

**Current Affairs • 9 August 2026****14 min**
READING TIME**8**
KEY STORIES**24**
IN BRIEF**1**
MAINS QUESTION

GS1 • 2 GS2 • 23

GS3 • 24

PAPER MIX

01 – TODAY IN 2 MINUTES

The 5 stories you can't skip

- India Unveils First Privately Built 800 kN FFSC Rocket Engine, Joining Elite Global Club**
Why it matters: Astrobase Space Technologies unveiled India's first privately built 800 kN FFSC rocket engine, making India the fourth nation to possess this technology.
GS3 • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY P M
- U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance Calls PM Modi to Deepen India-U.S. Ties**
Why it matters: U.S.
GS2 • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS P
- The second phase of the Census in Ladakh, starting August 17**
Why it matters: The second phase of the Census in Ladakh starting August 17 includes a first-of-its-kind open-ended column for caste enumeration in India.
GS2 • SOCIAL JUSTICE P M
- Dedicated team fast-tracks military theatre commands as CDS Raja Subramani takes charge**
Why it matters: The government has formed a dedicated team to fast-track the operationalisation of military theatre commands to create an integrated war-fighting structure.
GS3 • INTERNAL SECURITY P M
- Indian government clarifies: UPI person-to-person transactions will remain free**
Why it matters: The Indian government clarified that person-to-person UPI transactions will remain free to ensure the sustainability of the digital payment ecosystem.
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 49 notes · picked for exam value

GS3 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

P M

India Unveils First Privately Built 800 kN FFSC Rocket Engine, Joining Elite Global Club

Why in news: Astrobase Space Technologies unveiled India's first privately built 800 kN FFSC rocket engine, making India the fourth nation to possess this technology.

REMEMBER

- FFSC: Full-Flow Staged Combustion is a high-efficiency rocket engine cycle.
- India is the 4th nation to possess FFSC technology, joining Russia, USA, and China.
- The EVEREST engine utilizes LOX (Liquid Oxygen) and Methane as propellants.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of private sector participation in India's space exploration and its role in achieving self-reliance in high-end aerospace technologies.

USE: SpaceTech FFSC technology Self-reliance

Private participation

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/99877

GS2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P

U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance Calls PM Modi to Deepen India-U.S. Ties

Why in news: U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance contacted PM Modi to discuss deepening bilateral cooperation in trade, defense, and energy security.

REMEMBER

- J.D. Vance: Vice-President of the United States
- Key areas of cooperation: Trade, defense, energy security, emerging technologies, and critical minerals
- Contextual factor: Mutual defense pact between Turkiye, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of India-U.S. cooperation in critical minerals and emerging technologies in the context of shifting global geopolitical dynamics.

USE: Strategic Partnership Critical Minerals Energy Security

Geopolitical Alignment

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/99882

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE

P M

The second phase of the Census in Ladakh, starting August 17

Why in news: The second phase of the Census in Ladakh starting August 17 includes a first-of-its-kind open-ended column for caste enumeration in India.

REMEMBER

- The census in Ladakh includes questions on 40 different parameters.
- The pre-test for caste enumeration was conducted across 16 States and Union Territories.
- This marks the first time since independence that India will enumerate caste in its census.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of caste enumeration in the census for inclusive policy formulation and social justice in India.

USE: Social Justice Data-driven Governance

Demographic Mapping

Inclusive Development

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/100259

GS3 · INTERNAL SECURITY

P M

Dedicated team fast-tracks military theatre commands as CDS Raja Subramani takes charge

Why in news: The government has formed a dedicated team to fast-track the operationalisation of military theatre commands to create an integrated war-fighting structure.

REMEMBER

- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS): A tri-service position responsible for providing military advice to the government.
- Standing Committee on Defence: A parliamentary committee tasked with examining the ministry's expenditures and policies.
- Theatre Commands: A structural shift to unify the Army, Navy, and Air Force under a single operational command for specific geographical areas.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of theatre commands in enhancing India's jointmanship and integrated war-fighting capabilities in a contemporary security landscape.

USE: Jointmanship Theatre Commands

Operational Integration

Tri-service synergy

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/100203

Indian government clarifies: UPI person-to-person transactions will remain free

Why in news: The Indian government clarified that person-to-person UPI transactions will remain free to ensure the sustainability of the digital payment ecosystem.

REMEMBER

- NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) is the body responsible for overseeing UPI operations.
- Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 is the primary legislation governing electronic payment systems in India.
- MDR (Merchant Discount Rate) is the fee paid by a merchant to a bank or payment processor for processing a transaction.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in promoting financial inclusion and the challenges of ensuring its long-term fiscal sustainability.

USE: Financial Inclusion Digital Public Infrastructure
Merchant Discount Rate Sustainable Ecosystem

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/99818

India's Defence Committee Demands Roadmap for Sixth-Generation Fighter Aircraft

Why in news: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence requested a roadmap from the MoD for developing sixth-generation fighter aircraft to ensure India's technological edge.

REMEMBER

- Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence: A committee of the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha to oversee defense expenditures and policies.
- Sixth-generation aircraft: Next-generation combat aircraft featuring advanced AI, stealth, and multi-domain capabilities.
- Ministry of Defence (MoD): The central ministry responsible for the country's defense capabilities and procurement.

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of indigenous development of sixth-generation fighter aircraft in ensuring India's strategic autonomy and technological leadership in defense.

USE: Strategic Autonomy Indigenization Technological Edge
Defense Procurement

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/99562

Turkish FM: New Mecca Pact Mirrors NATO's Article 5, Aims to Counter Aggression

Why in news: Turkish FM Hakan Fidan announced the 'Mecca Joint Defence Agreement' between Turkey, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia, modeled after NATO's Article 5.

REMEMBER

- NATO Article 5: The principle of collective defense where an attack against one member is considered an attack against all.
- The Mecca Joint Defence Agreement was under development for approximately 32 months (two years and eight months).
- Saudi Arabia: Host country for the alliance's general secretariat.

MAINS ANGLE Analyze the implications of emerging regional collective security pacts in the Middle East and South Asia on the existing global security architecture.

USE: Collective Security Geopolitical Alignment
Regional Hegemony Defense Cooperation

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/99617

Indian Navy and U.S. Navy kick off five-day explosive ordnance disposal exercise in Kochi

Why in news: The Indian and U.S. Navies are conducting the 8th edition of a specialized explosive ordnance disposal exercise in Kochi to enhance maritime interoperability.

REMEMBER

- The exercise is the 8th edition of this specialized bilateral training.
- The exercise is being conducted at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi, Kerala.
- The exercise duration is five days (August 10-14, 2026).

MAINS ANGLE Discuss the significance of maritime security cooperation between India and the United States in ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

USE: interoperability maritime security
bilateral cooperation strategic partnership

Full note → satyadheesh.in/news/100275

Everything else, one line each

24 more notes · full versions online

GS1 · HISTORY · SOCIETY · GEOGRAPHY

Andhra Pradesh Faces 56% Rainfall Shortfall in August: Naidu Directs Water Management Measures

GS2 · POLITY · GOVERNANCE · SOCIAL JUSTICE · IR

Bravery, sports, arts: PMRBP-2026 nominations extended to August 15

Cabinet Panel Extends Rahul Navin's Enforcement Directorate Tenure by Year Past Retirement

Kerala Court Orders Separate Compensation for Acid Attack Survivors, Beyond Offender's ₹40,000 Fine

Two-thirds of India's nurses missing from national registry after seven years

Russia Proposes Rail Link via Iran to Dodge Strait of Hormuz Risks

On August 6, the Supreme Court collegium headed by Chief Justice

Madras High Court directs Tamil Nadu to formulate transgender rehab scheme by July 26

Tamil Nadu appoints Justice D. Krishnakumar as new State Law Commission Chairman

On May 03, over 22 lakh students took the NEET UG 2026

Tamil Nadu Aims to Boost Rural Women's Workforce with Protein-Rich Foods

Canada Deports 3,323 Indian Nationals in First Half of 2026, Setting Record

Anti-snake venoms to be available in 108 ambulances in A.P.

Supreme Court to Hear Waqf Fee Exemption Plea, Challenging High Court Ruling

GS3 · ECONOMY · S&T · ENVIRONMENT · SECURITY

Flood-hit Assam Gets 100 Water Purifiers, Producing 2,500 Litres Hourly Without Power

Bengaluru Activists Form Human Chain to Stop ₹17,770 Crore Tunnel Road Project Threatening Lalbagh

GBA bans Plaster of Paris and non-biodegradable Ganesh idols in Bengaluru

Meta Assures India It Will Tackle Deepfakes, Child Abuse Content in Compliance Talks

At EEMAGINE, Samit Garg, president of the Events and Entertainment Management Association

J&K locals own 90% of 2,279 new industrial units since 2019, creating 75,848 jobs

J&K Police Raids 26 Jamaat-e-Islami Sites in Sopore Amid Terror Alerts

FPIs Invest Rs 20,200-Crore in Indian Equities, Reversing Four Months of Heavy Selling

Karnataka forms Urban Mobility Mission Committee to tackle Bengaluru's traffic woes

Manipur government announces reopening of highways after ethnic blockades

Write one answer today

GS3 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Discuss the significance of private sector participation in India's space exploration and its role in achieving self-reliance in high-end aerospace technologies.

USE :

SpaceTech

FFSC technology

Self-reliance

Private participation

Aerospace innovation



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