

**Current Affairs • 22 September 2026****16 min**

READING TIME

8

KEY STORIES

9

IN BRIEF

5 + 1

MCQS + MAINS

GS1 • 1

GS2 • 10

GS3 • 6

PAPER MIX

01 – TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip**1****China issues Taiwan red line warning ahead of Xi-Trump summit****Why it matters:** Geopolitics and maritime security: a key GS2 case study on trilateral dynamics and trade barriers.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

M

2**Visegrad Group pledges support for India's permanent UNSC seat****Why it matters:** India's expanding multilateral alliances and strategic partnerships: a key GS2 International Relations topic.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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3**Developing El Niño reaches strongest sea surface temperature on record****Why it matters:** Climate change and monsoon dynamics: a relevant GS3 topic regarding meteorological phenomena.

GS1 • GEOGRAPHY

P

4**RBI aligns market risk capital requirements with Basel III standards****Why it matters:** Banking regulation and capital adequacy: a key GS3 topic regarding financial stability and risk management.

GS3 • ECONOMY

P

5**Strait Of Hormuz And Bab El-Mandeb: Putin, Saudi crown prince discuss safe passage through Hormuz, Bab el-Mandeb****Why it matters:** Russian President Vladimir Putin and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman discussed ensuring safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb to secure global energy shipments.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

M

NUMBER OF THE DAY

USD 11 billion

The value of the proposed US arms package for Taiwan.

What to know, in 60 seconds each

8 of 17 notes · picked for exam value

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P M

China issues Taiwan red line warning ahead of Xi-Trump summit

Why in news: China issued a warning to the United States that Taiwan remains a 'red line' ahead of a scheduled summit between President Xi Jinping and President Donald Trump.

REMEMBER

- Red line: China's warning regarding Taiwan as a core issue in US-China relations.
- USD 11 billion: The value of the proposed US arms package for Taiwan.
- Fentanyl: A potent synthetic opioid whose production chemicals are a point of bilateral negotiation.

MAINS ANGLE Analyze how the 'red line' on Taiwan and the proposed US arms package reflect the evolving dynamics of US-China strategic competition.

USE : Strategic autonomy Security dilemma
Geopolitical leverage Trade-security nexus

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124887

GS1 · GEOGRAPHY

P

Developing El Niño reaches strongest sea surface temperature on record

Why in news: Scientists reported that the developing El Niño has become the strongest on record as of September 19, 2026, surpassing the 2015 record.

REMEMBER

- El Niño: Climate pattern characterized by unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
- 3.05°C: Current record sea surface temperature above average.
- 3.02°C: Previous record sea surface temperature recorded in 2015.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the impact of extreme El Niño events on India's monsoon patterns and suggest measures to mitigate climate-induced agricultural risks.

USE : El Niño Monsoon variability Climate change
Sea surface temperature

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124817

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P M

Visegrad Group pledges support for India's permanent UNSC seat

Why in news: Foreign Minister S Jaishankar met with leaders of the Visegrad Group (V4) at the 81st UN General Assembly, where the four countries backed India's bid for a permanent UNSC seat.

REMEMBER

- Visegrad Group (V4) — An intergovernmental organization consisting of Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic.
- UNSC — The primary organ of the United Nations responsible for maintaining international peace and security.
- 81st UN General Assembly — Venue where India and V4 agreed to deepen cooperation in technology, space, and defence.

MAINS ANGLE Examine the significance of India's strategic partnerships with the Visegrad Group in bolstering its bid for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

USE : UNSC Reform Visegrad Group Strategic Autonomy
Multilateralism

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124710

GS3 · ECONOMY

P

RBI aligns market risk capital requirements with Basel III standards

Why in news: The RBI issued directions to align market risk guidelines with Basel III standards for commercial banks to ensure robust capital adequacy.

REMEMBER

- Basel III — A global regulatory framework on bank capital adequacy, stress testing, and market liquidity risks.
- Standardized Approach (SSA) — The method required for computing risk-weighted assets (RWAs) under the new norms.
- 12.5 — The factor required for computing risk-weighted assets (RWAs) under the SSA.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how the alignment of domestic banking norms with Basel III standards enhances the stability of the Indian financial system against market risks.

USE : Capital Adequacy Basel III Risk-Weighted Assets
Regulatory Arbitrage

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124559

Strait Of Hormuz And Bab El-Mandeb: Putin, Saudi crown prince discuss safe passage through Hormuz, Bab el-Mandeb

Why in news: Russian President Vladimir Putin and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman discussed ensuring safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb to secure global energy shipments.

REMEMBER

- Strait of Hormuz: A key waterway for global energy shipments.
- Saudi Arabia's crude oil exports rose 3.3% in July.

MAINS ANGLE Analyze the significance of the Strait of Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb in global energy security and the implications of maritime disruptions on international trade.

USE: Maritime Security Energy Diplomacy
Geopolitical Bottlenecks Trade Route Stability

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124923

PM Modi to chair Chintan Shivir to strategize Viksit Bharat 2047 goals

Why in news: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is chairing a two-day 'Chintan Shivir' with Cabinet Ministers to review and plan for the Viksit Bharat 2047 goals.

REMEMBER

- Viksit Bharat 2047 — the government's vision to make India a developed nation by 2047
- Union Council of Ministers — the executive body responsible for the administration of the Union
- Seva Tirath, Delhi — the venue for the Chintan Shivir session

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of long-term strategic planning and 'stock-taking' mechanisms in achieving the goals of a developed India by 2047.

USE: Viksit Bharat 2047 Strategic Planning
Governance Priorities Policy Reform

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124853

TBC and AWS partner to offer AI models built from rat brain cells

Why in news: The Biological Computing Company (TBC) partnered with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to provide access to AI models built from rat brain cells for video generation.

REMEMBER

- Biological Computing: The use of biological cells like neurons to perform computational tasks or power AI models.
- The Biological Computing Company (TBC): A Baltimore-based company using rat brain cells for AI models.
- Generation speed: TBC claims a speed up to five times faster than current open-source models.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the ethical and technical implications of integrating biological components into artificial intelligence systems for commercial applications.

USE: Bio-computing Neural Networks Artificial Intelligence
Biotechnology

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124854

Bangladesh appoints Asad Alam Siam as new High Commissioner to India

Why in news: Bangladesh's Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam has received India's agreement to become the new High Commissioner to India, replacing M Riaz Hamidullah.

REMEMBER

- Asad Alam Siam — Appointed as Bangladesh's High Commissioner to India
- M Riaz Hamidullah — Moving to Geneva as Permanent Representative to the UN
- Ganga Waters Treaty — A key bilateral water-sharing agreement between India and Bangladesh

MAINS ANGLE Examine the significance of diplomatic representation in managing bilateral issues such as water-sharing treaties between India and Bangladesh.

USE: bilateral relations diplomatic representation
transboundary water management career diplomacy

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124847

Everything else, one line each

9 more notes · full versions online

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

US oil tariffs: US proposed 100% tariffs on Russian oil buyers like India and China while remaining dependent on Russian uranium.

Strait of Hormuz: Iran proposed reopening the waterway within seven days if the US eases military pressure.

Gelephu Mindfulness City: New policy offers simplified rules for Indian fund managers and tax benefits for family offices.

Academicians write to Governor opposing the inter-university transfer of teachers

Odisha SIR: Over 20.56 lakh ineligible voters removed from electoral rolls during Special Intensive Revision.

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

A New Tool Found Malware That's Guided by an AI Hive Mind—No Humans in Sight

Bionic arm: A 33-year-old man became the first to use a thought-controlled bionic arm with sensory feedback.

AI War Room: SEBI is using AI to monitor real-time stock trading and social media to detect market manipulation.

IPO deadline: 23 firms aim to launch IPOs worth ₹40,775 crore before the September 30 deadline to avoid refiling DRHPs.

MAP WORK

Places in news

Taiwan A territory claimed by China and currently a self-governing entity.

Seva Tirath, Delhi the venue for the Chintan Shivir session

University of Utah Institution where researchers developed the bionic arm

Strait of Hormuz A strategic waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea

5 questions, 5 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

1 What is the value of the proposed US arms package for Taiwan mentioned in the summit discussions?

- (a) USD 11 billion (b) USD 15 billion
(c) USD 5 billion (d) USD 20 billion

2 With reference to the Visegrad Group (V4), consider the following statements:

1. The V4 countries are located in Western Europe.
2. The group pledged support for India's permanent seat in the UN Security Council.
3. The group consists of Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3 What was the record sea surface temperature above average recorded during the developing El Niño?

- (a) 3.15°C (b) 2.95°C
(c) 4.05°C (d) 3.05°C

4 Which of the following types of banks are excluded from the new RBI market risk capital requirements?

- (a) Scheduled commercial banks (b) Payments banks
(c) Regional rural banks (d) Cooperative banks

5 With reference to biological computing and the partnership between TBC and AWS, consider the following statements:

1. TBC is a Baltimore-based company using rat brain cells to create AI models.
2. The technology claims to be up to ten times faster at video generation than current open-source models.
3. Amazon Web Services (AWS) provides the infrastructure for the deployment of these AI models.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

MAINS PRACTICE

Write one answer today

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Analyze how the 'red line' on Taiwan and the proposed US arms package reflect the evolving dynamics of US-China strategic competition.

USE : Strategic autonomy Security dilemma Geopolitical leverage Trade-security nexus Indo-Pacific stability

(d) 5 (b) 4 (d) 3 (c) 2 (a) 1 · ANSWERS



TELEGRAM



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