

**Current Affairs • 16 September 2026****18 min**

READING TIME

8

KEY STORIES

17

IN BRIEF

5 + 1

MCQS + MAINS

GS1 • 1

GS2 • 10

GS3 • 14

PAPER MIX

01 – TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip**1****NPCI to levy 0.4% MDR on P2M UPI transactions above ₹2,000**

Why it matters: Digital payment monetization and transaction costs: a GS3 and Ethics case study.

GS3 • ECONOMY

P

M

2**Union Cabinet hikes EPFO wage ceiling to ₹25,000**

Why it matters: Social security expansion and fiscal implications: a key GS3 Economy and Labor Welfare topic.

GS3 • ECONOMY

P

M

3**US deploys space weapons sparking fears of arms race with China and Russia**

Why it matters: Space weaponization and orbital security: a key GS2 International Relations and Science & Tech topic.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

M

4**India declares Shahzad Bhatti Network a terrorist organisation under UAPA**

Why it matters: UAPA and internal security: a GS3 case study on countering transnational terrorism and radicalization.

GS3 • INTERNAL SECURITY

P

M

5**India's capital account surplus reverses first quarter deficit in July**

Why it matters: Balance of Payments dynamics: a key GS3 topic regarding FDI, portfolio investments and trade deficits.

GS3 • ECONOMY

P

NUMBER OF THE DAY

**46th
organisation**

The Shahzad Bhatti Network (SBN) is the 46th entity listed as a terrorist organisation by India.

CONNECT TO STATIC

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)Provides the legal framework to designate and deal with terrorist organisations. *In the news:* India declares Shahzad Bhatti Network a terrorist organisation under UAPA.

What to know, in 60 seconds each

8 of 25 notes · picked for exam value

GS3 · ECONOMY

P

M

NPCI to levy 0.4% MDR on P2M UPI transactions above ₹2,000

Why in news: NPCI announced that the government will introduce a 0.4% Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on Person-to-Merchant (P2M) UPI transactions exceeding ₹2,000 starting October 15.

REMEMBER

- NPCI: Primary body responsible for operating the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in India.
- MDR: A fee charged by a merchant to a customer for processing a transaction via a payment gateway or UPI.
- 0.4% MDR applies only to P2M UPI transactions exceeding ₹2,000.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the implications of introducing Merchant Discount Rates (MDR) on high-value UPI transactions for the growth of the digital payment ecosystem in India.

USE: Digital Public Infrastructure Merchant Discount Rate

Payment Interoperability Transaction Costs

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/122556

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

M

US deploys space weapons sparking fears of arms race with China and Russia

Why in news: US Air Force Secretary Troy Meink revealed the deployment of space weapons for defense, confirming a growing space arms race involving China and Russia.

REMEMBER

- Counterspace weapons — include jammers and kinetic systems used to target space assets.
- Space Situational Awareness (SSA) — involves monitoring the positions and activities of objects in space.
- India demonstrated ASAT (Anti-Satellite) capability in 2019.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the implications of the escalating space arms race on global security and the importance of international norms for space debris management.

USE: Space Weaponization Orbital Debris Strategic Stability

Space Situational Awareness

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/122240

GS3 · ECONOMY

P

M

Union Cabinet hikes EPFO wage ceiling to ₹25,000

Why in news: The Union Cabinet approved raising the EPFO wage ceiling from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000 to expand social security coverage to more employees.

REMEMBER

- EPFO wage ceiling — increased from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000
- Additional workers covered — 51 lakh
- Annual government outgo increase — ₹11,339 crore

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of expanding the EPFO wage ceiling in achieving universal social security for India's workforce.

USE: Social Security Formalization of Labour Fiscal Outlay

Universal Coverage

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/122558

GS3 · INTERNAL SECURITY

P

M

India declares Shahzad Bhatti Network a terrorist organisation under UAPA

Why in news: Union Home Minister Amit Shah declared the Pakistan-based Shahzad Bhatti Network (SBN) a terrorist organisation under the UAPA for smuggling arms, narcotics, and inciting terrorism.

REMEMBER

- Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) — Provides the legal framework to designate and deal with terrorist organisations.
- 46th organisation — The Shahzad Bhatti Network (SBN) is the 46th entity listed as a terrorist organisation by India.
- Radicalization — SBN is accused of publishing hateful digital content and inciting youths into terrorism.

MAINS ANGLE Examine the role of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in countering cross-border terrorism and internal security threats in India.

USE: Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act

Cross-border terrorism

Internal security

Narcotics smuggling

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/122479

India's capital account surplus reverses first quarter deficit in July

Why in news: The RBI's dollar-mobilisation programme contributed to a \$27.7 billion capital account surplus in July, reversing the first quarter deficit.

REMEMBER

- Capital account surplus: Reached \$27.7 billion in July, reversing the first-quarter deficit.
- Merchandise trade deficit: Rose to \$117.8 billion for the first four months of the fiscal year.
- FDI and portfolio investments: Recorded positive inflows of \$7.3 billion and \$4.1 billion respectively in July.

MAINS ANGLE Analyze the impact of the RBI's dollar-mobilisation programme on India's Balance of Payments and its role in managing external shocks.

USE : Balance of Payments Capital Account
Foreign Direct Investment Portfolio Investment

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/122332

PM Modi urges global tech CEOs to join India's semiconductor and AI leap

Why in news: Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged CEOs of major tech firms to participate in India's semiconductor growth and collaborate on AI and quantum computing initiatives.

REMEMBER

- ISM 2.0: India Semiconductor Mission is the flagship initiative to boost domestic chip manufacturing.
- Quantum Computing: Computing that uses quantum-mechanical phenomena like superposition and entanglement.
- SEMI: A global industry association representing the semiconductor manufacturing industry.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the strategic importance of developing a robust semiconductor ecosystem for India's technological sovereignty and economic growth.

USE : Technological Sovereignty Semiconductor Ecosystem
Strategic Collaboration Infrastructure Development

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/122565

Government introduces new UPI charge framework for capital markets

Why in news: The government proposed a 0.02% Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI payments linked to capital-market transactions to balance payment ecosystem costs.

REMEMBER

- MDR (Merchant Discount Rate) — a fee charged by merchants on UPI transactions.
- 0.02% — the proposed MDR rate for UPI payments in capital-market transactions.
- ₹300 — the maximum cap per transaction for UPI capital-market MDR.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the implications of introducing Merchant Discount Rates (MDR) on UPI payments for capital market transactions on retail investor participation and brokerage business models.

USE : Merchant Discount Rate UPI Capital Markets
Retail Investors

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/122491

Oman's Sohar Port seeks \$30 billion in Indian investments

Why in news: CEO of Sohar Port and Freezone, Raid Al Rubaiey, invited Indian investments worth \$30 billion at a New Delhi event to bolster energy value chains.

REMEMBER

- Sohar Port — a major maritime hub in Oman serving as a strategic alternative for Asian refiners.
- 72 million tonnes — the annual cargo handling capacity of Sohar Port and Freezone.
- \$30 billion — the amount of investment sought to strengthen energy value chains.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how strategic maritime infrastructure investments in the Middle East can enhance India's energy security and diversify its supply chain resilience.

USE : Energy Security Maritime Infrastructure
Supply Chain Resilience Strategic Investment

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/122547

Everything else, one line each

GS1 · HISTORY · SOCIETY · GEOGRAPHY

India Takes Control of Hyderabad September 13–17 1948 Ending Its Autonomy

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

Rohingya repatriation: Malaysia proposes inviting Myanmar’s military ruler to expedite the return of refugees.

Boundary Commission: India rejected the Pakistan–China Boundary Joint Commission, asserting J&K and Ladakh are integral parts of India.

Pakistani Navy corvette nears Indian warship in international waters

Naval collision: India summoned Pakistan’s charge d’Affaires over a collision in the Arabian Sea violating a 1991 agreement.

Bhutan visit: Minister S. Jaishankar visits Bhutan for bilateral talks and a royal audience to strengthen diplomatic ties.

Political manifestos: Plea seeks legally enforceable formats and ECI guidelines to ensure accountability for electoral promises.

High Commissioner: India’s delay in approving Bangladesh’s nominee Asad Alam Siam is causing diplomatic friction.

IKS integration: NCERT formed committees to overhaul Class 11 and 12 Economics and English textbooks with Indian Knowledge Systems.

MAP WORK

Places in news

Sohar Port	a major maritime hub in Oman serving as a strategic alternative for Asian refiners.
Islamabad	Location where the Pakistan–China Boundary Joint Commission was operationalized.
Arabian Sea	The location of the naval collision between Indian and Pakistani ships.
Kollam, Kerala	Location where the specimen was found at a depth of 300 meters
Bhutan	A landlocked country in South Asia and neighbor to India

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

UPI MDR: A petition challenges the 0.4% Merchant Discount Rate on UPI transactions exceeding ₹2,000 starting October 15, 2026.

Paraborg cyborgs: Cyborg cockroaches developed by UQ and UNSW to navigate rubble and deliver medical aid during disasters.

New eel species: Scientists identified *Ariosoma cmfriense* at a depth of 300 meters off the Kollam coast.

Mukulam AI portal: Kerala initiative providing free AI training and personalized learning for students preparing for NEET, JEE, and CUET.

AI Biosecurity: OpenAI endorsed US bills to regulate AI’s role in biological threats and mandate independent safety evaluations.

OIS rate: The one-year Overnight Index Swap rate reached 6.11%, the highest since June, signaling anticipated rate hikes.

NSE share trading: NSE proposed using the 'permitted to trade' route to list shares on BSE due to SEBI’s self-regulation ban.

TNPDCL funding: CAG reports ₹2.55 lakh crore received by TNPDCL from state government between 2013–14 and 2024–25.

5 questions, 5 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

1 With reference to the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI transactions, consider the following statements:

1. The NPCI is the primary body responsible for operating the UPI system in India.
2. The MDR applies to all P2M UPI transactions regardless of the amount.
3. The MDR rate for transactions exceeding ₹2,000 is set at 0.4%.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2 With reference to the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 and UPI transactions, consider the following statements:

1. The proposed Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) applies to all UPI transactions regardless of the amount.
2. The government intends to impose a 0.4% Merchant Discount Rate on UPI transactions exceeding ₹2,000.
3. The UPI system is a real-time payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3 With reference to the EPFO wage ceiling hike, consider the following statements:

1. The hike will cover an additional 51 lakh workers.
2. The new EPFO wage ceiling is set at ₹25,000.
3. The annual government outgo will increase by ₹15,000 crore.

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

4 With reference to counterspace weapons and space capabilities, consider the following statements:

1. Space Situational Awareness involves monitoring only the orbital debris of the moon.
2. India successfully demonstrated its ASAT capability in 2018.
3. The US Air Force confirmed the deployment of counterspace weapons including jammers and kinetic systems.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5 Under which Act does the Indian government have the legal framework to designate and deal with terrorist organisations?

- (a) Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (b) Foreign Contribution Regulation Act
(c) National Security Act (d) Prevention of Money Laundering Act

MAINS PRACTICE

Write one answer today

GS3 • ECONOMY

Discuss the implications of introducing Merchant Discount Rates (MDR) on high-value UPI transactions for the growth of the digital payment ecosystem in India.

USE : Digital Public Infrastructure Merchant Discount Rate Payment Interoperability Transaction Costs Financial Inclusion

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



TELEGRAM



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