

**Current Affairs • 18 August 2026****14 min**
READING TIME**8**
KEY STORIES**24**
IN BRIEF**1**
MAINS QUESTION

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GS3 • 21

PAPER MIX

01 – TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip**1 Defence Dept Unveils List: 405 Items Worth ₹3,070 Crore to Boost Indigenous Production**

Why it matters: The Department of Defence Production released the sixth Positive Indigenisation List to boost domestic manufacturing of 405 defence items worth ₹3,070 crore.

GS3 • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY P M

2 Supreme Court Grills Delhi Police Over Facial Recognition Use in Protests

Why it matters: The Supreme Court examined the proportionality and legality of Delhi Police using Facial Recognition Systems (FRS) during protests, highlighting the tension between public safety and the right to privacy.

GS2 • POLITY & CONSTITUTION P M

3 Government offers 200 standard cubic metres of cheaper gas to speed up PNG adoption

Why it matters: The Indian government announced a subsidy of 200 standard cubic metres of cheaper APM gas to city-gas distributors to accelerate domestic Piped Natural Gas (PNG) adoption.

GS3 • ECONOMY P

4 BRICS Slams EU Carbon Border Taxes as "Unilateral and Discriminatory"

Why it matters: BRICS nations officially opposed the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) at the 12th Environment Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi, labeling it discriminatory against developing economies.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS P M

5 Supreme Court forms panel to probe police excesses against Delhi student protesters

Why it matters: The Supreme Court ordered the formation of a high-powered committee to investigate allegations of police misconduct during the July 20 Parliament march.

GS2 • POLITY & CONSTITUTION P M

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

P = PRELIMS • M = MAINS

GS3 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

P M

Defence Dept Unveils List: 405 Items Worth ₹3,070 Crore to Boost Indigenous Production

Why in news: The Department of Defence Production released the sixth Positive Indigenisation List to boost domestic manufacturing of 405 defence items worth ₹3,070 crore.

REMEMBER

- The sixth Positive Indigenisation List comprises 405 items.
- The business potential of the listed items is estimated at ₹3,070 crore.
- The SRIJAN Defence Portal is the platform used for tracking indigenisation timelines.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how the Positive Indigenisation List contributes to the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative in the defence sector and its impact on India's strategic autonomy.

USE: Aatmanirbhar Bharat Indigenisation

Strategic Autonomy Defence Manufacturing

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/107740

GS3 · ECONOMY

P

Government offers 200 standard cubic metres of cheaper gas to speed up PNG adoption

Why in news: The Indian government announced a subsidy of 200 standard cubic metres of cheaper APM gas to city-gas distributors to accelerate domestic Piped Natural Gas (PNG) adoption.

REMEMBER

- Incentive: 200 standard cubic metres of cheaper gas per new domestic-PNG connection.
- Payback period reduction: From 10 years to approximately 3 years.
- Mechanism: Administered Price Mechanism (APM) natural gas.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of the Administered Price Mechanism (APM) and government subsidies in accelerating the transition to Piped Natural Gas (PNG) in India.

USE: Administered Price Mechanism Piped Natural Gas

Energy Transition Infrastructure Development

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/107828

GS2 · POLITY & CONSTITUTION

P M

Supreme Court Grills Delhi Police Over Facial Recognition Use in Protests

Why in news: The Supreme Court examined the proportionality and legality of Delhi Police using Facial Recognition Systems (FRS) during protests, highlighting the tension between public safety and the right to privacy.

REMEMBER

- FRS (Facial Recognition Systems) use biometric data to identify individuals in real-time or from images.
- Delhi Police identified 2,873 individuals with criminal records using FRS during the protests.
- Tushar Mehta serves as the Solicitor General of India.

MAINS ANGLE Critically analyze the challenges posed by the use of Facial Recognition Systems (FRS) by law enforcement agencies in the context of the Right to Privacy.

USE: Proportionality Right to Privacy Mass Surveillance

Biometric Data

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/107701

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P M

BRICS Slams EU Carbon Border Taxes as "Unilateral and Discriminatory"

Why in news: BRICS nations officially opposed the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) at the 12th Environment Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi, labeling it discriminatory against developing economies.

REMEMBER

- BRICS: A grouping of major emerging economies including Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- CBAM: A carbon tax imposed by the EU on carbon-intensive products imported from outside the bloc.
- The 12th Environment Ministers' Meeting was held in New Delhi in August 2026.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how unilateral carbon border taxes like the EU's CBAM impact the principle of 'Common But Differentiated Responsibilities' (CBDR) for developing nations.

USE: CBDR Trade Protectionism Climate Justice

Carbon Leakage

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/107718

Supreme Court forms panel to probe police excesses against Delhi student protesters

Why in news: The Supreme Court ordered the formation of a high-powered committee to investigate allegations of police misconduct during the July 20 Parliament march.

REMEMBER

- Article 19 guarantees the fundamental rights to freedom of speech and peaceful assembly.
- The Supreme Court of India has the power of judicial review to oversee executive actions.
- The Solicitor General reported over 2,800 'anti-social elements' involved in the violence.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the importance of judicial oversight in ensuring the balance between the state's power to maintain public order and the protection of fundamental rights.

USE: Judicial Oversight Fundamental Rights Public Order

Accountability

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/107456

India's Exports Soar to Record \$44.24 Billion in July, Electronics Surge 57.4%

Why in news: India's merchandise exports hit a record \$44.24 billion in July, driven by a surge in electronics and engineering goods despite rising freight costs.

REMEMBER

- India's merchandise exports in July reached a record \$44.24 billion.
- Electronics exports jumped 57.4% to approximately \$5.9 billion in July.
- Exports to China increased by 64.57% year-on-year to \$2.2 billion.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the factors contributing to the growth of India's merchandise exports and the challenges posed by global geopolitical disruptions on maritime trade.

USE: merchandise exports value-added products

market diversification freight costs

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/107451

Gyanesh Kumar launches Electoral Literacy Clubs 2.0 in Patna

Why in news: Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar launched Electoral Literacy Clubs 2.0 to promote voter awareness and democratic trust among youth.

REMEMBER

- Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is the head of the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- Electoral Literacy Clubs 2.0 aims to reach 15 lakh schools and 1,420 universities.
- The initiative focuses on building electoral literacy and trust in the democratic process.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of electoral literacy in strengthening grassroots democracy and ensuring informed participation in the Indian electoral process.

USE: electoral literacy democratic process

voter awareness digital outreach

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/107195

India signs ₹1,943-crore deal for U.S. drones to boost maritime security in Indo-Pacific

Why in news: India signed a ₹1,943-crore deal with the U.S.-based GA-ASI to lease MQ-9B Sea Guardian drones to enhance maritime security in the Indo-Pacific.

REMEMBER

- Contract value: ₹1,943 crore
- MQ-9B Sea Guardian: A High-Altitude Long-Endurance (HALE) remotely piloted aircraft system
- Union Ministry of Defence: Responsible for procurement and leasing of defense equipment

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how the acquisition of advanced unmanned aerial systems (UAS) contributes to India's maritime security and its strategic positioning in the Indo-Pacific region.

USE: Maritime Domain Awareness Strategic Autonomy

Indo-Pacific Defense Procurement

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/107061

Everything else, one line each

24 more notes · full versions online

GS1 · HISTORY · SOCIETY · GEOGRAPHY

Mumbai Mandates Marathi Training for Drivers, Igniting Cosmopolitan Clash

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

The Supreme Court emphasized in a judgment that the Election Commission

Over 47 lakh Delhi voters face exclusion as submission rates plummet

Kerala council proposes four-year academic calendars, fellowships to boost education quality

Chinese firm uses US-funded tech to dominate robot dog market, set for IPO

Madras High Court Clears Path for 'Tamil Thai Vazhthu' to Lead Government Functions

Indian Army chief meets Nepal PM to boost ties, ease border tensions

Indian government discusses Meta's role in tackling child abuse content on Instagram

In an effort to reduce bureaucratic expenses, the Himachal Pradesh government plans

Tamil Nadu Health Minister Announces 'Chief Minister's Elderly Health Insurance Scheme'

Indian high commissioner hopes Tarique visit takes place sooner despite challenges

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) projected India's GDP growth to slow

CSIR Chief Tours MedTech Hub, Unveils 1-lakh Sqft Incubator for Startups

Kerala Leases 18.16 Acres to Cochin Shipyard for ₹5,000 Crore Project

India's crude oil import bill surges 41% to \$13.7 billion in July 2026

El Nino Set to Peak: 90% Chance of Record-Breaking Strength in 2026–27

Mumbai Police Initiate In Absentia Trial for Six 26/11 Attack Accused

46 militants, 20 arms surrendered in Manipur; chief minister promises Rs 6,000 stipends

Kerala launches Vizhinjam port with 2.3 million TEU capacity, aims for maritime gateway

JPMorgan warns global food inflation could rise to 5% in 2027

Young Indian Investors Surge to 37.9% of Base but 91% Lost Money in FY25

India changes stock market closing to 10-minute auction since August 3

Sebi Clarifies: Discretionary PMS Clients Can Pledge Securities for Loans

Pandey: CAS auction system under review due to trader concerns

Write one answer today

GS3 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Discuss how the Positive Indigenisation List contributes to the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative in the defence sector and its impact on India's strategic autonomy.

USE :

Aatmanirbhar Bharat

Indigenisation

Strategic Autonomy

Defence Manufacturing

Import Substitution



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