	PERM: Permanent Labour Certification programme used by the US for employment-based residency.
FACT	Eight firms barred: Microsoft, Tata, Wipro, Infosys, Adobe, Cognizant, HCL, and Capgemini.

MAINS Q *Discuss the implications of restrictive US labor certification policies on the Indian IT services sector and the mobility of Indian technology professionals.*

USE: [Labor Certification](#) [Green Card](#) [Trade Relations](#) [Employment Mobility](#) [IT Services](#)

Israel re-intensifies attacks in Lebanon as World Bank warns of economic contraction

WHY IN NEWS Israel re-intensified attacks in Lebanon resulting in over 9,000 deaths, prompting a World Bank warning of a 6 percent economic contraction by 2026.

REPORT	World Bank — projected a 6 percent economic contraction by 2026 due to the conflict
FIGURE	9,000+ deaths — total fatalities resulting from re-intensified attacks by March 2026
PERSON	Hassan Nasrallah — assassinated in 2024 prior to the invasion of southern Lebanon

MAINS Q *Analyze the impact of prolonged regional conflicts on the economic stability and infrastructure of neighboring states in the Middle East.*

USE: [Economic contraction](#) [Regional instability](#) [Asymmetric warfare](#) [Humanitarian crisis](#) [Geopolitical shift](#)

Bangladesh seeks new Ganga Water Sharing Treaty before December 2026 expiry

WHY IN NEWS Bangladesh's Water Resources Minister Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee expressed hope for a new Ganga Water Sharing Treaty with India before the current 30-year agreement expires on December 12, 2026.

CONCEPT	Ganga Water Sharing Treaty — governs water sharing at Farakka Barrage during the lean season (January 1 to May 31).
BODY	Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) — the bilateral mechanism for discussing water cooperation between India and Bangladesh.
PLACE	Padma River — the name of the Ganga River upon entering Bangladesh, 22 km downstream from Farakka Barrage.

MAINS Q *Examine the significance of transboundary water-sharing agreements in fostering regional stability and cooperation between India and Bangladesh.*

USE: [Hydro-diplomacy](#) [Transboundary Water](#) [Joint Rivers Commission](#) [Farakka Barrage](#) [Bilateral Cooperation](#)

US suspends Microsoft, Infosys, TCS from labor program over fraud

WHY IN NEWS US Vice President JD Vance and Labour Secretary Keith Sonderling announced the suspension of major tech firms, including Microsoft and TCS

CONCEPT	Permanent Labour Certification programme: A US program for tech firms to certify the need for foreign workers.
PERSON	JD Vance: Vice President of the United States
PERSON	Keith Sonderling: US Labour Secretary
CONCEPT	Green Card Backlog: Impacted by the replacement of US workers with lower-paid foreign workers.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of labor certification fraud on the bilateral tech-services corridor between India and the US and its impact on the Indian diaspora's migration aspirations.

USE: Labor Certification Indentured Servitude Green Card Backlog Bilateral Relations Labor Market Distortion

Japan plans 10 trillion yen investment in India over 10 years

WHY IN NEWS Japan announced a plan to invest 10 trillion yen (approx. \$100 billion) in India over the next 10 years to bolster manufacturing and energy security.

FIGURE	10 trillion yen (approx. \$100 billion) — Japan's planned investment in India over 10 years
FIGURE	\$48 billion — Japan's investment in India between 2000 and 2025
FIGURE	\$98 billion — Japan's investment in China between 2000 and 2025
FIGURE	1,460 — Number of Japanese companies currently operating in India

MAINS Q Discuss how deepening bilateral investment from Japan can enhance India's manufacturing capabilities and energy security goals.

USE: Foreign Direct Investment Energy Security Manufacturing Hub Bilateral Trade Capital Infusion

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 genocide.

PERSON	Navanethem Pillay — South African judge and current judge at the International Court of Justice
BODY	International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda — body where Pillay previously served
BODY	Norwegian Nobel Committee — body responsible for awarding the Nobel Peace Prize
DATE	2026 — the year Navanethem Pillay was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

MAINS Q 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 Sovereignty

Trump administration announces sanctions to dismantle ICC after Netanyahu, Gallant arrest warrants

WHY IN NEWS The Trump administration announced sanctions against the International Criminal Court (ICC) to dismantle the body following its issuance of arrest warrants for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant.

BODY	ICC: International Criminal Court
POST	Marco Rubio: US Secretary of State
POST	Francesca Albanese: Associated with ICC
FACT	Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay

MAINS Q *Examine the implications of unilateral sanctions on international judicial bodies like the ICC for the global rule of law and multilateral cooperation.*

USE: multilateralism sovereignty judicial independence sanctions international law

US imposes sanctions on International Criminal Court to block assets

WHY IN NEWS The United States imposed sanctions on the International Criminal Court (ICC), blocking its assets and threatening its operations, prompting calls for EU and State Parties to protect the court's independence.

BODY	International Criminal Court (ICC) — An international judicial body facing US sanctions.
CONCEPT	Sanctions Regime — Measures including asset blocking and operational threats against the ICC.
DATE	180-day grace period — The timeframe established for the court to respond to the US measures.

MAINS Q *Discuss the implications of unilateral sanctions on international judicial bodies like the ICC for the global rule of law and international justice.*

USE: Rule of Law Extraterritoriality Judicial Independence Multilateralism Sanctions Regime

India acknowledges Katchatheevu belongs to Sri Lanka

WHY IN NEWS Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake stated that New Delhi acknowledges Katchatheevu belongs to Sri Lanka, citing the Indian Supreme Court's stance on the 1974 and 1976 agreements.

PLACE	Katchatheevu — An island territory acknowledged by India as belonging to Sri Lanka.
DATE	1974 and 1976 agreements — Specific maritime agreements India stated it will not reopen.
PERSON	Anura Kumara Dissanayake — President of Sri Lanka from the National People's Power coalition.

MAINS Q *Discuss the significance of maritime boundary agreements in maintaining bilateral stability between India and Sri Lanka while ensuring the safety of artisanal fishing communities.*

USE: Maritime Boundary Bilateral Relations Territorial Integrity Fisheries Management Diplomatic Continuity

Economy

11

INFRASTRUCTURE (ENERGY, PORTS, ROADS, RAILWAYS)

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5 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/130847 · Report a mistake

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.

SCHEME	Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) — project to integrate renewable power into the national grid.
FIGURE	₹1.86 lakh crore — total outlay for GEC-III.
FIGURE	₹1.36 lakh crore — earmarked for intra-state transmission.
FIGURE	₹50,000 crore — allocated for 50 GWh Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).
FIGURE	135 GW — target for renewable power evacuation by FY2032-33.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of integrating renewable energy into the national grid and the role of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in achieving India's 500 GW target by 2030.

USE: Green Energy Corridor Battery Energy Storage System Viability Gap Funding Renewable Integration Grid Stability

MONETARY POLICY, RBI & BANKING

P

2 REPORTS MERGED

6 Oct · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/131432 · Report a mistake

RBI expected to raise benchmark repurchase rate to 5.50 per cent

WHY IN NEWS The Reserve Bank of India is expected to raise the benchmark repurchase rate to 5.50 per cent to combat inflation nearing 5 per cent and high oil prices.

CONCEPT	Benchmark repurchase rate — Expected to be raised to 5.50 per cent
CONCEPT	Inflation — Nearing 5 per cent
FIGURE	Oil prices — Exceeding \$100 a barrel

MAINS Q Discuss the role of the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy tools in managing headline inflation amidst volatile global commodity prices.

USE: Monetary Policy Repo Rate Inflation Targeting Liquidity Management Macroeconomic Stability

INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT & MSMEs

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6 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/131680 · Report a mistake

Rajnath Singh proposes ₹5,000 crore investment for AMCA propulsion at HAL Koraput

WHY IN NEWS Defence Minister Rajnath Singh proposed a ₹5,000 crore investment for AMCA propulsion at HAL Koraput to bolster indigenous aero-engine manufacturing.

FIGURE	₹5,000 crore — Proposed investment for AMCA propulsion
FIGURE	₹335 crore — HAL investment for AL-31FP production
FIGURE	₹218 crore — HAL investment for a second Shakti engine line
DATE	2028-29 — Target year for the second Shakti engine line
CONCEPT	MIDHANI — Partnering with HAL for AMCA propulsion

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative in the aerospace and defence manufacturing sector to reduce import dependency.

USE: Atmanirbhar Bharat Aerospace manufacturing Propulsion systems Defence indigenization Capital expenditure

World Bank raises India's FY27 GDP growth forecast to 7.1 per cent

WHY IN NEWS The World Bank raised India's FY27 GDP growth forecast to 7.1 per cent from 6.6 per cent due to robust domestic demand and strong exports.

FIGURE	FY27 GDP growth forecast: 7.1 per cent
FIGURE	FY26 GDP growth rate: 7.8 per cent
FIGURE	FY25 GDP growth rate: 7.2 per cent
CONCEPT	Growth drivers: Strong investment, private consumption, and robust domestic demand
BODY	World Bank, Asian Development Bank, OECD, S&P, and Fitch all raised India's growth projections

MAINS Q Analyze the factors driving India's resilient economic growth despite global geopolitical uncertainties and external risks.

USE: GDP growth Domestic demand Private consumption External risks Investment outlook

MeitY to collaborate with Indian companies for indigenous smartphone by 2028

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) announced a collaboration with Indian companies to manufacture a completely indigenous smartphone by the end of 2028.

BODY	MeitY — Nodal ministry for the indigenous smartphone manufacturing project.
CONCEPT	Indigenous production — Transitioning from assembly-based manufacturing to self-reliant production.
FIGURE	Rs 35,000 crore — Value of components currently exported by India to China.
DATE	End of 2028 — Target deadline for manufacturing the indigenous smartphone.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of moving from assembly-based manufacturing to indigenous production in India's electronics sector to achieve self-reliance.

USE: Atmanirbhar Bharat Value addition Import substitution Indigenous manufacturing Electronics manufacturing

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.

BODY	Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) — The body responsible for determining the repo rate.
FIGURE	5.50% — The new policy repo rate after a 25 basis point hike.
FIGURE	55,276 — The Nifty Bank index level after gaining over 147 points.
FIGURE	22,680 — The Nifty 50 index level after falling around 100 points.

MAINS Q Analyze the impact of repo rate hikes on liquidity management and inflation targeting in the Indian economy.

USE: Monetary Policy Repo Rate Liquidity Management Inflation Targeting MPC

RBI removes Paytm Payments Bank from Second Schedule after winding order

WHY IN NEWS The RBI removed Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934, following a Delhi High Court order to wind up the bank after its license was cancelled for non-compliance.

ACT	Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 — governs the inclusion of banking entities in the Second Schedule
CONCEPT	Second Schedule — a list of banking entities managed by the RBI as the regulatory body
EVENT	License Cancellation — PPBL license was cancelled in April 2026 due to non-compliance and detrimental affairs
PLACE	Delhi High Court — issued the winding up order for Paytm Payments Bank Ltd

MAINS Q Examine the regulatory challenges faced by fintech entities in India and the role of the RBI in ensuring compliance within the digital payments ecosystem.

USE: Regulatory Compliance Fintech Oversight Scheduled Banks Monetary Stability Digital Payments

16th Finance Commission recommends urbanization premium for large urban bodies

WHY IN NEWS The 16th Finance Commission recommended a one-time urbanization premium grant for urban local bodies with populations exceeding one lakh to support cleanliness and water infrastructure.

CONCEPT	Urbanization premium — one-time grant for urban local bodies with populations exceeding one lakh.
CONCEPT	Qualification criteria — publication of audited figures and 5% revenue growth.
CONCEPT	State eligibility — states must have disbursed at least 20% of previous grants.
CONCEPT	Grant focus — cleanliness and water for the period 2026–27 to 2030–31.
PLACE	Keralam — no city from this state was selected for waste water management.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of fiscal devolution to urban local bodies in achieving the goals of the Swachh Bharat Mission and urban sustainability.

USE: [Fiscal Federalism](#) [Urban Local Bodies](#) [Devolution](#) [Revenue Growth](#) [Infrastructure Development](#)

3 REPORTS MERGED

GST Council scraps arrest powers and raises prosecution threshold to ₹5 crore

WHY IN NEWS The GST Council approved scrapping arrest powers for GST officers and raising the prosecution threshold from ₹1 crore to ₹5 crore to ease enforcement.

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

MAINS Q Discuss how the shift from punitive enforcement to a threshold-based prosecution model in GST administration balances tax compliance with the ease of doing business.

USE: [Ease of Doing Business](#) [Fiscal Federalism](#) [Tax Compliance](#) [Administrative Reform](#) [GST Council](#)

RBI prohibits rebooking of cancelled rupee-linked forex derivatives

WHY IN NEWS The RBI issued a circular prohibiting Authorised Dealers from allowing the rebooking of cancelled rupee-linked forex derivative contracts and lowered the hedging threshold.

CONCEPT	Hedging threshold without underlying exposure: Reduced from \$100 million to \$5 million equivalent.
FIGURE	Cash Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve: 20% required for transactions exceeding \$2 million equivalent.
BODY	Authorised Dealers: Entities permitted by RBI to deal in foreign exchange.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of RBI's regulatory measures on forex derivatives in maintaining exchange rate stability and curbing speculative activities in the Indian economy.

USE: [Monetary Policy](#) [Exchange Rate Stability](#) [Risk Mitigation](#) [Forex Derivatives](#) [Regulatory Framework](#)

2 REPORTS MERGED

RBI to sell ₹250 billion in bonds as banks must maintain 99% CRR

WHY IN NEWS The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the sale of ₹250 billion in bonds to drain liquidity as the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) requirement for banks is set to increase from 90% to 99% starting October 16.

FACT	RBI bond sale amount: ₹250 billion (\$2.58 billion)
FACT	Bond maturity range: Fiscal 2030 to fiscal 2035
FACT	New CRR requirement: 99% of daily balances

MAINS Q Analyze how the Reserve Bank of India utilizes liquidity management tools like bond sales and CRR adjustments to achieve monetary stability.

USE: [Liquidity Management](#) [Cash Reserve Ratio](#) [Monetary Policy](#) [Open Market Operations](#) [Bond Yields](#)

BIOTECHNOLOGY & HEALTH RESEARCH

P

4 REPORTS MERGED

5 Oct · BBC · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/130947 · [Report a mistake](#)

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.

CONCEPT	Optogenetics: A technique using light to control neurons by expressing light-sensitive proteins.
CONCEPT	Channelrhodopsin: An algal protein used in optogenetics to control neural circuits.
CONCEPT	Retinitis pigmentosa: A condition being treated in clinical trials using optogenetic methods to restore sight.
FIGURE	Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026: Awarded to Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann, and Georg Nagel.

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

USE: [Optogenetics](#) [Neural Circuits](#) [Channelrhodopsin](#) [Retinitis Pigmentosa](#) [Biotechnology](#)

DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

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6 Oct · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/131718 · [Report a mistake](#)

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

WHY IN NEWS DRDO successfully flight-tested an indigenous High-Altitude Platform (HAPS) reaching 21 km altitude, marking a milestone in India's aerospace capabilities.

S&T	HAPS: High-Altitude Platform capable of sustained flight at altitudes between 20 km and 30 km.
POST	ADRDE: Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment, located in Agra.
BODY	DRDO: Defence Research and Development Organisation, the primary R&D organization for aerospace and defence.
FACT	The platform successfully maintained a 20 km altitude for over 30 minutes during the October 2026 trial.

MAINS Q Discuss the strategic importance of High-Altitude Platforms (HAPS) in enhancing India's surveillance and communication capabilities in contested environments.

USE: [Strategic Autonomy](#) [Aerospace Engineering](#) [Persistent Surveillance](#) [Indigenous Technology](#) [Defense Modernization](#)

DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

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3 REPORTS MERGED

6 Oct · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/upsc/note/131759 · [Report a mistake](#)

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 the Indian Navy's maritime reach.

BODY	Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) — Yard producing ships up to 45,000 deadweight tonnes.
CONCEPT	Fleet Support Ship (FSS) — Vessel designed to refuel and resupply warships at sea.
FIGURE	Rs 1,969 crore — Production value recorded by HSL in 2025-26.
FIGURE	43,500 tonnes — The weight of the FSS-1 vessel.

MAINS Q Discuss how the expansion of domestic shipbuilding infrastructure and the 'Aatmanirbharta' initiative contribute to India's maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.

USE: [Aatmanirbharta](#) [Maritime Security](#) [Shipbuilding Infrastructure](#) [Fleet Support Ships](#) [Indian Ocean Region](#)

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

WHY IN NEWS The World Bank released a report ranking India 10th among emerging markets on the AI Readiness Index, highlighting a gap between infrastructure readiness and low consumer adoption.

- FACT** | India attracted US\$4.1 billion in private AI investment in 2025
- FACT** | AI-related job postings in India rose from 2.2% in November 2022 to 6% by April 2025
- FACT** | Only 4% of Indian internet users reported using ChatGPT in April 2025

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in bridging the gap between AI infrastructure readiness and widespread consumer adoption in emerging economies like India.

USE: [AI Readiness Index](#) [Digital Inclusion](#) [Skill Gap](#) [Emerging Markets](#) [Private Investment](#)

India aims to double 5G user base to one billion by 2030

WHY IN NEWS Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announced India's target to double its 5G user base to one billion by 2030 and called for a global framework with the GSMA to curb cyber frauds and deepfakes.

- CONCEPT** | 5G user base target: 1 billion by 2030
- CONCEPT** | Bharat 6G Alliance: 90 institutions involved with 7,700 patents
- BODY** | GSMA: Global body called upon to create a framework against cyber frauds and deepfakes
- BODY** | ITU: Accepted India's proposal to host the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2030
- FIGURE** | Broadband customers: Grew from 60 million to over 1.1 billion since 2017

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of India's leadership in 6G technology and the necessity of a global framework to mitigate emerging digital threats like deepfakes.

USE: [Digital Sovereignty](#) [Cybersecurity Framework](#) [Deepfakes](#) [6G Technology](#) [Telecommunications Policy](#)

MeitY to train 10 million youth in AI via AIKOSH roadmap

WHY IN NEWS Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced a consultation paper on AI to address harms like deepfakes and psychological disorders while highlighting the AIKOSH roadmap to train 10 million Indian youth.

- BODY** | MeitY — Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- CONCEPT** | AIKOSH — The roadmap linked to the AI initiative for youth
- FIGURE** | 10 million — Target number of Indian youth to be brought into the AI space
- CONCEPT** | Deepfakes and psychological disorders — AI-related harms addressed in the consultation paper

MAINS Q Discuss the dual challenge of fostering AI-driven human resource development while mitigating the socio-psychological risks posed by generative AI technologies in India.

USE: [Generative AI](#) [Digital Literacy](#) [Human Resource Development](#) [Algorithmic Governance](#) [Deepfakes](#)

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

WHY IN NEWS The Indian Navy is set to commission the Mangrol, its third indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, in Mumbai to bolster maritime security.

S&T	Mangrol: Third indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft for the Indian Navy
BODY	Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL):The entity responsible for building the Mangrol craft
FACT	Mangrol features over 80% indigenous content under the Make in India initiative
S&T	Abhay sonar and Mareech decoy system: Specific technologies integrated into the Mangrol craft

MAINS Q Discuss how the 'Make in India' initiative in the defence sector contributes to India's strategic autonomy and maritime security.

USE: Strategic Autonomy Indigenization Maritime Security Make in India Defence Procurement

NASA and Starfish Space launch SSPICY mission to approach inactive objects

WHY IN NEWS NASA and Starfish Space launched the SSPICY mission to test autonomous proximity operations and robotic capabilities for satellite repair and debris removal.

MISSION	SSPICY: Small Spacecraft Propulsion and Inspection Capability mission
CONCEPT	Otter spacecraft: Designed to autonomously approach four inactive US objects in low Earth orbit
PLACE	Vandenberg Space Force Base: Launch site for the SSPICY mission
CONCEPT	Mission components: Tests electric propulsion, sensors, and a robotic boom for satellite repair and debris removal

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of autonomous space robotics in addressing the growing challenges of orbital debris and the sustainability of space infrastructure.

USE: Orbital Debris Space Sustainability Autonomous Systems On-orbit Servicing Space Situational Awareness

Kerala High Court directs Union government to operationalize Data Protection Board

WHY IN NEWS The Kerala High Court directed the Union government to operationalize the Data Protection Board within eight weeks and ruled that Digi Yatra cannot mandate Aadhaar details.

ACT	Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023: Legislation governing the processing of digital personal data in India
CONCEPT	Data Protection Board: The regulatory body established under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023
CONCEPT	Digi Yatra: A facial recognition-based seamless travel initiative
BODY	Kerala High Court: Directed the operationalization of the Data Protection Board and ruled against mandatory Aadhaar for Digi Yatra

MAINS Q Examine the significance of establishing an independent Data Protection Board in ensuring the right to privacy under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

USE: Right to Privacy Data Sovereignty Regulatory Compliance Digital Governance Statutory Body

TRISHNA satellite to launch in 12-16 months to monitor water resources and temperature

WHY IN NEWS URSC announced that the TRISHNA satellite, a joint Indo-French project, is slated for launch in the next 12-16 months to monitor water resources and surface temperature.

S&T	TRISHNA satellite carries two primary payloads: Thermal Infra-Red (TIR) and Visible-Near Infra-Red Short Wave Infra-Red (VNIR-SWIR).
BODY	CNES is the French space agency collaborating with ISRO on the TRISHNA mission.
FACT	TRISHNA is the third joint satellite project between India and France after Megha-Tropiques and SARAL.
S&T	The satellite will be launched using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
FACT	The mission aims to monitor surface temperature, emissivity, and biophysical/radiation variables for surface energy budgeting.

MAINS Q Discuss how space-based remote sensing technologies like the TRISHNA mission can enhance India's water resource management and climate change adaptation strategies.

USE: Remote SensingSpace CooperationWater Resource ManagementSurface Energy BudgetingIndo-French Collaboration

Environment & Ecology

3

Delhi and Centre unveil Winter Action Plan 2026-27 to tackle NCR air pollution

WHY IN NEWS The Delhi government and the Centre unveiled the Winter Action Plan 2026-27 to combat NCR air pollution, featuring fuel station restrictions and vehicle entry bans.

FIGURE	500 fuel stations: Number of stations mandated to enforce fuel restrictions.
CONCEPT	Non-BS-VI vehicles: Vehicles prohibited from entry into NCR starting November 1.
DATE	January 31: Deadline for phased construction prohibitions.

MAINS Q Critically analyze the effectiveness of seasonal action plans in addressing the structural causes of air pollution in the National Capital Region.

USE: Air Quality ManagementRegulatory FrameworkPollution MitigationInter-agency CoordinationTechnological Enforcement

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

WHY IN NEWS A review article in Nature Reviews Biodiversity highlights how plantations, infrastructure, and climate change have reduced native habitats in the Western Ghats to just one-third of their original extent.

PLACE	Western Ghats: A biodiversity hotspot in India significantly impacted by plantation expansion.
FACT	Coffee plantation area: 3,000 sq km.
FACT	Tea plantation area: 1,134 sq km.
FACT	Rubber plantation area: 5,000 sq km.
FACT	Cashew expansion: 53,500 ha.

MAINS Q Discuss the ecological consequences of large-scale plantation expansion on biodiversity hotspots like the Western Ghats and suggest measures to balance economic interests with conservation.

USE: Biodiversity HotspotsHabitat FragmentationMonoculture ExpansionEcological DegradationLand-use Change

Asiatic lion population grows to 891 in 2025

WHY IN NEWS The Government of India highlighted the growth of the Asiatic lion population from 674 in 2020 to 891 in 2025 during Wildlife Week.

FIGURE	Asiatic lion population: 891 in 2025 (up from 674 in 2020)
REPORT	IUCN: 1,012 out of 7,516 assessed species are currently threatened
SCHEME	Project Nilgiri Tahr and Phoenix Species Project are active conservation efforts
PLACE	Great Indian Bustard chick was spotted in Kutch

MAINS Q Evaluate the effectiveness of species-specific conservation projects in India's biodiversity recovery and the challenges of managing habitat-specific threats.

USE: Biodiversity conservation Species recovery In-situ conservation Habitat management Wildlife protection

Internal Security

1

Defence Ministry approves revised SOP for indigenous project testing

WHY IN NEWS Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved a revised SOP to streamline access to proof and firing ranges for indigenous projects to bolster 'atmanirbharta'.

CONCEPT	Atmanirbharta — The goal of making India self-reliant in defence manufacturing.
SCHEME	iDEX — A scheme to support indigenous defence projects.
SCHEME	Technology Development Fund (TDF) — A scheme to support R&D for indigenous technology.
BODY	DRDO — Defence Research and Development Organisation involved in testing facilities.
FIGURE	Three-day quarterly slots — Reserved for government-sponsored and indigenous projects.

MAINS Q Discuss how streamlining access to testing infrastructure can accelerate the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative in the defence manufacturing sector.

USE: Atmanirbharta Defence Procurement R&D Infrastructure MSME Integration Strategic Autonomy

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 With reference to the Election Commission of India's measures on electoral rolls, consider the following statements:

1. Individual electors are limited to 15 applications during claims and objections.
2. Form 7 is the specific form used for the deletion of names from the electoral roll.
3. The cap of 5 applications per month applies during continuous updation.

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

4 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

5 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

6 Which protein is used in optogenetics to control neural circuits with light?

- (a) Myoglobin (b) Keratin
(c) Hemoglobin (d) Channelrhodopsin

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

- (a) ₹5,000 (b) ₹20,000
(c) ₹15,000 (d) ₹10,000

8 Which strategic waterway is central to the grain and energy flow discussions in India's ceasefire proposal?

- (a) Red Sea (b) Caspian Sea
(c) Mediterranean Sea (d) Black Sea

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 Great Nicobar project, consider the following statements:

1. The project is under litigation regarding compliance with the Forest Rights Act.
2. The Calcutta High Court dismissed the Public Interest Litigations (PILs) regarding the project.
3. The Supreme Court upheld the Centre's plea against the Calcutta High Court order.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



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