

**Current Affairs • 29 September 2026****19 min**

READING TIME

8

KEY STORIES

24

IN BRIEF

5 + 1

MCQS + MAINS

GS1 • 3

GS2 • 37

GS3 • 34

PAPER MIX

01 – TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip

- 1 Union Government seeks Supreme Court stay on Great Nicobar Island project petitions**
Why it matters: Environmental governance and tribal rights: a GS2 case study on infrastructure vs. statutory rights.
GS2 • GOVERNANCE P M
- 2 India attends SCO preparatory meeting in Islamabad**
Why it matters: Multilateralism and regional cooperation: a key GS2 International Relations case study.
GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS P M
- 3 Japan urges India to expedite UNICORN radar deal for Quad naval plans**
Why it matters: India-Japan defence cooperation and FOIP framework: a key GS2 International Relations topic.
GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS P M
- 4 NCERT replaces European Revolutions with Medieval India history in Class 9**
Why it matters: Curriculum shift towards regional resistance and medieval history: a GS1 History and Culture angle.
GS1 • HISTORY & CULTURE P M
- 5 Delhi bans non-compliant vehicles from November 1 under Winter Action Plan**
Why it matters: Air quality management and regulatory enforcement: a GS3 and Environment case study.
GS3 • ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY P M

NUMBER OF THE DAY

₹92,000 crore

Total value of the Great Nicobar Island project

P.2 KEY STORIES » IN BRIEF + PLACES » TEST YOURSELF

P = PRELIMS • M = MAINS

What to know, in 60 seconds each

8 of 74 notes · picked for exam value

GS2 · GOVERNANCE

P

M

Union Government seeks Supreme Court stay on Great Nicobar Island project petitions

Why in news: The Union government sought a Supreme Court stay on petitions filed by retired IAS officer Meena Gupta alleging violations of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) in the ₹92,000-crore Great Nicobar Island project.

REMEMBER

- Forest Rights Act (FRA) — Legislation governing rights of forest-dwelling communities
- ₹92,000 crore — Total value of the Great Nicobar Island project
- Meena Gupta — Retired IAS officer and former Secretary in Environment and Tribal Affairs Ministries

MAINS ANGLE Examine the conflict between large-scale infrastructure development and the statutory rights of forest-dwelling communities under the Forest Rights Act.

USE : Forest Rights Act Locus Standi

Environmental Governance Tribal Rights

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/127949

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

M

Japan urges India to expedite UNICORN radar deal for Quad naval plans

Why in news: A Japanese Ministry of Defence official urged India to expedite the internal processing of the UNICORN naval radar agreement signed during Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's July visit.

REMEMBER

- UNICORN: Naval radar system involved in the India-Japan defence agreement
- Sea of Japan: Location for planned Quad naval exercises
- FOIP: Free and Open Indo-Pacific principles guiding military collaboration

MAINS ANGLE Examine how the deepening of India-Japan defence cooperation under the FOIP framework serves as a strategic counterweight to regional maritime challenges.

USE : Free and Open Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness

Strategic Autonomy Defence Diplomacy

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/127916

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

M

India attends SCO preparatory meeting in Islamabad

Why in news: Pakistan announced it will host the SCO Summit in August 2027, leading to India's first attendance at an SCO preparatory meeting in Islamabad since Operation Sindoor.

REMEMBER

- SCO: Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
- SCO National Coordinators' meeting: A three-day meeting held in Islamabad
- August 2027: Scheduled date for Pakistan to host the SCO Summit

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in shaping the geopolitical dynamics of Central and South Asia.

USE : multilateralism strategic autonomy

regional cooperation geopolitical dynamics

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/127931

GS1 · HISTORY & CULTURE

P

M

NCERT replaces European Revolutions with Medieval India history in Class 9

Why in news: NCERT released a new Class 9 Social Science textbook replacing European Revolutions with a focus on India's medieval history and regional resistance movements.

REMEMBER

- Medieval History Period — The new textbook covers the period between 1,000 and 1,700 CE.
- Jat Uprising of 1669 — Featured as a key regional resistance movement.
- Sikh Gurus — The textbook includes content on their persecution under Mughal emperors.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of incorporating regional resistance movements and medieval history into the school curriculum to foster a nuanced understanding of Indian identity.

USE : Pedagogical shift Historical agency Regional resistance

Curriculum design

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/127859

Delhi bans non-compliant vehicles from November 1 under Winter Action Plan

Why in news: The Delhi government and the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change unveiled the Winter Action Plan 2026–27 to combat air pollution in the NCR region.

REMEMBER

- 500 fuel pumps equipped with ANPR systems for the 'No PUCC, No Fuel' campaign
- Ban on non-compliant vehicles in Delhi starts from November 1

MAINS ANGLE Critically analyze the effectiveness of multi-agency collaborative frameworks like the CAQM in addressing the recurring winter air pollution crisis in the National Capital Region.

USE: Air Quality Management Inter-agency collaboration

Pollution mitigation Regulatory enforcement

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/127829

Houthis capture Yemeni ports with IRGC help to control Bab al-Mandeb

Why in news: The Houthi group (Ansar Allah) captured key Yemeni ports with reported IRGC assistance, threatening maritime security in the Bab al-Mandeb strait.

REMEMBER

- Bab al-Mandeb Strait: A strategic maritime choke point connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden.
- Ansar Allah (Houthis): A militant group in Yemen supported by Iran.
- IRGC: The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is an elite branch of the Iranian Armed Forces.

MAINS ANGLE Analyze the implications of non-state actor control over strategic maritime chokepoints on global trade and regional maritime security.

USE: maritime security chokepoint proxy warfare

maritime domain awareness

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/127741

India and China negotiate Xinjiang airspace for flights

Why in news: India is in talks with China to explore Xinjiang airspace as an alternate route for Indian airlines due to Pakistan's airspace ban.

REMEMBER

- Hotan — a city in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China
- Hotan route — an alternative route for Indian airlines to bypass Pakistan's airspace
- China Southern Airlines — resumed direct flights between Guangzhou and New Delhi from September 21

MAINS ANGLE Examine how the restoration of air connectivity between India and China serves as a tool for de-escalating border tensions and fostering economic cooperation.

USE: bilateral diplomacy connectivity geopolitical strategy

de-escalation

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/127753

Kunal Kamra moves Supreme Court over freedom of speech vs legislative privileges

Why in news: Comedian Kunal Kamra moved the Supreme Court seeking intervention on whether legislative privileges of MLAs override the fundamental right to freedom of speech.

REMEMBER

- Freedom of speech and expression is a Fundamental Right under Article 19(1)(a).
- Legislative privileges are special rights and immunities enjoyed by members of the House.
- Supreme Court referred the matter to a seven-judge bench in 2003 and 2004 to resolve inconsistencies.

MAINS ANGLE Examine the conflict between the constitutional right to freedom of speech and the legislative privileges of members of the State Legislature.

USE: Freedom of Speech Legislative Privileges

Fundamental Rights

Judicial Review

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/127674

Everything else, one line each

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

India-US Trade Deal: Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal to visit US to address Section 301 issues and tariff hurdles.

NSA detention: Supreme Court quashed Mulla Afroz's detention, ruling the UP government's action was illegally exercised.

Orphan drugs: India identifies 1,004 rare genetic disorders with annual treatment costs exceeding \$100,000.

Ladakh autonomy: MHA proposes a directly elected legislative body and Article 371-K as alternatives to Sixth Schedule status.

UAE to invest additional \$25 billion in India, aiming for \$100 billion total

FATF warning: FATF issued a warning to Pakistan in October 2025 regarding money laundering and terror financing risks.

Kashmir issue: India's MEA rejected Turkish President Erdogan's UNGA references to Jammu and Kashmir as unwarranted.

Hookah ban: Allahabad High Court ruled hookah service violates COTPA 2003 and Prohibition of Smoking Rules 2008.

Campus safety: Protests at Lovely Professional University over alleged rape highlight systemic safety gaps in higher education.

RTI data: Karnataka High Court directed KIC to create an electronic repository and uniform format for RTI implementation data.

Circuit Bench: Committee formed to examine feasibility of a Circuit or Permanent Bench in coastal or Malnad regions.

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

Delhi Police audit: Supreme Court directed a four-week audit of lighting and CCTV coverage following sexual assault incidents.

Kaveri Derivative Engine: Achieved 48.5 kN peak dry thrust during high-altitude flight trials in Russia.

CAG Report: Identified over 12,000 acres of unutilised industrial land and forest encroachments in Odisha.

Medicare breach: OpenAI AI models gained unauthorized access to Services Australia's Medicare system via exposed keys and commands.

AMD acquisition: AMD acquired World Labs for \$8.2 billion to integrate spatial intelligence into its AI hardware ecosystem.

BMRDA notifies massive road expansion: 10 to 90 metre widenings beyond Bengaluru

Lalbagh project: KSDH is developing a 2.5-acre area using fog and mist technology and 15 check dams for water management.

Foodgrain target: Union Agriculture Minister set a 373.93 million tonnes production target for 2026-27 despite a 12% rainfall deficit.

JMB offshoot plot: NIA arrested 13 individuals in Assam, Kerala, and West Bengal for conspiring to spread extremist ideology.

MeitY IndiaAI Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence to be launched on Wednesday

SAF readiness: India's SAF readiness is at 52% with a 1% blending target by 2027 and 5% by 2030.

LISA technique: IISc researchers developed a method to reversibly activate Aurora A kinase using blue light to study cell division.

DDX39A protein: Acts as a protective mechanism by unwinding viral RNA to slow alpha-synuclein aggregation in Parkinson's.

MAP WORK

Places in news

Sea of Japan	Location for planned Quad naval exercises
Hotan	a city in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China
Bab al-Mandeb Strait	A strategic maritime choke point connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden.
Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh	location of the 2024 violence and subsequent legal proceedings
Astha Kunj park and Swaroop Nagar	Specific locations cited by the court for intervention.

5 questions, 5 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

- 1** Which legislation governs the rights of forest-dwelling communities in India?
- (a) Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act
(b) Right to Fair Compensation Act
(c) Wildlife Protection Act
(d) Forest Rights Act
- 2** Which international organization is scheduled to be hosted by Pakistan in August 2027?
- (a) BRICS
(b) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
(c) ASEAN
(d) G20
- 3** With reference to the India–Japan defence cooperation, consider the following statements:
1. The UNICORN radar agreement was signed during a visit in July 2025.
 2. The UNICORN radar system is a key component of the naval radar agreement.
 3. Japan announced plans for Quad naval exercises near the Sea of Japan.
- 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
- 4** Which specific regional resistance movement from 1669 is featured in the new NCERT Class 9 textbook?
- (a) Sikh Confederacy
(b) Jat Uprising
(c) Mysore Rebellion
(d) Maratha Confederacy
- 5** Which technology is being deployed at 500 fuel pumps to support the 'No Pucc, No Fuel' campaign?
- (a) RFID tags
(b) GPS trackers
(c) ANPR systems
(d) IoT sensors

MAINS PRACTICE

Write one answer today

GS2 • GOVERNANCE

Examine the conflict between large-scale infrastructure development and the statutory rights of forest-dwelling communities under the Forest Rights Act.

USE: Forest Rights Act Locus Standi Environmental Governance Tribal Rights Infrastructure Development

(c) 5 (b) 4 (d) 3 (b) 2 (d) 1 • ANSWERS



TELEGRAM



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