



SATYADHEESH

सत्याधीश

UPSC DAILY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs • 23 September 2026

24

NOTES

4

STORIES MERGED

10

MCQS

GS2 • 14

PAPER MIX

GS3 • 10

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Every note, grouped by paper

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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.

Polity & Constitution

1

ELECTIONS, ECI & ELECTORAL REFORMS

P

M

23 Sep · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/125227

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.

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

MAINS Q 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](#) [Separation of Powers](#)

International Relations

13

INDIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS

M

3 REPORTS MERGED

23 Sep · Times of India · satyadheesh.in/news/125273

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.

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

MAINS Q 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](#)

INDIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS

P

23 Sep · Times of India · satyadheesh.in/news/125351

US invites Vladimir Putin to December G20 summit

WHY IN NEWS US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced an invitation to Russian President Vladimir Putin for the G20 summit in the US in December to facilitate direct engagement with President Donald Trump.

CONCEPT	G20: An intergovernmental forum comprising 19 sovereign countries and the European Union.
PERSON	Marco Rubio: Serving as the US Secretary of State.
EVENT	UN General Assembly: Venue for discussions between Marco Rubio and Sergei Lavrov on a limited ceasefire.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of multilateral forums like the G20 in mediating geopolitical conflicts and facilitating de-escalation in the Russia-Ukraine war.

USE: [Geopolitical mediation](#) [De-escalation](#) [Multilateralism](#) [Trilateral diplomacy](#) [Resource security](#)

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.

BODY	PLA Western Theatre Command (WTC) — military command responsible for China's western front including the border with India
PLACE	Line of Actual Control (LAC) — serves as the de facto border between India and China
FIGURE	90,000 to 120,000 — reported troop strength of PLA Western Theatre Command along the LAC
REPORT	Annual Report 2025–26 — released by the Indian Ministry of Defence detailing border troop deployments

MAINS Q 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 De-escalation

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.

PLACE	Strait of Hormuz — A strategic maritime chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman.
CONCEPT	Global Energy Security — The Strait of Hormuz is critical for the transit of global oil and LNG shipments.
PERSON	Steve Witkoff — US Special Envoy involved in the mediation process.
EVENT	UNGA Talks — Mediated discussions held on September 21 in New York regarding naval blockades and asset freezing.

MAINS Q 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 Mediation

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.

PLACE	Pituffik Space Base — a key US military installation in Greenland.
PLACE	Narsarsuaq and Mestersvig — sites for new military bases established under the deal.
CONCEPT	Non-NATO restriction — prohibits non-NATO countries from establishing military installations without unanimous approval.
BODY	NATO — welcomed the agreement as a measure to enhance Arctic security.

MAINS Q 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 Territorial integrity

UK supports Saudi Arabia against Houthi rebels over Bab al-Mandam Strait

WHY IN NEWS The UK agreed to deploy a military aircraft to refuel Saudi fighter jets following the seizure of territory near the Bab al-Mandam Strait by Iran-backed Houthis.

- PLACE** | Bab al-Mandam Strait: Connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea.
- CONCEPT** | Maritime chokepoint: A strategic waterway critical for global energy security and regional stability.
- EVENT** | Saudi-led coalition: Intervened in Yemen in 2015 to restore government rule against Houthi rebels.

MAINS Q Analyze the strategic importance of the Bab al-Mandam Strait in global maritime trade and its implications for regional security in the Middle East.

USE: Maritime security Choke point Proxy conflict Strategic depth Regional stability

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.

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

MAINS Q 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 regional security architecture

UK to review Chagos Islands sovereignty deal with Mauritius

WHY IN NEWS UK Defence Secretary Wes Streeting announced a review of the Chagos Islands sovereignty deal with Mauritius following President Donald Trump's call for its termination.

- PLACE** | Diego Garcia: A strategic military base and atoll in the Indian Ocean.
- FIGURE** | £101 million: The proposed annual lease-back fee for the Diego Garcia base.
- CONCEPT** | Sovereignty transfer: The UK planned to transfer Chagos Islands to Mauritius with a lease-back agreement.
- EVENT** | UN General Assembly: The venue where discussions regarding the deal were held.

MAINS Q Examine how shifting geopolitical alliances and the strategic importance of maritime bases influence the sovereignty and territorial integrity of island territories.

USE: Sovereignty Geopolitical alignment Maritime security Territorial integrity Strategic lease

India and Bhutan collaborate on transboundary rhino conservation

WHY IN NEWS Authorities celebrated the recovery of one-horned rhinos in Manas National Park and proposed a conservation partnership with Bhutan as rhinos cross the border.

- CONCEPT** | Transboundary conservation — efforts to protect endangered species in Himalayan and Northeast regions
- DATE** | September 22 — World Rhino Day observed annually
- CONCEPT** | Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros — a flagship species of Manas National Park

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of transboundary conservation cooperation in protecting endangered species in the Himalayan and Northeast ecological zones.

USE: transboundary conservation biodiversity preservation interspecific recovery ecological corridors bilateral cooperation

S Jaishankar meets Ukrainian Foreign Minister to discuss Russia-Ukraine conflict

WHY IN NEWS External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha at the UN General Assembly to discuss the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the role of diplomacy in achieving a peaceful resolution.

- PLACE | Black Sea — A marginal sea of the North and eastern parts of the Mediterranean Sea
- CONCEPT | Freedom of navigation — Critical for global food security in the Black Sea
- CONCEPT | Dialogue and Diplomacy — India's approach to the Russia-Ukraine conflict

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of freedom of navigation in the Black Sea for global food security and the role of multilateral diplomacy in resolving the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

USE: freedom of navigation global food security multilateral diplomacy geopolitical conflict maritime security

MEA urges Pakistan to take credible action against cross-border terrorism

WHY IN NEWS MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that Pakistan must take credible action against cross-border terrorism to gain international trust following Pakistan's airstrikes in Afghanistan.

- PERSON | Randhir Jaiswal — Spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)
- EVENT | Pakistan airstrikes in Afghanistan on 21 September 2026 resulted in the death of 28 terrorists
- CONCEPT | Cross-border terrorism — India condemned Pakistan's airstrikes as aggressive acts against a sovereign neighbor

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of cross-border terrorism on India's regional security and the necessity of international pressure on state sponsors of terrorism.

USE: cross-border terrorism sovereign integrity regional security diplomatic condemnation counter-terrorism

Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan affirm Riyadh's right to self-defence

WHY IN NEWS Foreign ministers of Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan met at the UN General Assembly to affirm Riyadh's right to self-defence against Iran-backed Houthi attacks.

- CONCEPT | Right to self-defence: Affirmed by Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan against Houthi attacks.
- EVENT | Trilateral defence pact: Signed on August 7 between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey.
- PLACE | Yemen: Location where Houthi rebels are operating.
- CONCEPT | Maritime security: A key focus of the diplomatic dialogue and regional stability.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of trilateral and multilateral defence pacts in maintaining maritime security and regional stability in the Middle East.

USE: Maritime Security Regional Stability Self-defence Trilateral Pact Proxy Conflict

Turkey's Erdogan calls for Kashmir dialogue at UNGA

WHY IN NEWS Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called for the Kashmir issue to be addressed through dialogue within the framework of UN Charter resolutions at the UNGA.

- CONCEPT | India's official stance: Kashmir is an integral part of India and rejects third-party mediation.
- PLACE | Turkey: Recently signed a military alliance with Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.
- CONCEPT | UN Charter resolutions: The basis cited by Turkey for advocating a Kashmir dialogue.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of third-party mediation proposals on the Kashmir issue in the context of India's policy of bilateralism.

USE: bilateralism sovereignty third-party mediation UN Charter geopolitical alignment

Economy

4

GROWTH, INFLATION & MACRO INDICATORS

P

2 REPORTS MERGED

23 Sep · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/125123

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.

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

MAINS Q 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 climate risk

MONETARY POLICY, RBI & BANKING

M

23 Sep · Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/125075

RBI warns banks against loan price war amid high FCNR inflows

WHY IN NEWS RBI Deputy Governor Rohit Jain warned banks against aggressive lending and a 'loan price war' triggered by a ₹11 lakh crore inflow in fresh FCNR deposits.

CONCEPT	FCNR (Foreign Currency Non-Resident) deposits: deposits held in foreign currency by non-residents.
CONCEPT	Open Market Operations (OMO): RBI sells government bonds to mop up excess liquidity.
FIGURE	Target net interest margin: RBI suggests a mark-up of ~2.5% on loans for bank viability.
FIGURE	Liquidity management: RBI mopped up ~₹6 lakh crore via swaps, spot dollar sales, and OMO.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges faced by the Reserve Bank of India in balancing liquidity management with the maintenance of asset quality in the banking sector.

USE: Liquidity Management Asset Quality Net Interest Margin FCNR Deposits Monetary Policy

MONETARY POLICY, RBI & BANKING

P

23 Sep · Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/125066

RBI uses OMO and VRRR auctions to manage WACR and drain excess liquidity

WHY IN NEWS The Wholesale Annual Call Rate (WACR) surpassed the repo rate for the first time in nearly two months as the RBI conducted OMO sales and VRRR auctions to drain excess liquidity.

CONCEPT	WACR — Weighted Average Call Rate reflects prevailing interest rates in the interbank call money market.
CONCEPT	VRRR — Variable Rate Reverse Repo is a tool used by RBI to absorb excess liquidity from the banking system.
CONCEPT	OMO — Open Market Operations involve buying and selling government securities to regulate money supply.
CONCEPT	NDTL — Net Demand and Time Liabilities; RBI maintains liquidity relative to this metric.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the Wholesale Annual Call Rate (WACR) in monitoring the effectiveness of the RBI's liquidity management tools like VRRR and OMO.

USE: Liquidity Management Monetary Policy Variable Rate Reverse Repo Open Market Operations WACR

Adani Group firms settle Sebi case on governance issues

WHY IN NEWS Five Adani Group companies settled a SEBI case by paying ₹140.85 lakh in fines for disclosure violations and non-disclosure of related party transactions linked to the Hindenburg Report.

- FACT** | Total settlement amount paid by five Adani Group firms: ₹140.85 lakh
- FACT** | Adani Enterprises and Adani Green Energy paid the largest shares of the settlement at ₹76.05 lakh and ₹45.5 lakh respectively
- FACT** | Violations included non-disclosure of related party transactions and invalid audit reports signed without peer review certificates

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of robust disclosure norms and independent audit oversight in maintaining the integrity of India's capital markets.

USE: Corporate Governance Related Party Transactions Market Integrity Regulatory Compliance Audit Oversight

Agriculture

2

Punjab faces critical groundwater depletion due to intensive irrigation

WHY IN NEWS The 2025–26 Dynamic Groundwater Assessment highlighted Punjab's critical groundwater crisis, where extraction exceeds recharge at 152% due to intensive rice–wheat irrigation.

- FIGURE** | 152% — Punjab's groundwater extraction rate as per 2025–26 Dynamic Groundwater Assessment
- FIGURE** | 72% — Percentage of Punjab's groundwater blocks classified in the red zone
- FIGURE** | 25 billion cubic metres — Annual water consumption for rice and wheat irrigation in Punjab
- SCHEME** | Pani Bachao, Paisa Kamao — Scheme to incentivize reduced groundwater extraction

MAINS Q Discuss how the interplay between MSP-led procurement and subsidized electricity contributes to the depletion of groundwater in Punjab's agrarian economy.

USE: Groundwater depletion Agrarian distress Subsidized electricity Water-intensive crops Resource equity

Maharashtra Minister warns of 100% drought risk due to weak monsoon

WHY IN NEWS Maharashtra Cooperation Minister Babasaheb Patil warned of a potential 100% drought situation by the end of September 2026 due to a weak monsoon and deficient rainfall.

- CONCEPT** | India Drought Monitor — portal identifying large drought hotspots across Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, and Karnataka
- EVENT** | September 2026 — recorded as the worst-affected month for drought in at least five years
- BODY** | Soybean, cotton, and sugarcane — primary crops severely affected by the current drought

MAINS Q Discuss the impact of erratic monsoon patterns on agricultural productivity in Maharashtra and suggest measures to mitigate drought-induced crop failures.

USE: monsoon variability agricultural distress drought mitigation crop diversification climate resilience

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.

CONCEPT	El Nino: A climate pattern describing the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
FIGURE	450,000: Projected excess heat-related deaths during a super El Nino event.
PLACE	Nigeria, Indonesia, and Sudan: Identified as high-risk regions for heat-related mortality.
REPORT	Climate Impact Lab: Report highlighting record global temperatures and mortality risks.

MAINS Q 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 Heat Mortality

Internal Security

OpenAI gives AI cyber defence tools to Ukraine

WHY IN NEWS OpenAI announced it will provide its AI cyber defence system 'Daybreak' and the GPT 5.6 Sol model for free to the Ukraine government to protect civilian infrastructure.

S&T	Daybreak: An AI cyber defence system provided by OpenAI to Ukraine.
FACT	CERT-UA recorded nearly 6,000 cyber-attacks in 2025.
S&T	GPT 5.6 Sol: An advanced AI model provided by OpenAI for cyber defence.
PLACE	The announcement was made during the UN General Assembly in New York.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of Artificial Intelligence in modern cyber warfare and its implications for protecting critical civilian infrastructure in conflict zones.

USE: Cyber Warfare Force Multiplier Critical Infrastructure Artificial Intelligence Digital Sovereignty

Hackers claim breach of FBI jobs site and theft of 2TB of data

WHY IN NEWS The FBI is investigating a cyberattack on its job application website, FBIjobs.gov, after the hacking group ShinyHunters claimed to have stolen over 2 terabytes of sensitive data.

CONCEPT	Zero-day vulnerability — A software security flaw unknown to the vendor or developer.
BODY	FBI — The primary federal law enforcement agency in the United States.
FIGURE	2 terabytes — The amount of data reportedly stolen from thousands of employees and applicants.
CONCEPT	PeopleSoft — The Oracle platform where the zero-day vulnerability was reportedly exploited.

MAINS Q Discuss the security implications of zero-day vulnerabilities in government infrastructure and suggest measures to mitigate risks of large-scale data breaches.

USE: Cybersecurity Zero-day vulnerability Data breach Information security Dark web

Union Home Minister sets December 2029 deadline to eliminate drug trade

WHY IN NEWS Union Home Minister Amit Shah set a December 31, 2029 deadline to eliminate drug trade from India, directing agencies to dismantle trafficking networks and deport involved foreign nationals.

CONCEPT	Whole of government approach: A strategy involving financial investigations, digital links, and deporting foreign traffickers.
DATE	December 31, 2029: The deadline set to eliminate drug trade in India.
BODY	Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB): The nodal agency for coordinating anti-narcotics efforts in India.

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in dismantling transnational drug trafficking networks in India and evaluate the effectiveness of a 'whole of government' approach in combating narcotics.

USE: [Whole of government approach](#) [Narcotics trafficking](#) [Financial investigation](#) [Transnational crime](#) [Network dismantling](#)

10 questions, 10 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
-
- 6** With reference to the Strait of Hormuz, consider the following statements:
1. It is a strategic maritime chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman.
2. It is primarily used for the transit of global coal and minerals.
3. Steve Witkoff served as the US Special Envoy involved in the mediation process.
- 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
-
- 7** Which of the following locations is a key US military installation in Greenland mentioned in the security deal?
- (a) Svalbard Station (b) Thule Outpost
(c) Pituffik Space Base (d) Nuuk Garrison
-
- 8** Which body of water does the Bab al–Mandam Strait connect?
- (a) English Channel and North Sea (b) Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
(c) Mediterranean Sea and Aegean Sea (d) Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz
-
- 9** Which of the following countries is identified as a high–risk region for heat–related mortality during a super El Nino event?
- (a) Canada (b) Indonesia
(c) Norway (d) Brazil
-

10 With reference to the Mecca pact, consider the following statements:

1. The alliance is modeled on NATO's Article 5 to focus on collective deterrence.
2. It is a trilateral security alliance between Pakistan, Türkiye, and Saudi Arabia.
3. The secretariat of the Mecca pact is based in Istanbul, Türkiye.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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



TELEGRAM



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