

**Current Affairs • 23 September 2026****17 min**

READING TIME

8

KEY STORIES

16

IN BRIEF

5 + 1

MCQS + MAINS

GS2 • 14

GS3 • 10

PAPER MIX

01 — TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip**1****Trump-Xi summit to address \$14 billion Taiwan arms deal****Why it matters:** Geopolitical friction and bilateral agreements: a key GS2 International Relations case study.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

M

2**S&P Global Ratings raises India's GDP growth projection to 7%****Why it matters:** Economic indicators and growth projections: a relevant GS3 topic for Indian economy analysis.

GS3 • ECONOMY

P

3**Supreme Court splits on referring CEC and EC appointment law to larger bench****Why it matters:** Judicial independence and executive overreach: a key GS2 topic on constitutional bodies and checks and balances.

GS2 • POLITY & CONSTITUTION

P

M

4**Ministry of Defence reports PLA troop deployment along LAC****Why it matters:** Border management and internal security: a GS3 case study on strategic depth and deterrence.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

M

5**US and Iran hold mediated UNGA talks to de-escalate and reopen Strait of Hormuz****Why it matters:** Geopolitics and Energy Security: A key GS2 case study on maritime chokepoints and diplomatic mediation.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

M

NUMBER OF THE DAY

\$14 billion

the value of the pending US arms deal to Taiwan

CONNECT TO STATIC

1982 US-China agreementthe primary diplomatic framework governing arms sales and regional stability *In the news:* Trump-Xi summit to address \$14 billion Taiwan arms deal.

What to know, in 60 seconds each

8 of 24 notes · picked for exam value

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

M

Trump-Xi summit to address \$14 billion Taiwan arms deal

Why in news: Chinese President Xi Jinping is scheduled to meet US President Donald Trump in Washington to demand a halt to US arms sales to Taiwan based on the 1982 US-China agreement.

REMEMBER

- \$14 billion — the value of the pending US arms deal to Taiwan
- 1982 US-China agreement — the primary diplomatic framework governing arms sales and regional stability
- Taiwan — the primary recipient of the contested arms sales

MAINS ANGLE Analyze the impact of US arms sales to Taiwan on the strategic stability of the Indo-Pacific region and the implications for the 1982 US-China agreement.

USE: Strategic Stability Sovereignty Diplomatic Leverage Indo-Pacific

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/125273

GS2 · POLITY & CONSTITUTION

P

M

Supreme Court splits on referring CEC and EC appointment law to larger bench

Why in news: The Supreme Court gave split opinions on whether petitions challenging the 2023 law excluding the Chief Justice of India from selecting the CEC and ECs should be referred to a larger bench.

REMEMBER

- CEC and ECs are appointed by the President of India
- 2023 law excludes the Chief Justice of India from the selection committee for CEC and ECs
- Supreme Court of India – highest judicial body in the country

MAINS ANGLE Examine the implications of executive influence on the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner on the independence of the electoral process in India.

USE: Judicial Independence Executive Influence Electoral Integrity Constitutional Appointments

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/125227

GS3 · ECONOMY

P

S&P Global Ratings raises India's GDP growth projection to 7%

Why in news: S&P Global Ratings raised India's GDP growth projection to 7% for the current fiscal year, citing robust industrial activity and government investment.

REMEMBER

- GDP Growth — S&P Global Ratings projected a 7% growth for India's current fiscal year.
- Interest Rate Hike — RBI is projected to hike rates by 25 basis points in FY27.
- Consumer Inflation — S&P estimates consumer inflation at 5.1%.

MAINS ANGLE Analyze the factors driving India's current GDP growth and discuss the potential impact of climate-related risks on long-term economic stability.

USE: GDP growth monetary policy inflation fiscal tailwinds

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/125123

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

M

Ministry of Defence reports PLA troop deployment along LAC

Why in news: The Indian Ministry of Defence's Annual Report for 2025-26 reported a reduction in PLA Western Theatre Command forces along the northern border, sparking debate over deployment shifts versus actual troop cuts.

REMEMBER

- PLA Western Theatre Command (WTC) — military command responsible for China's western front including the border with India
- Line of Actual Control (LAC) — serves as the de facto border between India and China
- 90,000 to 120,000 — reported troop strength of PLA Western Theatre Command along the LAC

MAINS ANGLE Analyze the implications of shifting troop deployments and 'de-escalation' rhetoric on the stability of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China.

USE: Line of Actual Control Western Theatre Command Strategic Deterrence Border Management

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/125223

US and Iran hold mediated UNGA talks to de-escalate and reopen Strait of Hormuz

Why in news: The US and Iran held indirect mediated talks during the UN General Assembly to discuss ending hostilities and reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

REMEMBER

- Strait of Hormuz — A strategic maritime chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman.
- Global Energy Security — The Strait of Hormuz is critical for the transit of global oil and LNG shipments.
- Steve Witkoff — US Special Envoy involved in the mediation process.

MAINS ANGLE Analyze the geopolitical significance of the Strait of Hormuz and the implications of US-Iran de-escalation on global energy security.

USE: De-escalation Maritime Security Geopolitics Energy Security

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/125126

US, Denmark, and Greenland sign Arctic security deal to counter rivals

Why in news: The United States, Denmark, and Greenland signed a security deal granting Washington expanded military presence and new bases in Greenland to counter Arctic rivals.

REMEMBER

- Pituffik Space Base — a key US military installation in Greenland.
- Narsarsuaq and Mestersvig — sites for new military bases established under the deal.
- Non-NATO restriction — prohibits non-NATO countries from establishing military installations without unanimous approval.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the growing significance of the Arctic region in global geopolitics and the implications of increased military presence by NATO members in the High North.

USE: Arctic geopolitics Strategic depth Security architecture Multilateralism

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124957

Climate Impact Lab warns super El Nino could cause 450,000 heat deaths

Why in news: Climate Impact Lab warned that a super El Niño could cause nearly 450,000 heat-related deaths globally between June and February due to record temperatures.

REMEMBER

- El Nino: A climate pattern describing the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
- 450,000: Projected excess heat-related deaths during a super El Nino event.
- Nigeria, Indonesia, and Sudan: Identified as high-risk regions for heat-related mortality.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the disproportionate impact of climate-induced extreme weather events on the Global South and suggest measures for international climate adaptation.

USE: Climate Adaptation Global South Extreme Weather Climate Justice

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/125315

Pakistan appoints Nauman Mahmood as first head of Mecca alliance

Why in news: Pakistan appointed retired Lieutenant General Nauman Mahmood as the first secretary-general of the trilateral Mecca pact with Türkiye and Saudi Arabia.

REMEMBER

- Mecca pact: A trilateral security alliance between Pakistan, Türkiye, and Saudi Arabia.
- Collective deterrence: The alliance is modeled on NATO's Article 5 regarding collective defense.
- Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: Location of the Mecca pact secretariat.

MAINS ANGLE Analyze the implications of trilateral security alliances in the Middle East for regional stability and India's strategic interests.

USE: collective deterrence trilateral alliance geopolitical realignment strategic autonomy

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/125332

Everything else, one line each

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

G20 Summit: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio invited Vladimir Putin to the December summit to discuss the Russia-Ukraine war.

Bab al-Mandam Strait: A key maritime chokepoint connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, currently a site of geopolitical tension.

Chagos Islands deal: UK is reviewing the sovereignty transfer to Mauritius following opposition from the US administration.

Rhino conservation: India and Bhutan are collaborating to protect rhinos from Manas National Park crossing the border.

India-Ukraine dialogue: EAM S Jaishankar and Ukrainian FM Andrii Sybiha discussed the Russia-Ukraine conflict and global food security at the UNGA.

Cross-border terrorism: MEA spokesperson states Pakistan must take credible action against terrorism to gain international trust.

Trilateral defence pact: Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey signed a trilateral defence pact on August 7 to ensure maritime security.

Kashmir dialogue: President Erdogan advocated for Kashmir dialogue under UN Charter resolutions at the UNGA.

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

OpenAI gives AI cyber defence tools to Ukraine

FBI cyberattack: ShinyHunters claimed to breach FBIjobs.gov, stealing 2TB of data via a zero-day vulnerability.

Groundwater depletion: Punjab's extraction rate stands at 152% with 72% of blocks in the red zone due to rice-wheat irrigation.

FCNR deposits: RBI warned banks against a loan price war following a ₹11 lakh crore inflow in FCNR deposits.

Liquidity management: RBI utilizes OMO sales and VRRR auctions to manage the Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR).

Drug trade elimination: Union Home Minister announced a deadline of December 31, 2029, to dismantle trafficking networks and target cartel profits.

Adani Group firms settle Sebi case on governance issues

Drought situation: Maharashtra Minister warns of 100% drought risk due to weak monsoon and deficient rainfall affecting major crops.

MAP WORK

Places in news

Taiwan the primary recipient of the contested arms sales

Line of Actual Control (LAC) serves as the de facto border between India and China

Strait of Hormuz A strategic maritime chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman.

Pituffik Space Base a key US military installation in Greenland.

Narsarsuaq and Mestersvig sites for new military bases established under the deal.

5 questions, 5 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

- 1 Which agreement serves as the primary diplomatic framework for negotiations regarding US arms sales to Taiwan?

(a) 1982 US-China agreement
(b) 1979 Sino-Indian Treaty

(c) 1992 Taiwan Relations Act
(d) 2001 Strategic Partnership
- 2 What is the projected consumer inflation for India as estimated by S&P Global Ratings?

(a) 6.2%
(b) 5.1%

(c) 4.5%
(d) 7.0%
- 3 The G20 is an intergovernmental forum that comprises how many sovereign countries along with the European Union?

(a) 20
(b) 18

(c) 21
(d) 19
- 4 Which official is specifically excluded from the selection committee for the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners under the 2023 law?

(a) Chief Justice of India
(b) Speaker of Lok Sabha

(c) Lieutenant Governor
(d) Governor of India
- 5 Which Chinese military command is responsible for the western front including the border with India?

(a) Northern Theatre Command
(b) Eastern Theatre Command

(c) Western Theatre Command
(d) Southern Theatre Command

MAINS PRACTICE

Write one answer today

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Analyze the impact of US arms sales to Taiwan on the strategic stability of the Indo-Pacific region and the implications for the 1982 US-China agreement.

USE: Strategic Stability Sovereignty Diplomatic Leverage Indo-Pacific Arms Procurement

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



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.