

**SATYADHEESH**
सत्याधीश

UPSC DAILY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs • 20 September 2026

17
NOTES**2**
STORIES MERGED**10**
MCQSGS1 • 2 GS2 • 8 GS3 • 7
PAPER MIX

CONTENTS

Every note, grouped by paper

GS1 History • Society • Geography	2 notes
History & Culture	2
GS2 Polity • Governance • Social Justice • IR	8 notes
Polity & Constitution	2
Social Justice	3
International Relations	3
GS3 Economy • S&T • Environment • Security	7 notes
Economy	1
Science & Technology	3
Environment & Ecology	1
Internal Security	2

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.

History & Culture

2

ART, ARCHITECTURE & CULTURE P

20 Sep · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/123946

Assam and West Bengal collaborate to revamp historic Madhupur Satra

WHY IN NEWS Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma visited Madhupur Satra in West Bengal's Cooch Behar to propose a joint redevelopment project with the West Bengal government.

- FIGURE** | Srimanta Sankardeva — key figure in the Neo-Vaishnavite movement of Assam
- FIGURE** | Rs 35 crore — amount allocated by Assam government for redevelopment
- CONCEPT** | Batadrava Than — the birthplace of Srimanta Sankardeva

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of cultural heritage in fostering inter-state cooperation and preserving the syncretic traditions of Northeast India.

USE: Cultural Heritage Inter-state Cooperation Srimanta Sankardeva Syncretic Culture Heritage Conservation

ART, ARCHITECTURE & CULTURE P

20 Sep · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/123894

Anant Nag selected for 2024 Dadasaheb Phalke Award

WHY IN NEWS Veteran actor Anant Nag is set to receive the 2024 Dadasaheb Phalke Award at the 72nd National Film Awards in Gujarat.

- CONCEPT** | Dadasaheb Phalke Award — India's highest award in the field of cinema
- PERSON** | Anant Nag — Recipient of the 2024 Dadasaheb Phalke Award and Padma Bhushan
- PLACE** | Gujarat — Venue for the 72nd National Film Awards
- FIGURE** | Anant Nag is the second Kannada actor to receive the Dadasaheb Phalke Award

MAINS Q Discuss the role of regional cinema in shaping India's cultural identity and its contribution to the mainstream national narrative.

USE: Cultural identity Regional cinema Artistic expression National Film Awards

Polity & Constitution

2

ELECTIONS, ECI & ELECTORAL REFORMS

P

20 Sep · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/124126

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

BODY	Election Commission of India (ECI) — Constitutional body responsible for preparing and revising electoral rolls.
CONCEPT	Special Intensive Revision (SIR) — A process to ensure accuracy of voter data and documentation.
DATE	October 29 — Deadline for verification of documentation discrepancies.
DATE	November 4 — Scheduled date for finalization of the electoral roll.

MAINS Q 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 Election Commission

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

M

20 Sep · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/123876

Justice Anand Venkatesh urges judicial introspection to restore neutrality

WHY IN NEWS Justice N. Anand Venkatesh of the Madras High Court called for judicial introspection to address the politicisation of judgments and lack of transparency in the Collegium system.

PERSON	Justice N. Anand Venkatesh — Judge of the Madras High Court
CONCEPT	Collegium System — A mechanism for the appointment of judges in India
CONCEPT	Judicial Neutrality — Threatened by political affiliations of advocates and commercialised legal education

MAINS Q Critically examine the challenges posed by the commercialisation of legal education and political affiliations of advocates on the independence of the Indian judiciary.

USE: Judicial Independence Collegium System Transparency Judicial Neutrality Legal Education

Social Justice

3

VULNERABLE SECTIONS (SC/ST, MINORITIES, DISABLED, ELDERLY, CHILDREN)

M

20 Sep · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/124007

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.

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

MAINS Q 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 Social stigma

Madras High Court refuses terminal benefits to candidate with bogus tribe certificate

WHY IN NEWS The Madras High Court refused to order the release of terminal benefits to a Caste Hindu who fraudulently obtained a Scheduled Tribe certificate to secure a reserved position in the Chennai Port Trust.

BODY	State Level Scrutiny Committee — Body responsible for verifying the validity of caste and tribe certificates.
PLACE	Chennai Port Trust — A major port authority in Tamil Nadu where the petitioner served.
CONCEPT	Terminal benefits — Benefits provided to employees upon retirement or superannuation.

MAINS Q Discuss the institutional and systemic challenges in preventing the fraudulent acquisition of caste certificates and its impact on the efficacy of reservation policies.

USE: [Reservation Policy](#) [Social Justice](#) [Fraudulent Certification](#) [Public Employment](#) [Scheduled Tribes](#)

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

WHY IN NEWS The Allahabad High Court directed the Uttar Pradesh Police to provide security to an inter-faith same-sex couple in a live-in relationship, affirming the right of adults to live together.

POST	Justice Gautam Chowdhary: Judge of the Allahabad High Court
FACT	The court's directive specifically covers an inter-faith same-sex couple in a live-in relationship
FACT	The court emphasized protection under fundamental rights despite societal objections

MAINS Q Discuss the conflict between individual fundamental rights and societal norms regarding the legal recognition and protection of live-in relationships in India.

USE: [Fundamental Rights](#) [Personal Liberty](#) [Judicial Activism](#) [Social Inclusion](#) [Live-in Relationship](#)

International Relations

3

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.

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

MAINS Q 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](#) [Geopolitical leverage](#)

‘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.

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

MAINS Q *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 mediation

India and Pakistan naval vessels collide in North Arabian Sea

WHY IN NEWS India accused Pakistan of violating the 1991 maritime agreement after the Indian warship INS Kolkata and the Pakistani vessel PNS Hunain collided in the North Arabian Sea.

- CONCEPT | 1991 India–Pakistan Agreement: Mandates a three–nautical–mile separation between naval vessels under Article 10.
- PLACE | North Arabian Sea: The site of the maritime collision between the two vessels.
- BODY | INS Kolkata: A Project 15A guided missile destroyer commissioned in August 2014.
- BODY | PNS Hunain: An offshore patrol vessel commissioned in July 2024.

MAINS Q *Discuss the significance of maritime boundary agreements and naval protocols in maintaining regional stability in the North Arabian Sea.*

USE: Maritime Security Bilateral Relations Naval Diplomacy North Arabian Sea Maritime Domain Awareness

Economy

1

GROWTH, INFLATION & MACRO INDICATORS

P

M

20 Sep · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/123761**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.

CONCEPT	Biometric authentication: used to ensure targeted delivery of subsidies and reduce leakage.
FIGURE	Rs 62,000 crore: accumulated subsidy losses as of August 31, 2024.
FIGURE	89.9%: percentage of domestic LPG consumers who completed biometric authentication by September 19.
BODY	UIDAI: manages Aadhaar, a voluntary civil identity program.

MAINS Q 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

Science & Technology

3

IT, AI, SEMICONDUCTORS & COMPUTING

P

M

20 Sep · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/124013**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.

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

MAINS Q 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 Information Warfare

BIOTECHNOLOGY & HEALTH RESEARCH

P

20 Sep · Wired · satyadheesh.in/news/123971**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.

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

MAINS Q 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 Hydrodynamics

Stanford scientists transplant human brain tissue into mice

WHY IN NEWS Stanford scientists led by Sergiu Pasca successfully transplanted lab-grown human brain tissue into mice lacking most of their cerebral cortex to study human neuron development.

- CONCEPT** | Human-animal chimeras: Organisms containing cells from two different species used to study neurological conditions.
- CONCEPT** | Neural development: Study of how human neurons form functional connections with the brain and spinal cord.
- FIGURE** | 90% expansion: The percentage of cortical space occupied by transplanted human tissue in the study.

MAINS Q Discuss the ethical and scientific implications of using human-animal chimeric models in neurobiology research to understand complex neurological disorders.

USE: Chimeric models Neurobiology Neural integration Bioethics Human-animal research

Environment & Ecology

1

Delhi government grants Reserved Forest status to 1,000 acres of Southern Ridge

WHY IN NEWS The Delhi government approved granting Reserved Forest status to nearly 1,000 acres of the Southern Ridge to enhance legal protection and ecosystem revival.

- PLACE** | Southern Ridge: The largest ridge system in Delhi, covering approximately 6,200 hectares.
- FIGURE** | Total protected ridge area: Approximately 13,000 acres post-notification.
- CONCEPT** | Restoration strategy: Focus on native plant species and control of invasive species.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of designating urban forest areas as Reserved Forests in mitigating the ecological impact of rapid urbanization in the National Capital Region.

USE: Ecosystem revival Reserved Forest status Invasive species management Urban forestry Ecological restoration

Internal Security

2

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.

- PLACE** | Kathua — District in Jammu and Kashmir where the espionage was detected.
- CONCEPT** | Hybrid warfare — The use of hi-tech espionage and social media to compromise border security.
- CONCEPT** | SIM-enabled CCTV — Technology used to provide live surveillance feeds to external handlers.
- FIGURE** | Dubai-based channels — Financial routes allegedly used to pay the suspect for intelligence.

MAINS Q 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 radicalization

Pakistani influencer linked to terror activities across 14 Indian states

WHY IN NEWS A Pakistani social-media influencer, Shahzad Bhatti, has been linked to terror-related investigations across 14 Indian States for mobilizing followers to perform subversive tasks.

ACT | UAPA: Unlawful Activities Prevention Act is the primary legislation to combat terrorism and maintain national security.

CONCEPT | Cross-border terrorism: Use of social media influencers to facilitate radicalization and surveillance.

FIGURE | 14 Indian states: The number of states where the influencer's activities were reported over two years.

MAINS Q *Discuss the challenges posed by social media as a tool for radicalization and cross-border coordination by non-state actors in the contemporary security landscape.*

USE: [radicalization](#) [cross-border terrorism](#) [digital footprint](#) [critical infrastructure](#) [UAPA](#)

10 questions, 10 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

6 What is the critical temperature threshold above which coral cilia may malfunction and cause suffocation?

- ☐ a 42°C ☐ b 32°C
☐ c 39°C ☐ d 35°C

7 With reference to the redevelopment of Madhupur Satra, consider the following statements:

1. The project is being undertaken by the West Bengal government alone.
2. The project aims to develop the site on par with Batadrava Than.
3. The site is located in the Cooch Behar district of West Bengal.

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

8 With reference to the Dadasaheb Phalke Award and the 72nd National Film Awards, consider the following statements:

1. The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest award in the field of cinema.
2. The 72nd National Film Awards are scheduled to be held in Gujarat.
3. Anant Nag is the first Kannada actor to receive the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9 With reference to the Indian judiciary and the Collegium system, consider the following statements:

1. Justice N. Anand Venkatesh is a judge of the Supreme Court of India.
2. Commercialisation of legal education is identified as a threat to judicial neutrality.
3. The Collegium system is the mechanism used for the appointment of judges in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10 With reference to the activities of the Pakistani influencer Shahzad Bhatti, consider the following statements:

1. The influencer was linked to terror-related activities across 14 Indian states.
2. Followers were arrested under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).
3. The influencer's activities were reported across 5 Indian states over a two-year period.

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

(q) 01 (p) 6 (o) 8 (n) 7 (m) 6 (l) 5 (k) 4 (j) 3 (i) 2 (h) 1 • ANSWERS



TELEGRAM



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