

**Current Affairs • 17 August 2026****14 min**

READING TIME

8

KEY STORIES

24

IN BRIEF

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MAINS QUESTION

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PAPER MIX

01 – TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip**1 President Droupadi Murmu has approved the bill renaming Kerala as Keralam**

Why it matters: President Droupadi Murmu gave assent to the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, renaming the state of Kerala to Keralam.

GS2 • POLITY & CONSTITUTION

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2 Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Pakistan sign 'big first step' defence pact, US hails

Why it matters: Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan signed the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement to formalize a collective defence commitment, impacting regional security dynamics.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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3 Koizumi meets Singh to expand defence ties, discuss UNICORN drone joint development

Why it matters: Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi is visiting India to discuss expanding defence cooperation, specifically the joint development of UNICORN systems and drones under the 'Make in India' framework.

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4 China Allegedly Encroaches on Arunachal Pradesh, Threatening India-China Relations Ahead of BRICS Summit

Why it matters: Alleged Chinese encroachment in Arunachal Pradesh has escalated tensions between India and China, potentially impacting the upcoming BRICS summit.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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5 Are courts precluded from granting fair, just compensation in nuclear accident: SC asks Centre

Why it matters: The Supreme Court questioned the constitutionality of a proposed cap on nuclear accident compensation and potential conflicts of interest in the Atomic Energy Regulatory Body (AERB).

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

P = PRELIMS • M = MAINS

What to know, in 60 seconds each

8 of 36 notes · picked for exam value

GS2 · POLITY & CONSTITUTION

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President Droupadi Murmu has approved the bill renaming Kerala as Keralam

Why in news: President Droupadi Murmu gave assent to the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, renaming the state of Kerala to Keralam.

REMEMBER

- Article 3 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to alter the name, boundaries, or areas of any state.
- The First Schedule of the Constitution contains the names of the States and Union Territories.
- The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, was the legislative vehicle for the name change.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the constitutional provisions and the federal implications involved in the alteration of state names and boundaries in India.

USE: Constitutional Amendment Federalism

State Autonomy Legislative Process

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/106574

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Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Pakistan sign 'big first step' defence pact, US hails

Why in news: Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan signed the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement to formalize a collective defence commitment, impacting regional security dynamics.

REMEMBER

- The Mecca Joint Defence Agreement was signed on August 7 in Jeddah.
- The agreement is modeled after NATO's Article 5, which mandates collective defence.
- Jeddah is the location where the pact was signed.

MAINS ANGLE Analyze the implications of the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement on the geopolitical stability of the Middle East and the security architecture of South Asia.

USE: Collective Defence Geopolitical Realignment

Regional Stability Security Architecture

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/106211

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Koizumi meets Singh to expand defence ties, discuss UNICORN drone joint development

Why in news: Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi is visiting India to discuss expanding defence cooperation, specifically the joint development of UNICORN systems and drones under the 'Make in India' framework.

REMEMBER

- Shinjiro Koizumi: Minister of Defence of Japan
- UNICORN: A naval radio antenna system for stealth communication
- India-Japan Defence Policy Dialogue: Held in Tokyo on July 13, 2026

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of India-Japan defence cooperation in maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific region. How does technology sharing enhance bilateral strategic autonomy?

USE: strategic partnership maritime security

technological collaboration Indo-Pacific

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/106690

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China Allegedly Encroaches on Arunachal Pradesh, Threatening India-China Relations Ahead of BRICS Summit

Why in news: Alleged Chinese encroachment in Arunachal Pradesh has escalated tensions between India and China, potentially impacting the upcoming BRICS summit.

REMEMBER

- Arunachal Pradesh: A state in Northeast India bordering China, Bhutan, and Myanmar.
- BRICS: An intergovernmental organization comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- The border dispute involves the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China.

MAINS ANGLE Analyze the impact of border disputes on India's strategic autonomy and its ability to foster multilateral cooperation within the BRICS framework.

USE: sovereignty strategic autonomy border management

bilateral tensions

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/106518

Are courts precluded from granting fair, just compensation in nuclear accident: SC asks Centre

Why in news: The Supreme Court questioned the constitutionality of a proposed cap on nuclear accident compensation and potential conflicts of interest in the Atomic Energy Regulatory Body (AERB).

REMEMBER

- AERB: Atomic Energy Regulatory Body is the statutory body responsible for regulating safety and radiation protection in India's nuclear power sector.
- The proposed liability cap under the SHANTI Act is ₹3,000 crore.
- Chief Justice Surya Kant presided over the bench hearing the plea regarding nuclear accident compensation.

MAINS ANGLE Critically examine the balance between industrial liability caps and the protection of fundamental rights in the context of nuclear safety regulations in India.

USE: Liability Cap Fundamental Rights Regulatory Oversight Nuclear Safety

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/106441

Supreme Court: Protect Elephant Corridors, No Obstructions Despite Crop Damage

Why in news: The Supreme Court directed the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to survey elephant corridor obstructions, prioritizing wildlife movement over crop damage.

REMEMBER

- MoEFCC: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the nodal body for wildlife protection.
- Elephant corridors: Designated pathways used by elephants to move between fragmented habitats.
- The court explicitly prohibited the use of firearms or coercive actions against elephants.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the challenges in balancing human-wildlife conflict with the conservation of migratory corridors in India's fragmented ecosystems.

USE: Human-wildlife conflict Habitat fragmentation Biodiversity conservation Ecological corridors

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/106395

India Signs Rs 1,943 Crore Deal for Two MQ-9B Drones to Boost Maritime Surveillance

Why in news: India signed a Rs 1,943 crore lease agreement with General Atomics for two MQ-9B SeaGuardian drones to enhance maritime surveillance and air defense.

REMEMBER

- MQ-9B SeaGuardian: A maritime surveillance drone capable of long-range operations.
- Contract Value: Rs 1,943 crore for a 30-month lease period.
- Operational Capability: Flight duration of over 30 hours at altitudes above 40,000 feet.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how the integration of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) like the MQ-9B SeaGuardian contributes to India's maritime security and 'SAGAR' initiative in the Indian Ocean Region.

USE: Maritime Domain Awareness Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Strategic Autonomy Defense Modernization

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/106384

Millions Face Voter Notice Deadline: 93 Lakh Telangana Voters Must Act

Why in news: The Chief Electoral Officer of Telangana announced a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to rectify name mismatches and anomalies for 93 lakh voters.

REMEMBER

- Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) is the state-level authority responsible for the preparation and maintenance of electoral rolls.
- Approximately 93 lakh voters in Telangana are affected by name mismatches in the current revision.
- The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is a process to ensure the integrity of the electoral roll by verifying documents.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the importance of maintaining accurate electoral rolls in ensuring the integrity of the democratic process in India.

USE: Electoral Roll Special Intensive Revision Democracy Integrity

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/106744

Everything else, one line each

24 more notes · full versions online

GS1 · HISTORY · SOCIETY · GEOGRAPHY

Visakhapatnam Airport Shuts Commercial Flights as VTZ Code Moves to Bhogapuram

Assam Staff May Face 20% Pay Cut For 2nd Marriage Without Divorce

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

President Paudel confers honorary rank of General on Indian Army Chief Seth

Karnataka Faces SC Grilling Over Cauvery Water Release Dispute

Jharkhand CM cancels recruitment exams since 2014 amid protests, forms investigation committee

Andhra Pradesh passes bill for uniform mutation fee at title transfers

Taliban marks five years in power, facing criticism for women's rights restrictions

Tamil Nadu CM launches 'Presence-less Registration' for housing plots, verified online in 24 hours

Indians Most Targeted by ICE Among Asians and Pacific Islanders: Report

Kerala allocates ₹12 lakh for nutritious snacks for 300 child survivors of sexual crimes

DRI busts ₹2,500 crore arecanut fraud network, arrests nine

Supreme Court Rejects NGO's Bid to Change Sikkim Electoral Roll Base Year from 2002

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

Amit Shah Announces Arrest of 253 in ISI-Backed Terror Raids Ahead of Independence Day

AI-Powered Sanskrit Lessons: EMRC Bags ₹70 Lakh Project to Create 440 Digital Courses

CSIR-IICT and Re Sustainability team up to tackle plastic recycling, aim for measurable impact

Value-added farmers' produce to be marketed under 'Kerala Brand' for better price, says CM V.D. Satheesan

Kerala sets trap: Defaults on local loans mean departmental inspections and fund cuts

IMD Red Alert: Odisha Evacuates 2.37 Lakh as Floods Hit 5 Lakh People

E10 petrol proposed for older cars to avoid 6-7% energy penalty from E20

JetZero's Z4 'manta ray' aircraft aims for 5,750-mile flights with 30-50% less fuel

Assam CM doles out ₹15,000 to each of 96,842 flood-hit families

India may cut sugar exports as production threatened by El Niño

India Orders Refiners to Boost LPG Output to 63,810 Tons Daily

WhatsApping PAN, Aadhaar risks identity theft; RBI recorded 23,953 fraud cases in 2024-25

Write one answer today

GS2 · POLITY & CONSTITUTION

Discuss the constitutional provisions and the federal implications involved in the alteration of state names and boundaries in India.

USE :

Constitutional Amendment

Federalism

State Autonomy

Legislative Process



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