

**Current Affairs • 21 September 2026****16 min**

READING TIME

8

KEY STORIES

6

IN BRIEF

5 + 1

MCQS + MAINS

GS1 • 1

GS2 • 5

GS3 • 8

PAPER MIX

01 – TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip**1****Supreme Court seeks standardized law for court deposits****Why it matters:** Judicial transparency and fiscal accountability: a relevant GS2 topic on legal reforms.

GS2 • POLITY & CONSTITUTION

P

M

2**Delhi High Court strength rises to 50 judges after seven new appointments****Why it matters:** Judicial appointments and strength: a GS2 topic on the Collegium system and judicial administration.

GS2 • POLITY & CONSTITUTION

P

3**HAL hands over three aerospace platforms to IAF****Why it matters:** Indigenization of defense manufacturing: a key GS3 theme for Atmanirbhar Bharat and strategic autonomy.

GS3 • ECONOMY

P

4**ESA and JAXA's BepiColombo mission begins final descent to Mercury****Why it matters:** Space exploration and international cooperation: a relevant GS3 Science & Technology topic.

GS3 • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

P

5**US and China launch AI dialogue and board of trade ahead of Trump-Xi summit****Why it matters:** Technological governance and strategic competition: a key GS2 International Relations case study.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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M

NUMBER OF THE DAY

50

Total judicial strength of the Delhi High Court

CONNECT TO STATIC

Uttar Pradesh Regulation of Urban Premises Tenancy Act, 2021*The governing act for urban premises In the news: UP Cabinet reduces stamp duty on lease agreements to boost rental market.*

What to know, in 60 seconds each

8 of 14 notes · picked for exam value

GS2 · POLITY & CONSTITUTION

P M

Supreme Court seeks standardized law for court deposits

Why in news: The Supreme Court directed the Law Commission of India to examine legislation to standardize the management of litigants' deposits during pending appeals.

REMEMBER

- Law Commission of India — A non-statutory body that advises the government on legal reforms.
- CRIS (Court Registry Investment System) — A U.S. model where court deposits are pooled into a unified investment scheme.
- Current issue — Inconsistent rules across different courts lead to varying interest rates on deposited funds.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the necessity of a standardized legal framework for managing court deposits to ensure transparency and reduce post-judgment litigation in the Indian judiciary.

USE: Judicial transparency Legislative standardization
Litigant protection Financial management

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124365

GS3 · ECONOMY

P

HAL hands over three aerospace platforms to IAF

Why in news: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh oversaw the handover of three aerospace platforms—Dhruv-NG, LCA FOC Trainer, and HTT-40 Basic Trainer—to the IAF and Pawan Hans.

REMEMBER

- HTT-40: A tandem-seat, fully aerobatic basic trainer powered by a Honeywell turboprop engine.
- LCA FOC Trainer: The twin-seat version of the indigenous Tejas fighter used for advanced combat flight training.
- Dhruv-NG: Next-generation civil version of HAL's Advanced Light Helicopter for offshore and passenger operations.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of indigenous aerospace manufacturing in achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and reducing India's strategic dependence on foreign defence imports.

USE: Atmanirbhar Bharat Indigenization
Aerospace Manufacturing Strategic Autonomy

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124463

GS2 · POLITY & CONSTITUTION

P

Delhi High Court strength rises to 50 judges after seven new appointments

Why in news: The Delhi High Court increased its judicial strength to 50 judges following the appointment of seven new judges by the Central Government.

REMEMBER

- Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya — Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court
- 50 — Total judicial strength of the Delhi High Court
- Collegium System — The mechanism through which judicial appointments are recommended

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of judicial strength and the collegium system in ensuring the effective delivery of justice in High Courts.

USE: Judicial Independence Collegium System Pendency
Judicial Infrastructure

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124445

GS3 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

P

ESA and JAXA's BepiColombo mission begins final descent to Mercury

Why in news: The BepiColombo spacecraft, a joint mission by ESA and JAXA, began its descent to Mercury on September 3 after overcoming propulsion issues.

REMEMBER

- BepiColombo: A joint space mission by the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO) and Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (Mio) are the two spacecraft involved
- Gravity assist: The mission used nine maneuvers to travel approximately 6 billion miles

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of international cooperation in deep-space exploration and the scientific importance of studying planetary magnetospheres.

USE: Deep-space exploration Inter-agency cooperation
Planetary science Orbital mechanics

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124462

US and China launch AI dialogue and board of trade ahead of Trump-Xi summit

Why in news: The US and China agreed to establish a formal AI dialogue and a 'board of trade' in New York to manage AI risks and trade issues ahead of the Trump-Xi summit.

REMEMBER

- AI dialogue — a formal mechanism to manage AI risks and trade tensions between the US and China.
- Board of trade — a body being operationalized in New York to address trade concerns.
- Notification mechanism — a US proposal for reporting AI-related national security incidents.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the implications of the US-China AI dialogue on global technological governance and the management of dual-use AI risks.

USE : Technological Sovereignty Dual-use Technology

Strategic Autonomy Trade Truce

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124419

UP Cabinet reduces stamp duty on lease agreements to boost rental market

Why in news: The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved a revised stamp duty and registration fee structure for rent and lease agreements up to 10 years to lower costs for landlords and tenants.

REMEMBER

- Uttar Pradesh — State implementing the stamp duty and registration fee reduction
- Uttar Pradesh Regulation of Urban Premises Tenancy Act, 2021 — The governing act for urban premises
- Rs 26,000 — New registration cost for a 10-year lease with annual rent up to Rs 10 lakh

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how reducing transaction costs in the rental market can facilitate urban mobility and formalize the informal housing sector in India.

USE : transaction costs formalization urban mobility

fiscal policy

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124399

Pakistan airstrikes on Afghanistan: 3 killed, several injured as conflict fears grow

Why in news: Pakistan conducted an airstrike in Afghanistan's Kunar province, killing three people, leading to a warning of retaliation from Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid.

REMEMBER

- Kunar province: A province in Afghanistan where the airstrike occurred.
- Three people were killed and several others were injured in the Pakistani airstrike.
- Zabihullah Mujahid: Spokesperson for the Taliban.

MAINS ANGLE Analyze the impact of cross-border military actions and proxy warfare on the stability of the Afghanistan-Pakistan relationship and regional security.

USE : cross-border escalation proxy warfare

regional stability security dilemma

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124411

Kerala seeks to restrict Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive Area

Why in news: The State of Kerala is seeking to restrict the Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) in its Western Ghats region to 98 villages and 8,590.69 sq km by September 24, 2026.

REMEMBER

- Western Ghats: A mountain range in South India and a biodiversity hotspot supporting water resources for six states.
- 8,590.69 sq km: The specific area Kerala proposes for the Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA).
- Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA): A classification seeking to balance conservation with local livelihoods.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the conflict between ecological conservation and developmental needs in the Western Ghats, highlighting the challenges of defining Ecologically Sensitive Areas.

USE : Ecologically Sensitive Area Biodiversity Conservation

Sustainable Development Western Ghats

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/124346

Everything else, one line each

6 more notes · full versions online

GS1 · HISTORY · SOCIETY · GEOGRAPHY

Coastal protection: Kerala to spend ₹93.22 crore on groynes, seawalls, and tetrapods to protect 3,000 families in Pozhiyoor.

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

Voter roll updates: ECI deleted 80.62 lakh names due to absence or shifting, with only 6.66 lakh Form-6 applications received.

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

Human-wildlife conflict: Kerala to host a state-level conclave at Thiruvambady to explore AI, bio-fencing, and inter-departmental strategies.

NaBFID funding: NaBFID plans to raise \$1.5 billion via overseas bonds to fund long-gestation infrastructure projects.

Mangrove plantation: NHAI and Forest Department planted 75,000 saplings in Pichavaram to mitigate highway expansion damage.

Magnet mission: High-performance permanent magnets are identified as critical components for India's EV motor and semiconductor manufacturing.

MAP WORK

Places in news

New York	the location where the AI dialogue and board of trade were agreed upon.
Uttar Pradesh	State implementing the stamp duty and registration fee reduction
Western Ghats	A mountain range in South India and a biodiversity hotspot supporting water resources for six states.
Thiruvambady	Site of the state-level conclave in Kerala.
Pozhiyoor	coastal area in Thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala

5 questions, 5 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

- 1** Which U.S. model was suggested for study to manage court deposits through a unified investment scheme?
- (a) CRIS (b) REIT
(c) SIPC (d) FIDC
-
- 2** Which body provides the recommendations for judicial appointments in India as mentioned in the note?
- (a) National Judicial Commission (b) Parliamentary Standing Committee
(c) Supreme Court Collegium (d) Law Commission of India
-
- 3** Which engine powers the HTT-40 basic trainer aircraft?
- (a) Pratt & Whitney diesel (b) Rolls-Royce jet
(c) Honeywell turboprop (d) General Electric turbofan
-
- 4** With reference to the BepiColombo mission, consider the following statements:
1. The mission is a joint venture between the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).
 2. The mission traveled approximately 3 billion miles using nine gravity assist maneuvers.
 3. The mission involves two spacecraft named the Mercury Planetary Orbiter and the Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter.
- 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
-
- 5** In which city was the agreement to operationalize a 'board of trade' between the US and China established?
- (a) Washington D.C. (b) Beijing
(c) New York (d) Geneva
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MAINS PRACTICE

Write one answer today

GS2 · POLITY & CONSTITUTION

Discuss the necessity of a standardized legal framework for managing court deposits to ensure transparency and reduce post-judgment litigation in the Indian judiciary.

USE: Judicial transparency Legislative standardization Litigant protection Financial management Legal reform

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



TELEGRAM



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