

**Current Affairs • 18 September 2026****17 min**

READING TIME

8

KEY STORIES

13

IN BRIEF

5 + 1

MCQS + MAINS

GS1 • 1

GS2 • 3

GS3 • 17

PAPER MIX

01 — TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip**1 HAL hands over indigenous Tejas twin-seater and HTT-40 aircraft to IAF**

Why it matters: Indigenization of aerospace manufacturing: a key GS3 topic on Atmanirbhar Bharat and defense technology.

GS3 • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

P

M

2 India approves 12 semiconductor plants to boost domestic electronics hub

Why it matters: Semiconductor ecosystem development: a key GS3 topic regarding economic sovereignty and technological advancement.

GS3 • ECONOMY

P

M

3 David Baker uses AI to design synthetic molecules not found in nature

Why it matters: AI-driven biotechnology and synthetic biology: a key GS3 Science & Technology topic.

GS3 • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

P

M

4 Russia and China veto US-backed Iran sanctions resolution at UN

Why it matters: Veto power and sanctions efficacy: a core GS2 International Relations and Multilateralism topic.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

M

5 India's economy crosses \$4 trillion mark through structural reforms

Why it matters: Economic growth and structural reforms: a key GS3 topic for analyzing India's trajectory toward a \$5 trillion economy.

GS3 • ECONOMY

P

M

NUMBER OF THE DAY

70 aircraft

The total number of HTT-40 aircraft to be delivered under the specific contract.

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

P = PRELIMS • M = MAINS

What to know, in 60 seconds each

8 of 21 notes · picked for exam value

GS3 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

P M

HAL hands over indigenous Tejas twin-seater and HTT-40 aircraft to IAF

Why in news: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) handed over LCA Tejas Final Operational Clearance (FOC) twin-seater trainers, HTT-40 basic trainers, and Dhruv next-generation helicopters to the IAF and Pawan Hans.

REMEMBER

- Atmanirbhar Bharat: The goal of achieving self-reliance in defense and civil aviation through indigenous manufacturing.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL): The entity responsible for developing and delivering the indigenous aircraft.
- HTT-40 (Ankur): An indigenous basic trainer aircraft developed by HAL.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how the indigenization of aerospace platforms like the LCA Tejas and HTT-40 contributes to India's strategic autonomy and the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

USE: Atmanirbhar Bharat Strategic Autonomy Indigenization Aerospace Engineering

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/123277

GS3 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

P M

David Baker uses AI to design synthetic molecules not found in nature

Why in news: The Allen Institute and David Baker are utilizing AI-driven bio-design to create synthetic molecules not found in nature to treat diseases and address environmental issues.

REMEMBER

- David Baker — 2024 Nobel Prize winner for protein design
- AI BioDesign — uses computational screening and lab testing to design molecules not found in nature
- Allen Institute — key collaborator in the AI BioDesign project

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how AI-driven synthetic biology can revolutionize healthcare and environmental sustainability while addressing the ethical risks of creating non-natural molecules.

USE: Synthetic Biology AI BioDesign Dual-use Research Biosecurity

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/123216

GS3 · ECONOMY

P M

India approves 12 semiconductor plants to boost domestic electronics hub

Why in news: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw reported progress on India's semiconductor ambitions, noting that five of the twelve approved plants are now operational.

REMEMBER

- 5 out of 12 approved semiconductor plants are currently operational
- 70,000 design engineers trained to support the domestic electronics manufacturing hub
- Semicon India event held in New Delhi

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of developing a domestic semiconductor ecosystem for India's economic sovereignty and technological advancement.

USE: Semiconductor ecosystem Strategic autonomy Capital intensive Design engineering

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/123265

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P M

Russia and China veto US-backed Iran sanctions resolution at UN

Why in news: Russia and China vetoed a US-backed UN Security Council resolution to extend the mandate for monitoring sanctions on Iran, which Iran characterized as a politically motivated move by the West.

REMEMBER

- Snapback Mechanism — a provision in the 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal (JCPOA) allowing the restoration of previous UN sanctions.
- P5 Members — China, France, Russia, UK, and USA hold permanent seats and veto power in the UNSC.
- UN Security Council — the body responsible for maintaining international peace and security.

MAINS ANGLE Analyze how the use of the veto power by permanent members of the UN Security Council impacts the efficacy of international sanctions regimes.

USE: Veto Power Sanctions Regime Snapback Mechanism Multilateralism

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/122970

India's economy crosses \$4 trillion mark through structural reforms

Why in news: The article highlights India's economic expansion to a \$4.15 trillion nominal GDP by 2026 under 'Modinomics' reforms, while noting persistent challenges in job creation.

REMEMBER

- Modinomics — economic trajectory involving structural reforms, GST, and UPI expansion.
- Nominal GDP — crossed the \$4 trillion mark from \$2 trillion in 2014.
- Real GDP growth — recorded at 7.8% in the April-June quarter of FY27.

MAINS ANGLE Analyze the impact of 'Modinomics' on India's infrastructure and digital economy, and discuss the challenges in translating GDP growth into large-scale job creation.

USE : Modinomics Nominal GDP Production Linked Incentive Digital Payments

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/122896

SEBI bars Kore Digital leadership over ₹541 crore revenue misstatement

Why in news: Sebi barred the MD, CEO, and CFO of Kore Digital from capital markets and prohibited the firm from raising public funds over allegations of a Rs 541 crore revenue misstatement.

REMEMBER

- SEBI — Primary regulator for the securities market in India
- Shell companies — Entities used to inflate revenue through forged audit reports
- ₹541 crore — Amount of revenue allegedly misstated by Kore Digital

MAINS ANGLE Examine the regulatory challenges in curbing corporate fraud and revenue inflation in the capital markets. How can forensic auditing strengthen investor protection?

USE : Corporate Governance Forensic Audit Market Integrity Regulatory Enforcement

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/123130

Election Commission allots different symbols to split AITC factions

Why in news: The Election Commission locked the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) symbol following a factional split between Mamata Banerjee and Arup Roy-Ritabrata Banerjee.

REMEMBER

- Party Legitimacy — determined by majority support among MPs and MLAs during internal splits.
- Election Commission of India — constitutional body responsible for allotting and regulating political party symbols.
- 1969 Precedent — established that majority support is a key factor in determining party legitimacy.

MAINS ANGLE Examine the role of the Election Commission in resolving intra-party disputes and the significance of legislative strength in determining political party legitimacy in India.

USE : intra-party democracy electoral legitimacy arbitration political representation

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/123263

Delhi High Court grants bail to UK national Jagtar Singh Johal

Why in news: The Delhi High Court granted bail to UK national Jagtar Singh Johal in seven NIA-investigated anti-terror cases after he spent over eight years in custody.

REMEMBER

- NIA — National Investigation Agency is the primary counter-terrorism agency in India.
- Delhi High Court — High Court with jurisdiction over the capital territory.
- Jagtar Singh Johal — A UK national involved in anti-terror cases investigated by the NIA.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the judicial balance between the state's power to detain individuals for national security and the fundamental right to a speedy trial.

USE : Judicial Review National Security Right to Speedy Trial NIA

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/123202

Everything else, one line each

GS1 · HISTORY · SOCIETY · GEOGRAPHY

Tulu language: Karnataka government recognized Tulu as an additional administrative language and renamed Dakshina Kannada to Mangaluru.

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

Rewards for Justice: US Department of State offers \$15 million for info on IRGC financial networks and sanction–evasion tactics.

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

Digital Agriculture: Andhra Pradesh achieved 86.8% of AgriStack Farmer ID targets and reduced urea consumption via APAIMS 2.0.

Humpback whale behavior: First scientific documentation of a baleen whale exhibiting potential grief–like behavior toward a stillborn calf.

Chilean tree daisy: Conservationists are using the Millennium Seed Bank to save the critically endangered *Dendroseris neriifolia*.

MAP WORK

Places in news

Delhi High Court	High Court with jurisdiction over the capital territory.
Mangaluru	the new name for the Dakshina Kannada district
Gold Coast	A coastal region in Queensland, Australia where the observation occurred.
Robinson Crusoe Island	Location in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Chile where the last wild daisy was found.

Space fungi: Researchers grew and consumed lion's mane, turkey's tail, and cordyceps after a month on the ISS.

Iberian lynx: Population grew from 62 mature individuals in 2001 to over 2,000 by 2022 due to conservation efforts.

AI bioweapons: Researchers demonstrated AI's ability to design new viral genomes, prompting calls for DNA synthesis oversight.

UPI MDR: Capital market transactions face a 0.02% UPI MDR capped at ₹300 starting 15 October.

UPI MDR: A 0.4% Merchant Discount Rate applies to person–to–merchant UPI transactions exceeding ₹2,000 from 15 October.

AI safety: Anthropic and others call for a coordinated slowdown to counter AI agent swarm hacking risks.

Equity derivatives: Individual traders' aggregate net losses fell to ₹91,685 crore in FY26 despite 88% still incurring losses.

UPI MDR: Proposal to cap UPI Merchant Discount Rate charges at Rs 300 for transactions exceeding Rs 75,000.

5 questions, 5 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

- 1** Which indigenous aircraft is being developed by HAL as a basic trainer?
- (a) HTT-40 (Ankur) (b) Mirage 2000
(c) Rafale (d) Su-30 MKI
-
- 2** How many design engineers has the Indian government successfully trained to support the domestic electronics manufacturing hub?
- (a) 70,000 (b) 1,00,000
(c) 1,50,000 (d) 50,000
-
- 3** With reference to AI-driven protein design and synthetic biology, consider the following statements:
1. The AI BioDesign initiative is led by the Indian Institute of Science.
 2. David Baker won the 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for protein design.
 3. AI BioDesign is used exclusively for treating neurodegenerative disorders.
- 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
-
- 4** With reference to the Iran Nuclear Deal (JCPOA) and the UN Security Council, consider the following statements:
1. The P5 members include China, France, Russia, UK, and Germany.
 2. The Snapback Mechanism allows for the restoration of previous UN sanctions.
 3. The vetoed resolution aimed to extend the mandate for monitoring sanctions on Iran.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 only (d) 2 and 3 only
-
- 5** With reference to India's economic growth and structural reforms, consider the following statements:
1. The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes are designed to boost domestic manufacturing.
 2. India's nominal GDP was recorded at \$3 trillion in 2014.
 3. India's real GDP growth was recorded at 7.8% in the April-June quarter of FY25.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
-

MAINS PRACTICE

Write one answer today

GS3 • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Discuss how the indigenization of aerospace platforms like the LCA Tejas and HTT-40 contributes to India's strategic autonomy and the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

USE: Atmanirbhar Bharat Strategic Autonomy Indigenization Aerospace Engineering Defense Procurement

ANSWERS • 1 (a) 2 (a) 3 (a) 4 (d) 5 (a)



TELEGRAM



WEBSITE

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