



12 AUGUST 2026 (WEDNESDAY)

★ **RELEVANT FOR UPSC PRELIMS & MAINS** ★

SOURCES:



PIB
pib.gov.in



Ministry
Press Release



PRS India
prsindia.org



ISRO
isro.gov.in

**UPSC SYLLABUS
RELEVANCE**
GS I | GS II | GS III
PRELIMS FACTS
& MAINS ANALYSIS

“Well done is better
than well said.”

— Benjamin Franklin

1 NATIONAL NEWS

**Government Launches
'PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana'**



- Aims to promote rooftop solar installation in 1 crore households.
- Provides up to 300 units of free electricity per month.
- Target to achieve 40 GW rooftop solar capacity by 2030.
- Will generate employment and reduce carbon footprint.

**e-NAM Crosses 2,000
Mandis Milestone**



- e-NAM platform now integrates 2,000 APMC mandis.
- Enhances transparency, better price discovery & pan-India trade.
- Supports farmers and expands market access.

2 INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**India-Australia Economic Cooperation
and Trade Agreement (ECTA)
Enters into Force**



- ECTA came into effect from 12 August 2026.
- Eliminates tariffs on 96.4% of India's exports to Australia.
- Covers goods, services, investment, e-commerce & other areas.
- Expected to boost bilateral trade to \$45-50 billion by 2030.

**BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting
Concluded in Johannesburg**



- Focus on strengthening multilateralism, peace, security & sustainable development.
- Reiterated commitment to reform global governance institutions.
- Welcomed new partner countries' participation.

3 ECONOMY

**India's Services Exports
Cross \$400 Billion in FY26**



- Services exports reached \$400.42 billion in FY26, an increase of 8.7%.
- Key drivers: IT services, business services, travel, and transport.
- Services sector continues to be a major contributor to India's economy.

**RBI Launches Framework for
'Account Aggregator for MSMEs'**



- Framework to facilitate credit flow to MSMEs through data sharing.
- Will promote financial inclusion and formalisation of MSMEs.

4 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**India Successfully Tests
Long-Range Hypersonic Missile**



- DRDO successfully test-fired long-range Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle.
- Missile can travel at more than 5 times the speed of sound.
- Significant boost to India's strategic defence capabilities.

**IIT Madras Develops Advanced
Water Purification Membrane**



- New membrane removes heavy metals, viruses and bacteria efficiently.
- Low-cost and energy-efficient technology suitable for rural and urban use.

5 ENVIRONMENT

**India Launches National Initiative
for Mangrove Restoration**



- Aims to restore 540 sq. km of mangroves by 2030.
- Part of Blue Carbon Mission to enhance coastal resilience.
- Involves community participation and use of geospatial technologies.

**National Mission on Sustainable Habitat
Launches Urban Cooling Initiative**



- Promotes green roofs, reflective materials & urban forests.
- Aims to reduce Urban Heat Island effect in 100 cities.

6 APPOINTMENTS & REPORTS

**Dr. Ajay Kumar Sood Appointed
Principal Scientific Adviser to Govt. of India**



PSA

- Eminent space scientist and former ISRO Chairman.
- Will provide strategic advice on science, technology & innovation.

**NITI Aayog Releases 'SDG India Index
2025-26'**



NITI Aayog

- Kerala tops the index, followed by Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- India's overall performance shows steady improvement in SDG implementation.

7 IMPORTANT FOR PRELIMS (Quick Facts)

- ✓ PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana — Launched on 12 August 2026
- ✓ e-NAM crosses 2,000 mandis milestone
- ✓ India-Australia ECTA — Enters into force on 12 August 2026
- ✓ BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting — Concluded in Johannesburg
- ✓ India's Services Exports — Crossed \$400 billion in FY26
- ✓ RBI Framework — 'Account Aggregator for MSMEs' launched
- ✓ DRDO Hypersonic Missile — Long-range test successful
- ✓ IIT Madras — Advanced water purification membrane developed
- ✓ Mangrove Restoration Initiative — Launched by Govt. of India
- ✓ National Urban Cooling Initiative — Launched under NMSH
- ✓ Dr. Ajay Kumar Sood — Appointed PSA to Govt. of India
- ✓ NITI Aayog — SDG India Index 2025-26 released

PRELIMS QUICK FACTS

- PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana — Renewable Energy
- e-NAM — Agriculture & Farmer Welfare
- India-Australia ECTA — International Relations
- BRICS — Multilateral Grouping
- Services Exports — Economy
- Hypersonic Missile — Defence Technology
- Mangrove Initiative — Environment
- NITI Aayog SDG Index — Governance

PRACTICE MCQ

Q. With reference to India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), consider the following statements:

1. It covers trade in goods, services and investment.
2. It eliminates tariffs on over 96% of India's exports to Australia.
3. It applies only to goods trade and not services.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 and 2 only B) 2 and 3 only C) 1 and 3 only D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A) 1 and 2 only



QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Well done is better
than well said.”

— Benjamin Franklin



TODAY IN HISTORY

12 August 1948 — The Indian Olympic Association was founded in London. It was recognized by the IOC in 1927.



On 12 August 1947, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru addressed the nation from Red Fort, New Delhi, on the eve of India's first Independence Day.



SCAN TO JOIN
OUR TELEGRAM
CHANNEL

