



13 AUGUST 2026 (THURSDAY)

★ RELEVANT FOR UPSC PRELIMS & MAINS ★

SOURCES:



All India Radio
newsonair.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



FIRST VISTADOME COACHES FLAGGED OFF ON SRINAGAR-KATRA-SRINAGAR VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS

Why in News?

Indian Railways flagged off Vistadome coaches on the Srinagar-Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express to enhance passenger experience and boost tourism.

Key Points

- Vistadome coaches offer panoramic glass views, rotatable seats & GPS-based info system.
- Route showcases scenic beauty of Kashmir Valley.
- Enhances comfort for pilgrims and tourists visiting Vaishno Devi.
- Part of Indian Railways' initiative to modernise and promote rail tourism.

Prelims Facts

- Vande Bharat Express launched: February 2019 (New Delhi-Varanasi).
- Total Vande Bharat trains (as of Aug 2026): 136+
- Vistadome coaches introduced: 2017.
- Srinagar-Katra distance: ~223 km.

GS Mains Link

- GS II – Infrastructure development
- Regional development & tourism
- GS III – Indian Railways
- Technology & Innovation

2



ISRO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES 100th LAUNCH MISSION

Why in News?

ISRO achieved a historic milestone by completing its 100th launch mission with the successful deployment of the EOS-09 satellite using PSLV-C62.

Key Points

- EOS-09 is an advanced C-band radar imaging satellite.
- Provides all-weather, day-night Earth observation.
- PSLV-C62 was ISRO's 64th mission using PSLV.
- Satish Dhawan Space Centre (Sriharikota), established: 1971.

Prelims Facts

- ISRO established: 1969
- HQ: Bengaluru
- PSLV first launch: 1993
- ISRO's first satellite: Aryabhata (1975).
- 100th launch mission: EOS-09 on 13 Aug 2026.

GS Mains Link

- GS III – Space Technology & Programs
- GS III – Science & Technology
- Self-Reliance in Space Sector

3



UGC RELEASES GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING NEP 2020 IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Why in News?

UGC released comprehensive guidelines to facilitate effective implementation of NEP 2020 in higher education institutions across India.

Key Points

- Focus on multidisciplinary education and flexibility.
- Recommends Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) for credit mobility.
- Promotes Indian Knowledge Systems, research and innovation.
- Emphasises use of technology in teaching-learning.

Prelims Facts

- NEP 2020 approved: July 2020
- UGC established: 1956
- Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) launched: 2021
- Aim: Holistic, flexible and multidisciplinary education.

GS Mains Link

- GS III – Education
- GS III – Human Resource Development
- Indian Knowledge Systems & Innovation

4



MINES & MINERALS (DEVELOPMENT & REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2026 PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

Why in News?

The Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 13 August 2026.

Key Points

- Amends the MMDR Act, 1957.
- Proposes greater Central regulation of mineral-bearing lands.
- Restricts States from imposing specified taxes/cesses on mineral rights and mineral-bearing lands, except subject to Central conditions.
- Aims to address multiple and unpredictable levies affecting the mining sector.
- Raises important questions concerning Centre-State fiscal powers.

Prelims Facts

- MMDR Act: 1957
- Union List Entry 54: Mines & mineral development
- State List Entry 23: Mines & mineral development, subject to Union control
- State List Entry 50: Taxes on mineral rights
- 2024 SC ruling: Royalty is not a tax.

GS Mains Link

- GS II – Centre-State Relations & Federalism
- GS III – Mineral Resources & Mining
- GS III – Infrastructure & Economic Development
- Constitution: Distribution of legislative and taxation powers

5



GOVERNMENT NOTIFIES NAMAMI GANGE PROGRAMME 3.0 FOR 2026-2031

Why in News?

The Government approved and notified Namami Gange Programme 3.0 with an outlay of ₹20,000 crore.

Key Points

- Aims to ensure conservation and rejuvenation of River Ganga.
- Focus on sewage treatment, industrial pollution abatement and river biodiversity.
- Promotes community participation and riverfront development.

Prelims Facts

- Namami Gange launched: 2014
- Nodal Ministry: Jal Shakti
- Ganga length in India: ~2,525 km
- Ganga Basin states: Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal.

GS Mains Link

- GS III – Environment
- Water Resources
- Pollution & Conservation
- Sustainable Development

PRELIMS RAPID REVISION



Drone Rules, 2026 notified to boost drone ecosystem



ISRO completes 100th launch mission



National Education Policy 2020



UGC releases guidelines for NEP 2020



Cheetah population conservation focus on 13 Aug 2026



Namami Gange Programme 3.0 notified