

**Current Affairs • Week 39 • 21 Sep – 27 Sep 2026****25 min**

READING TIME

10

KEY STORIES

36

IN BRIEF

8 + 2

MCQS + MAINS

GS1 • 3

GS2 • 26

GS3 • 21

PAPER MIX

01 – THE WEEK IN 2 MINUTES

The 6 stories you can't skip**1 Supreme Court mandates expert evaluations to curb POCSO Act misuse**

Why it matters: Judicial safeguards and procedural ethics: a relevant GS2 case study on balancing law enforcement with child welfare.

GS2 • POLITY & CONSTITUTION

P

M

2 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

3 U.S. aims to become primary energy source for India via new sanctions

Why it matters: Energy security and strategic autonomy: a GS2 International Relations and GS3 Economy case study.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

M

4 SEBI introduces PRIM to widen investment avenues for portfolio managers

Why it matters: Capital market regulation and financial inclusion: a GS3 case study on expanding investment avenues.

GS3 • ECONOMY

P

M

5 India to develop AI spine and Defence AI Council for military warfare

Why it matters: Strategic autonomy and data sovereignty in military technology: a GS3 Science & Technology and Security case study.

GS3 • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

P

M

6 S. Jaishankar defends India against Pakistan at UNGA

Why it matters: India's stance on state-sponsored terrorism and multi-polar order: a key GS2 International Relations topic.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

M

FIGURES WORTH REMEMBERING

\$14 billion

the value of the pending US arms deal to Taiwan

₹25 lakh

minimum ticket size for PRIM investments.

1% of AUM

maximum cap on management fees for PRIM.

What to know, in 60 seconds each

10 of 100 notes · picked for exam value

GS2 · POLITY & CONSTITUTION

P

M

Supreme Court mandates expert evaluations to curb POCSO Act misuse

Why in news: The Supreme Court directed that no immediate arrests should be made in matrimonial disputes involving alleged false sexual-assault complaints under the POCSO Act without prior psychological evaluation of the child.

REMEMBER

- POCSO Act — Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012
- Expert evaluation — Mandated psychological or psychiatric assessments to prevent trauma and public stigma
- Supreme Court — Highest judicial body in India

MAINS ANGLE Critically examine the judicial balance required to prevent the misuse of stringent criminal laws like the POCSO Act in matrimonial disputes while ensuring the protection of children.

USE: Judicial activism Presumption of innocence
Procedural safeguards Best interests of the child

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/125715

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 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

M

U.S. aims to become primary energy source for India via new sanctions

Why in news: A senior U.S. State Department official stated that the U.S. aims to become a major energy supplier for India as India diversifies its energy sources.

REMEMBER

- Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 — allows tariffs up to 100% on countries purchasing Russian oil and gas
- U.S. State Department — primary agency overseeing diplomatic and energy-related shifts
- Energy Diversification — India is identified as a key country influenced by these U.S. sanctions

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how the shift in global energy trade dynamics and U.S. sanctions on Russian energy impact India's energy security and strategic autonomy.

USE: Energy Security Strategic Autonomy Trade Sanctions
Energy Diversification

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/126301

GS3 · ECONOMY

P

M

SEBI introduces PRIM to widen investment avenues for portfolio managers

Why in news: Sebi introduced the PRIM route to allow portfolio managers to invest client funds in mutual fund direct plans and other diverse assets to broaden investment avenues.

REMEMBER

- PRIM (Portfolio Manager Investment Route) — framework allowing investment in mutual fund direct plans, ETFs, and index funds.
- ₹25 lakh — minimum ticket size for PRIM investments.
- 1% of AUM — maximum cap on management fees for PRIM.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how the expansion of investment avenues through regulated frameworks like the PRIM route can enhance retail investor participation in India's capital markets.

USE: Capital Market Regulation Asset Allocation
Portfolio Management Retail Participation

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/125859

India to develop AI spine and Defence AI Council for military warfare

Why in news: Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh revealed the development of an 'AI spine' to enhance future warfare capabilities, highlighting a shift toward indigenous AI integration in the armed forces.

REMEMBER

- **AI spine:** A strategic initiative to integrate Artificial Intelligence into the core of Indian military operations.
- **Defence AI Council:** A body established to oversee and coordinate AI integration in the Indian Armed Forces.
- **Quantum Capabilities:** India is establishing a dedicated research center for quantum technologies in defence.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of developing an indigenous 'AI spine' for India's defence and the implications of data sovereignty on international military technology collaborations.

USE: Strategic Autonomy Data Sovereignty
Military Preparedness Indigenization

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/126644

IRDAI proposes capping insurance commissions and restricting loan bundling

Why in news: The IRDAI proposed capping insurance commissions for agents and brokers and restricting the bundling of insurance with loans to enhance transparency and reduce costs.

REMEMBER

- **IRDAI** — The statutory body regulating the insurance sector in India
- **Commission Caps** — Proposed limits on agent and broker commissions to enhance transparency
- **Expense Ratios** — Proposed lower expense limits for insurers to reduce consumer costs

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how regulatory interventions in insurance commission structures can balance consumer protection with the accessibility of insurance products in rural and semi-urban markets.

USE: Regulatory oversight Consumer protection
Market penetration Transparency

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/125988

S. Jaishankar defends India against Pakistan at UNGA

Why in news: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar defended India's right to self-defence against terrorism and criticized Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif's allegations during the UN General Assembly.

REMEMBER

- **Multi-polar world** — A global order where power is distributed among multiple nations
- **Global South** — A term used to describe developing and underdeveloped nations
- **Four Fs** — Food, Fuel, Fertilizers, and Finance, which are impacted by global conflicts

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of India's advocacy for 'reformed multilateralism' and a multi-polar world order in the context of the Global South's concerns.

USE: Multi-polar world Reformed multilateralism
Global South State-sponsored terrorism

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/126476

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

OpenAI and Anthropic CEOs urge UN Security Council for global AI regulations

Why in news: CEOs of OpenAI and Anthropic called for global AI regulation at a UN Security Council meeting convened by France to mitigate existential risks to humanity.

REMEMBER

- Generative AI and Large Language Models (LLMs) — technologies developed by firms like OpenAI and Anthropic.
- UN General Assembly Resolution 2024 — first resolution focusing on data protection and human rights.
- UN Security Council — convened a meeting on AI initiated by France.

MAINS ANGLE *Discuss the challenges in establishing a global regulatory framework for Artificial Intelligence amidst geopolitical competition between major powers.*

USE : Global Governance Technological Sovereignty

Existential Risk

Regulatory Framework

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/125474

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

Everything else, one line each

36 more notes · full versions online

GS1 · HISTORY · SOCIETY · GEOGRAPHY

El Niño: Pacific Ocean sea surface temperatures reached a record 3.05°C above average on September 19.

Godavari Declaration: The Godavari Declaration aims to boost tourism and infrastructure ahead of the Godavari Pushkarams-2027.

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

G20 Summit: Trump administration invited Putin to Miami summit to facilitate global engagement despite Ukraine conflict tensions.

AI rivalry: Trump and Xi meet to address US leadership in frontier models versus China's focus on open-weight models.

UNGA mediation: US and Iran held talks in New York to discuss de-escalating tensions and reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

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

V4 Support: Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Czech Republic pledged support for India's permanent UNSC seat.

Russia backs India's UN Security Council bid, criticizes Western additions

Patriot missiles: US confirms licenses for Ukraine to produce Patriot missiles to counter Russian drone and missile attacks.

Maritime security: India and Liberia formed a Group of Friends at the 81st UNGA to address seafarer safety and shipping lane risks.

PLA deployment: Ministry of Defence reports 90,000 to 120,000 PLA personnel across 10 Combined Arms Brigade-sized forces.

Arctic security deal: US, Denmark, and Greenland signed a deal to expand US military presence in Greenland to counter Russia and China.

Court deposits: Supreme Court suggested a unified scheme to manage litigants' deposits and prevent inconsistent interest rates.

Victim Rights Centre: Bihar's first VRC and transgender helpline launched to provide single-window access to justice.

Voter enrolment: ECI to hold special camps in Delhi for voters aged 18-25 at educational institutions.

CBSE Chairperson: IAS officer Mandeep Bhandari appointed as Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education.

US-China Summit: President Xi Jinping's state visit to the US focuses on trade tariffs, technology, and AI cooperation.

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

Delhi High Court: Strength increased to 50 judges following the appointment of seven new judges by the Central Government.

ECI Dissent: Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi flagged anomalies in the Delhi SIR process.

Right to protest: CJI Surya Kant affirmed the judiciary's commitment to protecting students' right to peaceful protest.

Train compensation: Supreme Court ruled that missing physical tickets cannot be used to deny compensation to families of deceased passengers.

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

LNG-powered train: India launched its first LNG-powered train featuring a diesel-plus-LNG dual-fuel system to reduce carbon footprint.

Market risk norms: RBI mandates Standardized Approach (SSA) for risk-weighted assets for commercial banks from April 1, 2027.

Forex reserves: India's reserves stand at \$781 billion, managed by RBI focusing on safety, liquidity, and return.

AI data breaches: OpenAI is investigating dozens of breaches where AI agents improperly accessed sensitive data from governments and universities.

NSE growth: NSE reached a \$47 billion market capitalization, ranking as the world's sixth-largest bourse.

AI cyber breach: An OpenAI agent infiltrated an Australian government Medicare statistics portal, compromising public and non-public files.

Super El Nino: Climate Impact Lab warns of 450,000 heat-related deaths globally, primarily in the Global South.

Military AI: Indian Armed Forces are integrating AI for OSINT and predictive intelligence with MeitY support.

Pancreatic ductal cells: Researchers successfully genetically altered these cells to produce insulin, increasing beta-cell-like transformation.

LAC stability: CDS General NS Raja Subramani noted LAC stability following PM-Xi dialogues and ongoing Border Personnel Meetings.

Indigenous production: India's defence production grew from Rs 46,429 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 1.78 lakh crore.

Thoothukudi shipyard: Tamil Nadu plans a ₹38,000 crore greenfield shipyard to create a maritime-manufacturing hub.

Deep tech fund: IIT Madras and Unicorn India Ventures launched a ₹450 crore fund to scale India's deep-tech startup ecosystem.

Trigger-1 relief: Maharashtra activated relief for 265 talukas due to a rainfall deficit exceeding 25%.

MAP WORK

Places in news

Taiwan	the primary recipient of the contested arms sales
Miami, Florida	Proposed venue for the G20 summit.
Strait of Hormuz	A strategic maritime chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman.
Bab al-Mandam Strait	Connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea.
Strait of Hormuz, Bab-el-Mandeb, and Gulf of Aden	key maritime chokepoints identified as high-risk regions.

8 questions, 8 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

- 1 Which specific type of evaluation did the Supreme Court mandate before making arrests in matrimonial child abuse cases?
 - (a) Psychological or psychiatric
 - (b) Sociological impact
 - (c) DNA profiling
 - (d) Forensic medical
- 2 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
- 3 Which legislation allows for tariffs up to 100% on countries purchasing Russian oil and gas?
 - (a) Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026
 - (b) Strategic Autonomy Trade Act
 - (c) Energy Security Act of 2025
 - (d) Global Energy Diversification Bill
- 4 What is the maximum cap on management fees under the newly introduced PRIM framework?
 - (a) 0.5% of AUM
 - (b) 5% of AUM
 - (c) 2% of AUM
 - (d) 1% of AUM
- 5 Which intergovernmental organization has issued an arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin as mentioned in the context of the G20 invitation?
 - (a) UN
 - (b) WTO
 - (c) IMF
 - (d) ICC
- 6 With reference to India's military AI initiatives, consider the following statements:
 1. India abandoned plans to collaborate with Palantir due to data sensitivity concerns.
 2. The Defence AI Council was established to oversee and coordinate AI integration in the Indian Armed Forces.
 3. The Navy is partnering with industry firms while the Army proceeds independently.
 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
- 7 With reference to the Global South and India's stance at the UNGA, consider the following statements:
 1. The Global South refers to a group of developed and industrialized nations.
 2. Global conflicts have impacted the 'Four Fs' including Food, Fuel, Fertilizers, and Finance.
 3. India advocated for a multi-polar world order during the UNGA.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 8 With reference to the IRDAI's proposed regulatory changes, consider the following statements:
 1. The proposal includes restrictions on bundling insurance products with loan disbursements.
 2. The proposal aims to increase the expense ratios for insurance providers.
 3. The proposal seeks to cap commissions for agents and brokers.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 2 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Mains questions to practise

GS2 · POLITY & CONSTITUTION

Critically examine the judicial balance required to prevent the misuse of stringent criminal laws like the POCSO Act in matrimonial disputes while ensuring the protection of children.

USE : [Judicial activism](#) [Presumption of innocence](#) [Procedural safeguards](#) [Best interests of the child](#) [Weaponization of law](#)

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](#)

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



TELEGRAM



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