



12 AUGUST 2026 (WEDNESDAY)

★ 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

1



GOVERNMENT NOTIFIES DRONE RULES, 2026 TO BOOST DRONE ECOSYSTEM IN INDIA

Why in News?

The Ministry of Civil Aviation notified the Drone Rules, 2026, replacing the Drone Rules, 2021 to further promote innovation, ease of doing business and safety.

Key Points

- Introduces a 'Drone Innovation Corridor' for research and development.
- Simplifies certification process and introduces self-certification for certain drones.
- Promotes 'Make in India' and exports.
- Focus on drone operations in urban areas, beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) and cargo drones.

Prelims Facts

- Notified by: Ministry of Civil Aviation
- Replaces: Drone Rules, 2021
- Allows: BVLOS operations with proper permissions
- Digital Sky platform to be expanded.

GS Mains Link

- GS II – Governance
- GS III – Science & Technology
- Make in India
- Innovation & Ease of Doing Business

2



ISRO LAUNCHES EOS-09 SATELLITE USING PSLV-C62

Why in News?

ISRO successfully launched the Earth Observation Satellite EOS-09 onboard PSLV-C62 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

Key Points

- EOS-09 is an advanced C-band radar imaging satellite.
- Provides all-weather, day-night Earth observation.
- Useful for agriculture, disaster management, forestry and urban planning.
- PSLV-C62 is ISRO's 64th mission using PSLV.

Prelims Facts

- EOS-09 Weight: ~1,710 kg
- Orbit: Sun-synchronous polar orbit
- PSLV-C62: 64th mission using PSLV
- Satish Dhawan Space Centre established: 1971

GS Mains Link

- GS III – Space Technology
- Applications of remote sensing
- Disaster Management
- Self-Reliance in Space Sector

3



MEITY LAUNCHES INDIAai PORTAL TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE AI INNOVATION

Why in News?

The Ministry of Electronics & IT launched the Indiaai portal as a unified digital platform to strengthen India's AI ecosystem.

Key Points

- Provides access to datasets, tools, computing resources and AI models.
- Promotes ethical and responsible AI development.
- Supports startups, researchers, students and industry.
- Aligned with National Strategy for AI.

Prelims Facts

- Launched by: Ministry of Electronics & IT
- Part of: National Strategy for AI
- Focus: Responsible AI Innovation
- Portal: indiaai.gov.in

GS Mains Link

- GS III – Governance
- GS III – Science & Technology
- Digital India
- AI Ethics
- Innovation Ecosystem

4



ALL INDIA TIGER ESTIMATE 2026: TIGER POPULATION INCREASES TO 3,925

Why in News?

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released the All India Tiger Estimate 2026.

Key Points

- Tiger population increased to 3,925 in 2026 (up from 3,682 in 2022).
- Highest growth in Central India and Eastern Ghats.
- 57 tiger reserves now notified in the country.

Prelims Facts

- First estimate: 2006
- Tiger population in 1973: ~1,827
- India has the world's largest wild tiger population.
- States with highest tigers: Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttarakhand.

GS Mains Link

- GS III – Environment
- Wildlife Conservation
- Biodiversity
- Sustainable Development

5



UPI CROSSES 20 BILLION TRANSACTIONS IN JULY 2026; HITS NEW RECORD

Why in News?

NPCI reported that UPI transactions crossed 20 billion in July 2026, marking a new monthly record.

Key Points

- Total value of transactions: ₹24.03 lakh crore in July 2026.
- Average daily transactions: ~645 million.
- Growth driven by adoption in rural areas and merchant payments.

Prelims Facts

- UPI launched: April 2016
- Operated by: NPCI
- Legal framework: Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007
- UPI is live in 11 foreign countries.

GS Mains Link

- GS III – Indian Economy
- Digital Payments
- Financial Inclusion
- Digital Public Infrastructure

PRELIMS RAPID REVISION



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