

13 AUGUST 2026 (THURSDAY)

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

SOURCES:



PIB
pib.gov.in



Ministry
Press Releases



PRS India
prsindia.org



ISRO
isro.gov.in

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

“Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.”
— Robert Collier

1 NATIONAL NEWS

India Retrieves Stolen Antiquities from Four Countries



- Antiquities retrieved from USA, Australia, UK and Netherlands.
- Recovery done case-by-case through diplomatic channels.
- Indian Embassies/Missions act when illegally exported antiquities are identified.
- Recovery in accordance with applicable international laws and conventions.

Monsoon Session of Parliament Adjourns Sine Die



- Monsoon Session 2026 had 19 sittings over 25 days.
- 12 Bills were passed by both Houses.
- Legislative business included debates on important national issues.
- Strengthens democratic accountability and parliamentary functioning.

2 INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India-Kenya Parliamentary Engagement Strengthened



- Kenyan National Assembly Speaker Moses M. Wetang'ula led a delegation to India.
- Discussions focused on strengthening parliamentary ties.
- India offered to share experience in digital technology and technology-enabled governance.
- India-Kenya relations have expanded beyond traditional diplomatic cooperation.

India-Mauritius Maritime Cooperation Deepened



- Chief of Naval Staff visited Mauritius from 10-13 August 2026.
- Focus on strengthening bilateral maritime cooperation and defence ties.
- Mauritius is an important partner in India's Indian Ocean outreach.
- Relevant to India's SAGAR vision.

Kenya – East Africa | Capital – Nairobi

3 ECONOMY

India's Total Exports Rise 13.16% During April-July 2026



- Total exports estimated at US\$316.42 billion.
- Merchandise exports: US\$173.78 billion.
- Services exports: US\$142.64 billion.
- Total imports: US\$365.85 billion.
- Overall trade balance: -US\$49.43 billion.
- Key drivers: Petroleum products, electronic goods and engineering goods.

20 Bids Received for Rare-Earth Permanent Magnet Manufacturing



- 20 bids received under REPM initiative.
- Proposed integrated capacity: 6,000 MTPA.
- Financial outlay: ₹7,280 crore.
- Crucial for EVs, wind turbines, electronics, aerospace and defence.

Services trade surplus:
US\$69.17 billion (Apr-Jul 2026)

4 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India Strengthens Semiconductor-AI Ecosystem



- Semiconductors are foundation of modern digital technologies.
- AI increasing demand for advanced chips and specialised processors.
- Supports smartphones, automobiles, satellites and AI systems.
- India developing capabilities from chip design to fabrication and AI models.

S&T Clusters Annual Report 2025-26 Launched



- Launched by Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser.
- Eight S&T Clusters across India covered.
- Focus on industry engagement, technology translation, commercialisation and scaling regional innovations.

5 ENVIRONMENT

₹15.52 Crore Released Under Access & Benefit Sharing



- National Biodiversity Authority released ₹15.52 crore in ABS proceeds.
- Linked to commercial mustard varieties (*Brassica juncea*).
- Amount distributed to 26 State Biodiversity Boards and 3 UT Biodiversity Councils.
- NBA has released ₹182.5 crore in ABS proceeds so far.

India's Non-fossil Power Capacity Crosses 300 GW

- Non-fossil capacity stood at 300.50 GW as of 31 July 2026.
- Accounts for more than 54% of total installed power capacity.
- Solar capacity reached 164.59 GW.
- India among leading countries in renewable energy capacity.

6 APPOINTMENTS & REPORTS

NITI Aayog Report – Key Sectors to Position India as Global Hub



- Four sectors analysed:
 - Chemicals
 - Telecom & Networking Equipment
 - Textiles
 - Solar Photovoltaic Manufacturing

- Report examines market potential, infrastructure, policy support, raw materials, technology readiness, employment potential and global value chains.

CIC Disposes 768 Cases (Up to 12 Aug 2026)



- Central Information Commission clarified disposal of 768 cases.
- Portal data was updated till 1 Aug due to upgrade.
- Upgraded Second Appeals & Complaints Portal to go live from 17 Aug 2026.
- Promotes transparency and access to case information.

7 IMPORTANT FOR PRELIMS (Quick Facts)

- India retrieves stolen antiquities from USA, Australia, UK & Netherlands.
- Kenya Parliamentary Delegation led by Speaker Moses M. Wetang'ula visits India.
- India's total exports during Apr-Jul 2026: US\$316.42 billion.
- Merchandise exports: US\$173.78 billion; Services exports: US\$142.64 billion.
- Services trade surplus: US\$69.17 billion.
- 20 bids received for Rare Earth Permanent Magnet manufacturing.
- Proposed capacity: 6,000 MTPA; Outlay: ₹7,280 crore.
- India strengthens Semiconductor-AI ecosystem.
- S&T Clusters Annual Report 2025-26 launched by PSA.
- ₹15.52 crore released under Access & Benefit Sharing.
- NBA functions under Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- Non-fossil power capacity crosses 300 GW (as on 31 July 2026).
- NITI Aayog identifies 4 key sectors for global manufacturing hub.
- CIC disposed 768 cases up to 12 August 2026.

PRELIMS QUICK FACTS

- NBA – National Biodiversity Authority
- ABS – Access and Benefit Sharing
- NITI Aayog – National Institution for Transforming India
- PSA – Principal Scientific Adviser
- REPM – Rare Earth Permanent Magnets
- MTPA – Million Tonnes Per Annum
- CIC – Central Information Commission
- UNSC – United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
- SAGAR – Security and Growth for All in the Region

PRACTICE MCQ

- Q. With reference to Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), consider the following statements:
- It aims at fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of biological resources.
 - The National Biodiversity Authority functions under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
 - ABS is unrelated to the Nagoya Protocol.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
A) 1 only B) 1 and 2 only C) 2 and 3 only D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B) 1 and 2 only



QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.”

— Robert Collier



TODAY IN HISTORY – 13 AUGUST
13 August 1961 – Construction of the Berlin Wall began, marking a major development in Cold War history.



The wall became a symbol of the division between East and West. It fell in 1989, leading to the reunification of Germany.

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