

**Current Affairs • 15 September 2026****18 min**

READING TIME

8

KEY STORIES

20

IN BRIEF

5 + 1

MCQS + MAINS

GS2 • 10

GS3 • 18

PAPER MIX

01 – TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip**1 India to export power to Nepal for 18 hours daily to aid flood recovery**

Why it matters: Energy diplomacy and regional connectivity: a key GS2 theme for India-Nepal bilateral relations.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

2 Government exempts RuPay and UPI fees up to ₹2,000

Why it matters: MDR and digital payment infrastructure: a GS3 economy and financial inclusion case study.

GS3 • ECONOMY

P

3 New 0.4% Charge on Transactions Above ₹2,000 Caps Merchant Costs at ₹300

Why it matters: The Indian government introduced a new UPI Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) framework effective October 15 to impose a 0.4% charge on merchant transactions exceeding ₹2,000.

GS3 • ECONOMY

P

4 US deploys first orbital space weapon to counter Russia and China

Why it matters: Space weaponization and orbital defense: a key GS2 topic on international security and space technology.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

M

5 India and EU reach FTA allowing higher steel exports

Why it matters: Trade liberalization and green trade barriers: a GS2 International Relations and GS3 Economy case study.

GS3 • ECONOMY

P

NUMBER OF THE DAY

1,451 MUs

Amount of electricity exported by India to Nepal in FY 2025-26

CONNECT TO STATIC

Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007

Provides the framework for MDR on electronic payment modes.

In the news: Government exempts RuPay and UPI fees up to ₹2,000.

P.2 KEY STORIES » IN BRIEF + PLACES » TEST YOURSELF

P = PRELIMS • M = MAINS

What to know, in 60 seconds each

8 of 28 notes · picked for exam value

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

India to export power to Nepal for 18 hours daily to aid flood recovery

Why in news: India's Ministry of Power approved exporting electricity to Nepal for 18 hours daily until December 31, 2026, to support recovery from flood-induced hydropower destruction.

REMEMBER

- Ministry of Power — Central government body overseeing the power sector
- Nepal — Landlocked neighbor of India
- 1,451 MUs — Amount of electricity exported by India to Nepal in FY 2025-26

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how regional energy cooperation can serve as a tool for disaster resilience and bilateral strengthening in South Asia.

USE : Energy Diplomacy Regional Cooperation
Disaster Mitigation Bilateral Trade

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/121886

GS3 · ECONOMY

P

New 0.4% Charge on Transactions Above ₹2,000 Caps Merchant Costs at ₹300

Why in news: The Indian government introduced a new UPI Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) framework effective October 15 to impose a 0.4% charge on merchant transactions exceeding ₹2,000.

REMEMBER

- UPI MDR charge: 0.4% for transactions above ₹2,000
- Maximum cap on merchant transaction charge: ₹300
- NPCI: National Payments Corporation of India, the body clarifying the new framework

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how the introduction of Merchant Discount Rates (MDR) on high-value UPI transactions balances the sustainability of digital payment infrastructure with financial inclusion goals.

USE : Digital Public Infrastructure Financial Inclusion
Merchant Discount Rate Payment Systems

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/122149

GS3 · ECONOMY

P

Government exempts RuPay and UPI fees up to ₹2,000

Why in news: Paytm shares fell after the government announced no charges for RuPay/UPI transactions up to Rs 2,000 while leaving the door open for future Merchant Discount Rates (MDR) on higher values.

REMEMBER

- Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007: Provides the framework for MDR on electronic payment modes.
- Merchant Discount Rate (MDR): A fee paid by merchants to banks/payment providers for processing transactions.
- ₹2,000: The current transaction limit for RuPay/UPI fee exemption.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the necessity of a self-sustaining revenue model for India's digital public infrastructure to ensure long-term cybersecurity and scalability.

USE : Merchant Discount Rate Digital Public Infrastructure
Payment and Settlement Systems Act Financial Inclusion

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/122153

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

M

US deploys first orbital space weapon to counter Russia and China

Why in news: US Secretary of the Air Force Troy Meink confirmed the deployment of the first-ever space weapon in Earth's orbit to counter Russian and Chinese space threats.

REMEMBER

- Space weapon: A device designed to damage, disable, or destroy satellites or space stations
- Troy Meink: US Secretary of the Air Force who confirmed the deployment
- Golden Dome: The system linked to the deployment of the space weapon

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the implications of space weaponization on global security and the necessity of establishing international norms for orbital defense.

USE : Space Weaponization Orbital Defense Security Dilemma
Strategic Autonomy

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/121955

India and EU reach FTA allowing higher steel exports

Why in news: India and the EU reached a free trade agreement on September 11, 2026, allowing India to export up to 1.64 million metric tons of steel annually to the EU.

REMEMBER

- Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) — An EU policy applying to Indian steel exports despite the FTA.
- 1.64 million metric tons — The annual steel export capacity allowed to the EU under the new agreement.
- 694,853 tons — The preferential quota for steel provided above the existing WTO quota.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how trade agreements like the India-EU steel pact balance market access with environmental regulations like the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.

USE : Trade Liberalization

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

Preferential Quota

Market Access

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/121935

Finland joins France's Forward Deterrence Initiative to counter Russian threats

Why in news: Finland joined France's Forward Deterrence Initiative to extend French nuclear deterrence coverage amid escalating Russian threats and US uncertainty.

REMEMBER

- Forward Deterrence Initiative — A French-led initiative to bolster European security against Russian threats.
- 10th European state — Finland's position in joining the Forward Deterrence Initiative.
- Helsinki — The location where the agreement was formalized.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how the expansion of European nuclear deterrence frameworks reflects changing security dynamics in the Baltic region amidst shifting transatlantic alliances.

USE : Nuclear Deterrence Strategic Autonomy

Forward Deterrence Initiative

Baltic Security

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/121876

Supreme Court launches Jan Soochna Seva for simplified Hindi legal bulletins

Why in news: The Supreme Court launched 'Jan Soochna Seva' on Hindi Diwas to provide simplified Hindi legal bulletins and multimedia summaries of significant judgments to improve judicial accessibility.

REMEMBER

- Jan Soochna Seva — A public information service providing simplified legal summaries in Hindi
- Hindi Diwas — Celebrated annually on September 14th to promote the Hindi language
- Supreme Court of India — The highest judicial body in the country

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how the simplification of legal language and multi-lingual dissemination of judgments can enhance the principle of 'Access to Justice' for marginalized sections in India.

USE : Access to Justice

Judicial Transparency

Legal Literacy

Inclusive Governance

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/121928

China and India reach important consensus at BRICS Summit

Why in news: China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi stated that India and China reached an 'important consensus' to be partners during the BRICS Summit in New Delhi.

REMEMBER

- Important consensus — agreement between India and China to act as partners during the BRICS Summit.
- BRICS Summit — hosted in New Delhi in September 2026.
- October 2024 — date when bilateral relations were normalized after a four-year freeze.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of the 'important consensus' between India and China in the context of regional stability and the evolving dynamics of the BRICS bloc.

USE : bilateral ties

strategic consensus

multilateralism

regional stability

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/121854

Everything else, one line each

20 more notes · full versions online

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

Bangladesh diplomacy: PM Tarique Rahman to attend 81st UN General Assembly in New York instead of a bilateral visit to India.

FIA reward: Pakistan's FIA increased the bounty for UN-designated terrorist Maulana Masood Azhar to PKR 70 lakh.

Patna High Court: Justice V. Kameswar Rao sworn in as Chief Justice by the Governor of Bihar.

El Gaia incident: CENTCOM refuted Iran's claims regarding an attack on the Panama-flagged tanker El Gaia in the Strait of Hormuz.

Chief Justice Kant invokes Supreme Court in NCERT textbook row, demands transparency

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

UPI and RuPay charges: Banks are prohibited from charging fees on UPI transactions up to ₹2,000 and RuPay debit card payments.

Tamil Nadu investment: CM signed four deals worth Rs 12,300 crore in the UK to create 9,000 jobs and boost industrial position.

Dark patterns: CCPA fined Rapido ₹10 lakh for using color-coded pricing sliders and confirm shaming to mislead consumers.

Nifty India Volatility Index Rises 10.33% to 13.57

Government First: Karnataka to provide ₹25 crore to 100 startups for pilot solutions in AI, healthcare, and digital governance.

MAP WORK

Places in news

Nepal	Landlocked neighbor of India
Helsinki	The location where the agreement was formalized.
Chennai	Site for the proposed Global Capability Centre
Kerala and Tamil Nadu coasts	Locations where the MSC ELSA-3 sank and nurdle pollution was recorded.
Kalimantan and Sumatra	Indonesian islands identified as major sources of transboundary haze

Nurdle pollution: SDMRI study recorded a peak shoreline abundance of 31,230 nurdles per m2 following the MSC ELSA-3 sinking.

Transboundary haze: Singapore and Malaysia face severe haze from Indonesian wildfires, mirroring 2019 crisis levels.

Meta Agrees to Report Child Abuse Cases to Police in India After Government Crackdown

AI code of conduct: Microsoft's draft mandates that AI must not resist shutdowns and explicitly rejects legal personhood.

Dark Sky Reserve: Hanle in Ladakh established as India's first Dark Sky Reserve to promote astro-tourism and local economic development.

Retail credit: Gold loans grew by 62.2% while consumer durable loans accounted for 46% of new-to-credit customers.

AI development: Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei proposed slowing advanced AI progress due to safety risks following the OpenAI-Hugging Face incident.

AI Boycott: Palantir and Nvidia lead push to boycott OpenAI and Anthropic models over IP misuse and data privacy concerns.

Market manipulation: SEBI directed local stock exchanges to implement a 20-minute auction for end-of-day prices to prevent price manipulation.

African wild dogs trek 2,485 miles in search of mate, dodging poachers

5 questions, 5 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

1 With reference to India–Nepal energy cooperation, consider the following statements:

1. The power export arrangement is approved until December 31, 2026.
2. India approved exporting power to Nepal for 18 hours daily to aid flood recovery.
3. India exported 3,299 million units (MUs) to Nepal in FY 2025–26.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2 Which Act provides the framework for Merchant Discount Rates (MDR) on electronic payment modes in India?

- (a) Information Technology Act, 2000 (b) Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007
(c) Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (d) Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934

3 Which system is linked to the deployment of the US orbital space weapon?

- (a) Iron Veil (b) Silver Shield
(c) Golden Dome (d) Aegis Orbit

4 Which EU policy applies to Indian steel exports despite the new free trade agreement?

- (a) Steel Import Levy (b) Green Tariff Policy
(c) Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (d) Global Trade Tax

5 With reference to Jan Soochna Seva, consider the following statements:

1. It provides audio and video bulletins of significant judgments.
2. It provides simplified legal summaries in English only.
3. It was launched to coincide with Independence Day.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

MAINS PRACTICE

Write one answer today

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Discuss how regional energy cooperation can serve as a tool for disaster resilience and bilateral strengthening in South Asia.

USE: Energy Diplomacy Regional Cooperation Disaster Mitigation Bilateral Trade Infrastructure Resilience

(a) 5 (c) 4 (c) 3 (b) 2 (c) 1 • ANSWERS



TELEGRAM



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