

**Current Affairs • 20 September 2026****16 min**

READING TIME

8

KEY STORIES

9

IN BRIEF

5 + 1

MCQS + MAINS

GS1 • 2

GS2 • 8

GS3 • 7

PAPER MIX

01 — TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip**1 Government mandates biometric Aadhaar authentication for subsidised LPG refills****Why it matters:** DBT and biometric authentication: a GS3 case study on fiscal prudence and subsidy leakage.

GS3 • ECONOMY

P

M

2 Iran's top security official Mohsen Rezaei stated that Tehran has conveyed specific conditions to the US via Qatari mediators to end the ongoing war**Why it matters:** Iran's top security official Mohsen Rezaei stated that Tehran has conveyed specific conditions to the US via Qatari mediators to end the ongoing war.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

M

3 'Path of deception closed': Iran warns US of 'no limitations' in retaliation if attacked**Why it matters:** Iran's central command warned the US of 'no limitations' in retaliation and issued seven truce conditions via Qatari mediators to avoid a decisive war.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

M

4 ECI issues notices to high-profile voters for electoral roll verification**Why it matters:** Constitutional mandate of ECI regarding electoral integrity: a GS2 Polity topic.

GS2 • POLITY & CONSTITUTION

P

5 Ashwini Vaishnaw warns of sabotage against India's semiconductor push**Why it matters:** Cybersecurity and supply chain resilience in high-tech manufacturing: a GS3 Science & Technology and Security case study.

GS3 • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

P

M

NUMBER OF THE DAY

Rs 62,000 crore

accumulated subsidy losses as of August 31, 2024.

CONNECT TO STATIC

Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDV Act)provides civil and criminal remedies for domestic abuse. *In the news:* Kerala High Court rules delay in filing PWDV complaint is not ground to quash proceedings.

What to know, in 60 seconds each

8 of 17 notes · picked for exam value

GS3 · ECONOMY

P

M

Government mandates biometric Aadhaar authentication for subsidised LPG refills

Why in news: The government mandated biometric Aadhaar authentication for subsidized LPG refills starting October 1, 2026, to curb subsidy leakage and target eligible beneficiaries.

REMEMBER

- Biometric authentication: used to ensure targeted delivery of subsidies and reduce leakage.
- Rs 62,000 crore: accumulated subsidy losses as of August 31, 2024.
- 89.9%: percentage of domestic LPG consumers who completed biometric authentication by September 19.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how the integration of biometric authentication in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanisms addresses fiscal leakages while ensuring inclusive delivery of subsidies.

USE: Direct Benefit Transfer Fiscal Leakage Digital Inclusion

Subsidy Targeting

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/123761

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

M

Iran's top security official Mohsen Rezaei stated that Tehran has conveyed specific conditions to the US via Qatari mediators to end the ongoing war

Why in news: Iran's top security official Mohsen Rezaei stated that Tehran has conveyed specific conditions to the US via Qatari mediators to end the ongoing war.

REMEMBER

- Iran's top security official as of September 2026 is Mohsen Rezaei
- Qatar is acting as the mediator between Iran and the US for peace terms
- Iran's demands include the lifting of the US naval blockade on Iranian ports

MAINS ANGLE Analyze the role of regional mediators in de-escalating Middle Eastern conflicts and the impact of maritime blockades on sovereign economic stability.

USE: Coercive diplomacy Maritime blockade

Regional mediation

Asset freezing

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/123845

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

M

'Path of deception closed': Iran warns US of 'no limitations' in retaliation if attacked

Why in news: Iran's central command warned the US of 'no limitations' in retaliation and issued seven truce conditions via Qatari mediators to avoid a decisive war.

REMEMBER

- Strait of Hormuz: A strategic waterway threatened for closure by Iran in the context of the conflict.
- Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf: Speaker of the Iranian Parliament.
- Iran issued seven truce conditions through Qatari mediators to avoid decisive war.

MAINS ANGLE Analyze the impact of escalating tensions in the Strait of Hormuz on global energy security and regional stability in the Middle East.

USE: deterrence maritime security geopolitics

regional stability

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124165

GS2 · POLITY & CONSTITUTION

P

ECI issues notices to high-profile voters for electoral roll verification

Why in news: The Election Commission clarified that notices issued to prominent voters, including External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar

REMEMBER

- Election Commission of India (ECI) — Constitutional body responsible for preparing and revising electoral rolls.
- Special Intensive Revision (SIR) — A process to ensure accuracy of voter data and documentation.
- October 29 — Deadline for verification of documentation discrepancies.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the importance of periodic electoral roll revisions in ensuring the integrity of the democratic process in India.

USE: Electoral Roll Special Intensive Revision Verification

Democratic Integrity

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124126

Ashwini Vaishnaw warns of sabotage against India's semiconductor push

Why in news: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw warned of potential sabotage, cyber attacks, and fake news targeting India's growing semiconductor industry as it scales up production.

REMEMBER

- Semiconductors: Foundational components of modern electronics, including smartphones and AI hardware.
- SEMICON India 2026: Participated by approximately 300 international companies.
- 56 MoUs: Signed between September 17 and September 19 to bolster the chip production sector.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the security challenges and geopolitical risks associated with India's ambition to become a global hub for semiconductor manufacturing.

USE : Semiconductor Ecosystem Cyber Security

Industrial Sabotage Strategic Autonomy

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124013

ISI lures truck driver in Kathua to provide live surveillance feed

Why in news: Jammu and Kashmir Police and intelligence agencies arrested a 24-year-old man from Kathua for allegedly providing live surveillance feeds to ISI handlers via a SIM-enabled CCTV camera.

REMEMBER

- Kathua — District in Jammu and Kashmir where the espionage was detected.
- Hybrid warfare — The use of hi-tech espionage and social media to compromise border security.
- SIM-enabled CCTV — Technology used to provide live surveillance feeds to external handlers.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the growing threat of high-tech espionage and social media-led radicalization in border regions and suggest measures to counter such hybrid security threats.

USE : hybrid warfare high-tech espionage border security

cyber-surveillance

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/123974

Kerala High Court rules delay in filing PWDV complaint is not ground to quash proceedings

Why in news: The Kerala High Court ruled that a delay in filing a complaint under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence (PWDV) Act is not a sufficient ground to quash criminal proceedings.

REMEMBER

- Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDV Act) — provides civil and criminal remedies for domestic abuse.
- Social barriers — recognized by the court as a factor that can cause delays in reporting domestic violence.
- Judicial First Class Magistrate Court — the primary forum for many PWDV Act proceedings.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how judicial interpretations of the PWDV Act balance the procedural requirement of timely reporting with the socio-cultural realities faced by victims of domestic violence.

USE : Judicial interpretation Domestic violence

Procedural delay Victim-centric justice

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124007

Warming oceans may cause coral suffocation due to ciliary malfunction

Why in news: A May 2026 Science study revealed that coral cilia, which circulate oxygen, can malfunction and cause suffocation in corals when water temperatures exceed 39°C.

REMEMBER

- Coral cilia: Microscopic hairlike structures that generate water vortices to circulate oxygen to coral tissues.
- 39°C: The critical temperature threshold above which ciliary malfunction leads to oxygen depletion and coral death.
- Oxygen source: Corals rely on symbiotic algae for oxygen during the day and water circulation via cilia at night.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how rising ocean temperatures impact coral reef physiology and the subsequent implications for marine biodiversity and coastal ecosystems.

USE : Coral Bleaching Marine Biology Climate Change

Ocean Acidification

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/123971

Everything else, one line each

9 more notes · full versions online

GS1 · HISTORY · SOCIETY · GEOGRAPHY

Madhupur Satra: Assam government allocated Rs 35 crore to revamp the site in Cooch Behar to match Batadrava Than.

Dadasaheb Phalke Award: Veteran actor Anant Nag selected to receive the 2024 award at the 72nd National Film Awards in Gujarat.

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

Judicial neutrality: Justice N. Anand Venkatesh highlighted threats like politicisation of judgments and commercialisation of legal education.

Naval collision: INS Kolkata and PNS Hunain collided in the North Arabian Sea, allegedly violating the 1991 naval agreement.

Fraudulent certificate: Madras High Court refused terminal benefits to a Caste Hindu who used a fake tribal certificate for a reserved post.

The Allahabad High Court directed the Uttar Pradesh Police to provide security to an inter-faith same-sex couple in a live-in relationship

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

Social media radicalization: Pakistani influencer Shahzad Bhatti linked to terror activities across 14 Indian states.

Brain tissue transplant: Lab-grown human brain tissue grew to occupy over 90% of the cortical space in mice within months.

Southern Ridge: Delhi government approved Reserved Forest status for 1,000 acres to combat encroachment and restore the ecosystem.

MAP WORK

Places in news

Kathua	District in Jammu and Kashmir where the espionage was detected.
Gujarat	Venue for the 72nd National Film Awards
North Arabian Sea	The site of the maritime collision between the two vessels.
Southern Ridge	The largest ridge system in Delhi, covering approximately 6,200 hectares.
Chennai Port Trust	A major port authority in Tamil Nadu where the petitioner served.

5 questions, 5 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

- 1** Which body is responsible for managing the Aadhaar civil identity program mentioned in the note?
- (a) RBI (b) SEBI
(c) UIDAI (d) NITI Aayog
-
- 2** With reference to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, consider the following statements:
1. The Election Commission of India is a statutory body responsible for the preparation of electoral rolls.
 2. The final electoral roll for the relevant period is scheduled to be finalized on November 4.
 3. The Special Intensive Revision is a process to ensure the accuracy of voter data and documentation.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) 3 only (d) 2 and 3 only
-
- 3** How many international companies participated in the SEMICON India 2026 event?
- (a) 500 (b) 1000
(c) 300 (d) 150
-
- 4** Which Act provides both civil and criminal remedies for victims of domestic abuse in India?
- (a) Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (b) Domestic Violence Prevention Act
(c) Criminal Procedure Code (d) Women Empowerment Act
-
- 5** With reference to the espionage case in Kathua, consider the following statements:
1. The accused was arrested in the Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir.
 2. The suspect received payments through local Indian banking channels.
 3. The suspect used a SIM-enabled CCTV camera to provide live surveillance.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 3 only (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 2 and 3 only
-

MAINS PRACTICE

Write one answer today

GS3 • ECONOMY

Discuss how the integration of biometric authentication in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanisms addresses fiscal leakages while ensuring inclusive delivery of subsidies.

USE : Direct Benefit Transfer Fiscal Leakage Digital Inclusion Subsidy Targeting Biometric Authentication

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



TELEGRAM



WEBSITE

Get it every morning on **Telegram**

Daily PDF + quiz at 5 AM · weekly review every Sunday · English and Hindi · free, no sign-up.

t.me/satyadheesh · satyadheesh.in/upsc/reports

Notes are generated from SatyaDheesh's news feed and mapped to the UPSC CSE syllabus. Verify facts with the original report or PIB before using them in an answer.