

**Current Affairs • 20 August 2026****14 min**

READING TIME

8

KEY STORIES

24

IN BRIEF

1

MAINS QUESTION

GS1 • 1

GS2 • 34

GS3 • 20

PAPER MIX

01 – TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip**1 Top US Diplomat Arrives In Ladakh, 1st Such Visit Since Galwan Clashes**

Why it matters: US Ambassador Sergio Gor visited Ladakh and met J&K Chief Minister, reaffirming the US stance on India's sovereignty over Kashmir amidst ongoing LAC tensions.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

M

2 India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Aligns MAHASAGAR with Japan's FOIP During New Delhi Meeting

Why it matters: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met with Japanese counterparts to align India's MAHASAGAR vision with Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) initiative.

GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

M

3 Supreme Court: Caste slur in closed room not a public offense, cancels charges

Why it matters: The Supreme Court clarified the scope of the SC/ST Act by ruling that casteist slurs in a closed room do not constitute a public offense.

GS2 • POLITY & CONSTITUTION

P

M

4 First X-rays Taken in Space During Fram2 Mission

Why it matters: The Fram2 mission successfully conducted the first-ever diagnostic X-rays in space, demonstrating the feasibility of advanced medical imaging for long-duration space missions.

GS3 • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

P

5 On August 6, the Lok Sabha passed a bill amending Section 10A

Why it matters: The Lok Sabha passed a bill to amend Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, to allow the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to charge fees for UPI transactions.

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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 55 notes · picked for exam value

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Top US Diplomat Arrives In Ladakh, 1st Such Visit Since Galwan Clashes

Why in news: US Ambassador Sergio Gor visited Ladakh and met J&K Chief Minister, reaffirming the US stance on India's sovereignty over Kashmir amidst ongoing LAC tensions.

REMEMBER

- Sergio Gor: US Ambassador to India and Special Envoy to South and Central Asia
- Galwan Clashes (June 2020): Resulted in the death of 20 Indian Army soldiers
- Ladakh: Became a separate Union Territory in 2019

MAINS ANGLE Analyze the significance of the US-India strategic partnership in the context of border security and regional stability in the Himalayas.

USE : strategic partnership sovereignty status quo
diplomatic signaling

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/109250

GS2 · POLITY & CONSTITUTION

P M

Supreme Court: Caste slur in closed room not a public offense, cancels charges

Why in news: The Supreme Court clarified the scope of the SC/ST Act by ruling that casteist slurs in a closed room do not constitute a public offense.

REMEMBER

- Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989
- Supreme Court of India
- The court distinguished between private disputes and public offenses under the SC/ST Act.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the judicial interpretation of 'public view' in the context of the SC/ST Act and its implications for protecting the dignity of marginalized communities.

USE : Judicial Interpretation Public Order
Scheduled Castes and Tribes Act Rule of Law

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/109426

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Aligns MAHASAGAR with Japan's FOIP During New Delhi Meeting

Why in news: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met with Japanese counterparts to align India's MAHASAGAR vision with Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) initiative.

REMEMBER

- Rajnath Singh is the current Union Minister of Defence of India
- MAHASAGAR: India's maritime vision for the Indian Ocean Region
- FOIP: Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific initiative

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of aligning India's MAHASAGAR vision with Japan's FOIP initiative in ensuring a rules-based maritime order in the Indo-Pacific region.

USE : maritime security strategic alignment Indo-Pacific
bilateral cooperation

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/109248

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First X-rays Taken in Space During Fram2 Mission

Why in news: The Fram2 mission successfully conducted the first-ever diagnostic X-rays in space, demonstrating the feasibility of advanced medical imaging for long-duration space missions.

REMEMBER

- Fram2: A space mission launched in March 2025 to test medical technologies in orbit.
- Dragon spacecraft: The vehicle used to transport crew and cargo to the International Space Station (ISS).
- The mission successfully produced diagnostically adequate X-ray images in a microgravity environment.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of developing autonomous medical diagnostic technologies for long-duration human space exploration and the challenges posed by microgravity.

USE : microgravity diagnostic imaging space medicine
autonomous systems

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/109277

On August 6, the Lok Sabha passed a bill amending Section 10A

Why in news: The Lok Sabha passed a bill to amend Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, to allow the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to charge fees for UPI transactions.

REMEMBER

- Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007: Governs electronic payment systems in India.
- NPCI: The umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.
- UPI annual cost: Currently estimated at up to ₹20,000 crore.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the implications of introducing transaction fees on UPI for financial inclusion and the sustainability of India's digital payment infrastructure.

USE : Digital Public Infrastructure Financial Inclusion

Monetization Payment Gateway

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/109252

Supreme Court forms five-member panel to probe excessive force against protesters

Why in news: The Supreme Court formed a High-Powered Expert Committee (HPEC) to investigate allegations of excessive force and harassment against protesters, highlighting the judiciary's role in ensuring human rights.

REMEMBER

- Supreme Court of India: The highest judicial body in India, exercising judicial review.
- Justice R Subhash Reddy: Former judge appointed to head the HPEC.
- HPEC: A five-member committee formed to probe excessive force and privacy protection.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the role of the judiciary in ensuring the protection of fundamental rights and human dignity during public protests and civil unrest.

USE : Judicial Review Fundamental Rights Accountability

Human Rights

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/109221

Market Regulator Bans JPMorgan Unit From Trading Over Sensex Price Rigging

Why in news: SEBI banned a JPMorgan unit and a local firm for manipulating the BSE Sensex closing auction, highlighting vulnerabilities in the newly introduced auction-based pricing system.

REMEMBER

- SEBI: Securities and Exchange Board of India, the primary regulator for securities and capital markets in India.
- The Indian stock market is valued at approximately \$5.1 trillion.
- BSE Sensex: The benchmark index of the Bombay Stock Exchange.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the challenges faced by regulators in maintaining market integrity in the face of high-frequency trading and sophisticated market manipulation techniques.

USE : market manipulation regulatory enforcement

market integrity liquidity

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/109113

India, Singapore Ministers Eye Deeper Ties: ISMR Discusses Digital, Economic Growth

Why in news: Indian ministers met with Singapore's PM Lawrence Wong during the 4th India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) to deepen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

REMEMBER

- Singapore: A key ASEAN partner for India's 'Act East' policy
- 4th India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) held in August 2026
- Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: A high-level bilateral framework between India and Singapore

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and Singapore in the context of India's 'Act East' policy and digital economy goals.

USE : Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Act East Policy

Digital Diplomacy Bilateral Cooperation

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/109112

Everything else, one line each

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GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

Amit Shah Announces High Court Bench in Ladakh, Amid Local Demands for Safeguards

India, Japan Sign MoA for Maritime Security, Pledge Joint Shipbuilding

India demands UN Security Council reforms, criticizes delays in appointing chairs

Jharkhand High Court Stays Order Cancelling JPSC Exams, Appointments

NCERT Reconstitutes Class 11-12 Political Science Textbook Team Led by Sandeep Shastri

Karnataka CM vows cooperation, commits water to Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

Amazon Fined Rs 1 Lakh for Selling Fake Ram Mandir Prasad

Opposition Leaders Move Supreme Court Against New Mines Bill, Alleging Federalism Violation

In Rajasthan, children study in a cowshed due to unsafe school buildings

Sri Lanka Allocates \$14m as Minister Warns El Nino Peak Sooner Than Expected

The trilateral Mecca security pact between Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan was not unexpected

Bangladesh adviser: Visit to India hinges on "dignified invitation" after canceled trips

Bhutan's Dasho Sonam Topgay Could Become 16th SAARC Secretary General

Supreme Court Acquits Forest Officer Vinod Shivakumar in Suicide Abetment Case

Taliban Seals \$520m Trade Deals with Uzbekistan Amid Border Tensions

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

Oldest life on Earth found in eastern India, dating back 3.497 billion years

SEBI plans 15%-20% drop in collateral for liquid stocks to lure back foreign investors

RBI Keeps Policy Rate Unchanged at 5.25% Amid Inflation Concerns

Sebi Chairman Announces Overhaul of IPO Rules for SMEs, Targets Costly Underwriting Systems

Supreme Court orders eviction framework for Agasthyamalai landscape

A Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice S.V.N

Navy launches eight-week Yogasana training for Agniveers

NASA offers \$500,000 for tech to measure thermosphere conditions, save satellites

For Assessment Year 2026-27, belated income tax returns can be filed until

Write one answer today

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Analyze the significance of the US-India strategic partnership in the context of border security and regional stability in the Himalayas.

USE : strategic partnership sovereignty status quo diplomatic signaling defense cooperation



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