

**Current Affairs • 19 August 2026****14 min**

READING TIME

8

KEY STORIES

24

IN BRIEF

1

MAINS QUESTION

GS1 • 1

GS2 • 28

GS3 • 15

PAPER MIX

01 – TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip**1 Kerala's Air Quality Worst in South India, Study Shows 25 Cities Failing PM10 Standards**

Why it matters: A CSTEP study revealed that Kerala has the highest local contribution to air pollution in South India, with 25 cities failing PM10 standards under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

GS3 • ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

P

M

2 NMC proposes single ID for doctors to practice across India, renewals every five years

Why it matters: The National Medical Commission (NMC) proposed a draft amendment to create a unified national registration system for doctors to facilitate seamless practice across India.

GS2 • POLITY & CONSTITUTION

P

M

3 Few know: Supreme Court allowed passive euthanasia in 2018

Why it matters: The Supreme Court's 2018 ruling on passive euthanasia and 'living wills' is being highlighted due to a lack of public awareness and infrastructure for palliative care.

GS2 • SOCIAL JUSTICE

P

M

4 Supreme Court Grills NTA Over NEET-UG Leaks, Questions Nilekani Task Force

Why it matters: The Supreme Court questioned the National Testing Agency (NTA) over NEET-UG paper leaks and the lack of continuity in implementing reforms across different task forces.

GS2 • SOCIAL JUSTICE

P

M

5 RBI Proposes Faster Floating-Rate Loans, Resetting Interests Every Three Months

Why it matters: The RBI proposed a draft to shorten the reset cycle of floating-rate home loans from annually to every three months to enhance interest rate transmission.

GS3 • ECONOMY

P

M

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

P = PRELIMS • M = MAINS

What to know, in 60 seconds each

8 of 44 notes · picked for exam value

GS3 · ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

P M

Kerala's Air Quality Worst in South India, Study Shows 25 Cities Failing PM10 Standards

Why in news: A CSTEP study revealed that Kerala has the highest local contribution to air pollution in South India, with 25 cities failing PM10 standards under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

REMEMBER

- Kerala's local contribution to air pollution in South India is 65%.
- 25 cities in South India are classified as non-attainment under NCAP.
- CSTEP (Council on Sustainable Ecological Systems and Technologies) conducted the study.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the challenges in managing air quality at the 'airshed' level in India. Suggest measures to improve inter-state cooperation for pollution control.

USE: airshed management non-attainment cities

source apportionment inter-state cooperation

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/108632

GS2 · POLITY & CONSTITUTION

P M

NMC proposes single ID for doctors to practice across India, renews every five years

Why in news: The National Medical Commission (NMC) proposed a draft amendment to create a unified national registration system for doctors to facilitate seamless practice across India.

REMEMBER

- NMC: National Medical Commission is the apex body regulating medical education and practice in India.
- License renewal: Proposed mandatory renewal every five years to maintain active status.
- Ethics and Medical Registration Board: The body designated to hear appeals regarding medical registration.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how a unified national registration system for medical practitioners can improve healthcare delivery and professional accountability in India.

USE: Regulatory framework Professional mobility

Standardization Accountability

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/108339

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE

P M

Few know: Supreme Court allowed passive euthanasia in 2018

Why in news: The Supreme Court's 2018 ruling on passive euthanasia and 'living wills' is being highlighted due to a lack of public awareness and infrastructure for palliative care.

REMEMBER

- AIIMS: A premier public medical research and tertiary care hospital in New Delhi.
- Passive Euthanasia: The withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment (e.g., ventilators) to allow a patient to die naturally.
- Living Will: A legal declaration by a person specifying what medical treatments they do or do not want in the event of terminal illness.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the ethical and legal challenges associated with 'living wills' and passive euthanasia in India. How can the state improve palliative care infrastructure?

USE: Right to Life Palliative Care Living Will

Passive Euthanasia

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/108314

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE

P M

Supreme Court Grills NTA Over NEET-UG Leaks, Questions Nilekani Task Force

Why in news: The Supreme Court questioned the National Testing Agency (NTA) over NEET-UG paper leaks and the lack of continuity in implementing reforms across different task forces.

REMEMBER

- NTA: National Testing Agency is the autonomous body responsible for conducting major entrance exams like NEET and JEE.
- Nandan Nilekani: Former Chairman of UIDAI and current head of the task force for exam reforms.
- The Supreme Court's observations were made on August 19, 2026, regarding the NEET-UG examination.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the challenges in ensuring the integrity of large-scale competitive examinations in India and suggest measures to institutionalize technological reforms.

USE: institutional memory technological integrity

accountability standardization

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/108202

RBI Proposes Faster Floating-Rate Loans, Resetting Interests Every Three Months

Why in news: The RBI proposed a draft to shorten the reset cycle of floating-rate home loans from annually to every three months to enhance interest rate transmission.

REMEMBER

- RBI: The central bank of India responsible for monetary policy and banking regulation.
- Proposed reset frequency: Every three months (previously annual).
- Applicability: Specifically targets home loans; excludes personal and auto loans.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how the RBI's proposal to shorten the interest rate reset cycle for home loans contributes to more efficient monetary policy transmission in India.

USE: monetary policy transmission floating-rate loans
interest rate cycle liquidity management

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/108111

BRICS Slams EU Carbon Plan as "Unilateral and Discriminatory" at Delhi Meet

Why in news: BRICS nations collectively opposed the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) at the 12th Environment Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi, highlighting concerns over trade equity and climate finance.

REMEMBER

- BRICS: An intergovernmental organization comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (plus new members).
- CBAM: A carbon tax on carbon-intensive products imported into the EU.
- The meeting was the 12th Environment Ministers' Meeting of BRICS.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss how unilateral trade measures like the EU's CBAM impact the climate goals and economic interests of developing nations in the Global South.

USE: Trade Protectionism Climate Justice Global South
Carbon Border Adjustment

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/107948

Syria Unveils Tons of Nuclear Material to UN Probe Amid IAEA Praise

Why in news: Syria disclosed tons of nuclear material to the IAEA during a UN probe, highlighting the role of international monitoring in non-proliferation.

REMEMBER

- IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency, an autonomous organization within the United Nations framework.
- Nuclear Safeguards: Measures taken to verify that nuclear materials are not diverted to weapons.
- Syria disclosed material from the Bashir Al-Assad era to the UN probe.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of the IAEA's role in global nuclear non-proliferation and the challenges of monitoring nuclear materials in conflict-affected regions.

USE: Non-proliferation Nuclear Safeguards IAEA
Transparency

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/108009

The Supreme Court agreed to use Article 142 to quash FIRs

Why in news: The Supreme Court invoked Article 142 to quash FIRs against students protesting NEET-UG, highlighting the judiciary's power to ensure justice in exceptional cases.

REMEMBER

- Article 142: Grants the Supreme Court the power to pass any decree or order necessary for doing complete justice.
- Supreme Court of India: The highest judicial body in the country, exercising original, appellate, and advisory jurisdiction.
- 2,873 individuals with criminal records were identified among the protesters by the Solicitor General.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the scope and limitations of the Supreme Court's extraordinary powers under Article 142 in balancing the right to protest with the maintenance of public order.

USE: Complete justice Judicial review
Extraordinary jurisdiction Right to protest

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/107837

Everything else, one line each

24 more notes · full versions online

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

US Ambassador to India may reconsider travel advisories after Jammu and Kashmir visit

India's MEA Secretary Reaffirms Support for Two-State Solution in Ramallah Talks

Southern Zonal Council to meet near Mamallapuram on August 20

Madras High Court backs Tamil Nadu's decision on Tamil Thai Vazhthu priority

Andhra Pradesh Restores Direct Mayor Elections After 18 Years

India's Rijiju dismisses Chinese incursion claims as incorrect

Delhi High Court Dismisses Plea to Stay UGC-NET Results, Orders Retest

Tamil Nadu Public Works Minister Aadhav Arjuna Plans PWD Modernization

Supreme Court warns Odisha: Act on Dara Singh's remission plea or face intervention

Maharashtra Grants Fadnavis Power to Override Ministers' Decisions August 14

Tamil Nadu triples third-child maternity leave to 365 days

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) published a draft of the Electricity

The Madras High Court, comprising Justices G.R

Kerala High Court Blocks Movie Shoot in Periyar Tiger Reserve, Rejects Filmmaker's Plea

UNHCR, the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI), and Ethiraj

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday announced the Union Cabinet's approval

China recovers Zhuque-3 rocket stage on land for first time

Mumbai 3.0 plans new urban centre near Navi Mumbai Airport with \$12 billion investment

Marine Worms Break Down Plastic-like Substances, Hinting at Natural Cleanup Capabilities

Great Pacific Garbage Patch: 79 Thousand Tons of Plastic Endangers Marine Life

IGL, MGL, Adani Total Gas shares rally up to 6% as govt boosts domestic PNG push

The US-Israel war on Iran has disrupted crude oil and natural gas

NASA Releases New SpaceX Falcon 9 Crater Images on Moon

Kotak Mahindra Bank attracts \$2.1 billion peak demand for 5.47% five-year bonds

Write one answer today

GS3 · ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Discuss the challenges in managing air quality at the 'airshed' level in India. Suggest measures to improve inter-state cooperation for pollution control.

USE : [airshed management](#) [non-attainment cities](#) [source apportionment](#) [inter-state cooperation](#) [NCAP](#)



TELEGRAM



WEBSITE

Get it every morning on **Telegram**

Daily PDF + quiz at 5 AM · weekly review every Sunday · English and Hindi · free, no sign-up.

t.me/satyadheesh · satyadheesh.in/upsc/reports

Notes are generated from SatyaDheesh's news feed and mapped to the UPSC CSE syllabus. Verify facts with the original report or PIB before using them in an answer.