



14 AUGUST 2026 (FRIDAY)

★ RELEVANT FOR UPSC PRELIMS & MAINS ★

SOURCES:



PIB
pib.gov.in



Ministry
Press Releases



PRS India
prsindia.org



ISRO
isro.gov.in



All India Radio
newsonair.gov.in

UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE

GS I | GS II | GS III
PRELIMS FACTS
& MAINS ANALYSIS

1



DRDO SUCCESSFULLY TESTS HYPERSONIC TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATOR VEHICLE (HSTDV)

Why in News?

DRDO successfully conducted the second flight test of Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.



Key Points

- Achieved a speed of Mach 6.
- Validated scramjet engine performance.
- Boost-glide vehicle capable of carrying various payloads.
- A significant step towards developing hypersonic weapons and space access systems.



Prelims Facts

- Mach 6 = Six times the speed of sound.
- Scramjet: Supersonic Combustion Ramjet.
- HSTDV is developed under DRDO's Advanced Systems Laboratory (ASL).



GS Mains Link

- GS III – Science & Technology
- GS III – Defence
- GS III – Strategic Technologies & Security

2



RBI KEEPS REPO RATE UNCHANGED AT 6.00%, CHANGES STANCE TO 'NEUTRAL'

Why in News?

The Reserve Bank of India, in its August 2026 Monetary Policy, kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.00% and changed its stance from 'Accommodative' to 'Neutral'.



Key Points

- MPC retained policy repo rate at 6.00%.
- Changed stance to 'Neutral' from 'Accommodative'.
- CPI inflation projection for FY27 retained at 4.5%.
- Growth projection for FY27 retained at 6.5%.



Prelims Facts

- Repo Rate: 6.00%
- Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
- SDF Rate: 5.75%
- Cash Reserve Ratio: 4.50%
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio: 18.00%



GS Mains Link

- GS III – Indian Economy
- GS III – Monetary Policy
- GS III – Inflation & Growth
- GS II – Functions of RBI

3



CABINET APPROVES 700 MW PAKAL DUL HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT IN J&K

Why in News?

The Union Cabinet approved the 700 MW Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Project on the Chenab River in Jammu & Kashmir.



Key Points

- Estimated cost: ₹4,944 crore
- Implemented by NHPC Limited.
- Will generate 2,966 million units of clean energy annually.
- To be completed in 72 months.
- Boost to J&K's clean energy capacity and local economy.



Prelims Facts

- Pakal Dul Project: 700 MW
- River: Chenab
- Implemented by: NHPC Ltd.
- Type: Run-of-the-river hydroelectric project



GS Mains Link

- GS III – Energy
- GS III – Infrastructure
- GS III – Environment & Sustainable Development
- GS II – Development in J&K

4



SUPREME COURT LAYS DOWN GUIDELINES TO PREVENT ARBITRARY ARRESTS

Why in News?

The Supreme Court issued comprehensive guidelines to curb arbitrary arrests and safeguard personal liberty under Article 21.



Key Points

- Police must record reasons for arrest in writing.
- Mandatory preparation of arrest memo and intimation to family.
- Right to meet lawyer during interrogation.
- No arrest for minor offences without notice (except in exceptional cases).



Prelims Facts

- Article 21: Right to Life and Personal Liberty.
- D.K. Basu vs State of West Bengal (1997) guidelines reiterated.
- Armesh Kumar vs State of Bihar (2014) judgement referred.



GS Mains Link

- GS II – Polity & Governance
- GS II – Fundamental Rights
- GS II – Judicial Activism
- GS III – Human Rights

5



HEAVY RAINS TRIGGER FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Why in News?

Heavy rainfall in Himachal Pradesh caused floods, landslides and cloudbursts in several districts, leading to loss of lives and damage.



Key Points

- IMD issued Red Alert for several districts.
- Maximum damage in Mandi, Kullu and Shimla districts.
- National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) deployed.
- Over 200 roads closed; normal life affected.



Prelims Facts

- IMD issues: Red, Orange, Yellow Alerts.
- Cloudburst: Intense rainfall > 100 mm in one hour.
- NDRF: National Disaster Response Force.



GS Mains Link

- GS III – Disaster Management
- GS III – Environment
- GS III – Climate Change & Extreme Weather
- GS II – Centre-State Cooperation

PRELIMS RAPID REVISION



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