

**Current Affairs • 22 September 2026****17**

NOTES

2

STORIES MERGED

10

MCQS

GS1 • 1

GS2 • 10

GS3 • 6

PAPER MIX

CONTENTS

Every note, grouped by paper

GS1	History • Society • Geography	1 notes
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GS2	Polity • Governance • Social Justice • IR	10 notes
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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.

Geography

1

GEOPHYSICAL PHENOMENA (EARTHQUAKES, CYCLONES, VOLCANOES)

P

22 Sep · BBC · satyadheesh.in/news/124817**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.

- CONCEPT | El Niño: Climate pattern characterized by unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
- FIGURE | 3.05°C: Current record sea surface temperature above average.
- FIGURE | 3.02°C: Previous record sea surface temperature recorded in 2015.
- CONCEPT | Monsoon Impact: El Niño is often associated with reduced monsoon rainfall in India.

MAINS Q 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 Meteorological phenomena

Polity & Constitution

2

EXECUTIVE (PRESIDENT, PM, GOVERNOR, CM)

P

22 Sep · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/124853

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.

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

MAINS Q 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 Executive Coordination

ELECTIONS, ECI & ELECTORAL REFORMS

P

22 Sep · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/124606

Odisha removes over 20 lakh ineligible voters from electoral roll

WHY IN NEWS Odisha's Chief Electoral Officer announced the completion of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which resulted in the removal of over 20 lakh voters.

CONCEPT	Special Intensive Revision (SIR): A periodic exercise to ensure the accuracy of the voter list.
BODY	Chief Electoral Officer (CEO): The officer responsible for the preparation and maintenance of electoral rolls in a state.
CONCEPT	Forms 6, 7, and 8: Standard forms used for inclusion, deletion, and correction of entries in the electoral roll.
FIGURE	20.56 lakh: Number of voters removed from the electoral roll in Odisha.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of periodic electoral roll revisions in ensuring the integrity of the democratic process in India.

USE: Electoral Roll Special Intensive Revision Right to Suffrage Democracy Administrative Transparency

Social Justice

1

EDUCATION POLICY

M

22 Sep · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/124651

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

WHY IN NEWS Academicians wrote to the Governor of West Bengal opposing the Universities and Colleges (Administration and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, which allows inter-university staff transfers.

ACT / BILL	Universities and Colleges (Administration and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026
PLACE	West Bengal
FACT	The bill allows for inter-university staff transfers

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of centralizing administrative control over universities on academic autonomy and research quality in India.

USE: Academic Autonomy Administrative Centralization Institutional Integrity Research Continuity Policy Intervention

INDIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS

P

M

2 REPORTS MERGED

22 Sep · Times of India · satyadheesh.in/news/124887

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.

CONCEPT	Red line: China's warning regarding Taiwan as a core issue in US-China relations.
FIGURE	USD 11 billion: The value of the proposed US arms package for Taiwan.
CONCEPT	Fentanyl: A potent synthetic opioid whose production chemicals are a point of bilateral negotiation.
PLACE	Taiwan: A territory claimed by China and currently a self-governing entity.

MAINS Q 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

INDIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS

P

M

2 REPORTS MERGED

22 Sep · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/124716

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.

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

MAINS Q 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 Geopolitical Alignment

INDIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS

P

M

22 Sep · Times of India · satyadheesh.in/news/124923

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.

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

MAINS Q 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 Strategic Waterways

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.

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

MAINS Q 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

US proposes 100% tariffs on Russian oil buyers while maintaining own dependencies

WHY IN NEWS The United States proposed tariffs of up to 100% on countries purchasing Russian oil, specifically targeting China and India, while maintaining its own heavy reliance on Russian uranium and fertilizers.

- CONCEPT** | De-risking: The complexity of reducing dependence on Russian energy amidst global needs for critical minerals and fertilizers.
- FIGURE** | 35.3% and 20.2%: The share of Russian oil imports by China and India respectively.
- FIGURE** | 33.6%: The percentage of US uranium enrichment services currently sourced from Russia.
- FIGURE** | 27%: The projected percentage of US nitrogen fertilizer imports from Russia by 2026.

MAINS Q Discuss the geopolitical and economic complexities involved in decoupling from Russian energy and agricultural supplies amidst global supply chain interdependencies.

USE: Economic decoupling Supply chain interdependency Trade sanctions Energy security Geopolitical paradox

Iran proposes reopening Strait of Hormuz if US lifts blockade

WHY IN NEWS A senior Iranian official proposed reopening the Strait of Hormuz within seven days if the US eases military pressure and commits to diplomacy.

- PLACE** | Strait of Hormuz — A strategic waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea
- PERSON** | Mojtaba Khamenei — The Supreme Leader of Iran who approved the proposal
- EVENT** | Conflict escalation — Began on February 28 with a ceasefire occurring in April

MAINS Q Analyze the geopolitical significance of the Strait of Hormuz and the implications of maritime blockades on global energy security.

USE: Maritime security Geopolitics Energy security Diplomatic mediation Strategic choke point

Bhutan's Gelephu City announces policy for family offices and investment funds

WHY IN NEWS Bhutan's Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) announced a policy to attract family offices and investment funds by offering simplified regulations and tax benefits.

BODY | Gelephu Financial Services Office (GFSO) — Regulatory body for financial services and blockchain/digital assets in GMC.

CONCEPT | Family offices — Require minimum US\$10 million in assets for automatic tax benefits starting October 1.

CONCEPT | Indian fund managers — Can manage GMC-domiciled funds without a separate license with a 4-week response time.

MAINS Q Discuss how Bhutan's Gelephu Mindfulness City initiative reflects a shift towards leveraging 'mindfulness' and specialized financial zones to attract global capital.

USE: [Family Offices](#) [Regulatory Framework](#) [Digital Assets](#) [Investment Incentives](#) [Financial Hubs](#)

Economy

3

MONETARY POLICY, RBI & BANKING

P

22 Sep · Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/124559

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.

CONCEPT	Basel III — A global regulatory framework on bank capital adequacy, stress testing, and market liquidity risks.
CONCEPT	Standardized Approach (SSA) — The method required for computing risk-weighted assets (RWAs) under the new norms.
FIGURE	12.5 — The factor required for computing risk-weighted assets (RWAs) under the SSA.
DATE	April 1, 2027 — The date from which the new market risk norms come into effect.
CONCEPT	Exemptions — Small finance banks, payments banks, and local area banks are excluded from these norms.

MAINS Q 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 Monetary Stability

CAPITAL MARKETS & SEBI

P

M

22 Sep · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/124707

SEBI deploys AI War Room to track suspicious trades and social media

WHY IN NEWS SEBI launched enforcement action against a JPMorgan unit after its AI-driven 'War Room' flagged suspicious activity in a closing auction mechanism.

BODY	SEBI — Securities and Exchange Board of India, the primary regulator for securities markets in India
CONCEPT	Data Poisoning — A technique where malicious actors inject dirty data into an AI training set to manipulate output
CONCEPT	RegTech — The use of AI and technology by regulators to monitor stock trading and social media for anomalies

MAINS Q Discuss how the integration of Artificial Intelligence in market surveillance can enhance investor protection while addressing challenges like data poisoning and algorithmic bias.

USE: Market Manipulation Algorithmic Surveillance Data Poisoning Investor Protection Regulatory Technology

CAPITAL MARKETS & SEBI

P

22 Sep · Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/124666

23 firms race to launch IPOs worth ₹40,775 crore before September 30 deadline

WHY IN NEWS SEBI-approved IPO deadlines for 23 firms totaling ₹40,775 crore are set to expire on September 30, 2026, forcing companies to either launch or refile.

BODY	SEBI — The primary regulator for the securities market in India
CONCEPT	DRHP — Preliminary registration document filed by companies intending to go public
FIGURE	₹40,775 crore — Total IPO value targeted by 23 firms
DATE	September 30 — Deadline to avoid refiling draft red herring prospectuses

MAINS Q Discuss how regulatory flexibility in IPO timelines and issue sizes balances investor protection with the need for market liquidity and ease of doing business.

USE: Capital Markets Regulatory Framework IPO Market Liquidity Ease of Doing Business

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.

CONCEPT	Biological Computing: The use of biological cells like neurons to perform computational tasks or power AI models.
BODY	The Biological Computing Company (TBC): A Baltimore-based company using rat brain cells for AI models.
FIGURE	Generation speed: TBC claims a speed up to five times faster than current open-source models.
PERSON	Amazon Web Services (AWS): Cloud computing platform providing infrastructure for AI model deployment.

MAINS Q 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

Computational Neuroscience

Man becomes first to use thought-controlled bionic arm with sensory feedback

WHY IN NEWS Alexander Avi Davidson became the first person to take home a thought-controlled bionic arm capable of restoring the sense of touch during a clinical trial.

CONCEPT	Bionic limbs: Prosthetic devices that mimic biological limbs using sensors and actuators
CONCEPT	Neural interfaces: Technology allowing direct communication between the human nervous system and external devices
CONCEPT	Sensory feedback: Technology that allows a user to receive sensations to simulate the sense of touch
PLACE	University of Utah: Institution where researchers developed the bionic arm
CONCEPT	BIOS Controller: The technology used to allow thought-controlled movement of the limb

MAINS Q Discuss how advancements in neural-interfaced bionic limbs can revolutionize rehabilitative medicine and address the socio-economic challenges faced by amputees.

USE:

Neural Interface

Bionics

Sensory Feedback

Rehabilitative Medicine

Prosthetics

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

WHY IN NEWS Cisco Talos researchers released the CAIRN framework to analyze AI-integrated malware, specifically identifying the CLOSEDQUORUM tool which autonomously polls multiple large language models for commands.

S&T	CAIRN: An open-source framework developed by Cisco Talos to classify and analyze AI-integrated malware.
S&T	CLOSEDQUORUM: A malware tool identified by CAIRN that autonomously polls up to four large language models for commands.
FACT	CERT-UA warned in July 2025 about LAMEHUG malware utilizing the Qwen2.5-Coder-32B-Instruct model via Hugging Face API.
FACT	CAIRN has identified approximately 20 additional examples of AI-integrated malware.

MAINS Q Discuss the security implications of AI-integrated malware and the challenges posed by autonomous, LLM-guided cyber threats to national infrastructure.

USE:

Cybersecurity

Artificial Intelligence

Malware Analysis

Autonomous Systems

Threat Landscape

10 questions, 10 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

6 Which body is the executive body responsible for the administration of the Union in India?

- ☐ a Parliamentary Committee
- ☐ b Union Council of Ministers
- ☐ c Planning Commission
- ☐ d NITI Aayog

7 Which treaty is a key bilateral water-sharing agreement between India and Bangladesh mentioned in the diplomatic update?

- ☐ a Brahmaputra Water Treaty
- ☐ b Teesta Water Treaty
- ☐ c Ganga Waters Treaty
- ☐ d Indus Waters Treaty

8 With reference to US energy dependencies and proposed sanctions, consider the following statements:

1. The US has proposed tariffs of up to 100% on countries buying Russian oil.
2. US nitrogen fertilizer imports from Russia are projected to reach 10% by 2026.
3. The US currently relies on Russia for 50% of its uranium enrichment services.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- ☐ a 1 only
- ☐ b 3 only
- ☐ c 1 and 3 only
- ☐ d 2 and 3 only

9 Which technology was used by researchers at the University of Utah to enable thought-controlled movement of the bionic arm?

- (a) Neural Link (b) Synapse Drive
(c) Bio-Sync (d) BIOS Controller

10 With reference to the Strait of Hormuz, consider the following statements:

1. The proposal to reopen the waterway was rejected by the Supreme Leader of Iran.
2. It is a strategic waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
3. The conflict between Iran and the US saw a ceasefire in February.

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

ANSWERS • 1 (a) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4 (b) 5 (d) 6 (b) 7 (c) 8 (a) 9 (d) 10 (a)



TELEGRAM



WEBSITE

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