



17 AUGUST 2026 (MONDAY)

★ 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



Why in News?

On 17 August 2026, ISRO successfully launched the EOS-11 Earth Observation Satellite on PSLV-C61 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.



Key Points

- EOS-11 is a high-resolution (sub-meter) earth observation satellite.
- Equipped with advanced optical payload for day & night imaging.
- It will provide data for agriculture, forestry, disaster monitoring and urban planning.
- Strengthens India's capabilities in earth observation and geospatial intelligence.



Prelims Facts

- Launch Vehicle: PSLV-C61
- Satellite: EOS-11
- Launch Site: SDSC, Sriharikota
- Orbit: Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit
- Payload: High-resolution Optical Imager



GS Mains Link

- GS III – Science & Technology
- GS III – Space Technology & Applications
- GS III – Disaster Management
- GS II – Government Initiatives

2



Why in News?

On 17 August 2026, India signed the first port partnership agreement under the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) framework with UAE and Saudi Arabia.



Key Points

- The partnership aims to enhance connectivity through integrated ports and logistics hubs.
- IMEC will reduce transit time and cost between India, Middle East and Europe.
- Focus on digital connectivity, clean energy and sustainable infrastructure.
- Aims to counter existing trade route bottlenecks.



Prelims Facts

- IMEC Launched: G20 Summit, New Delhi, Sept 2023
- Corridor: India – Middle East – Europe
- Mode: Multimodal (Port, Rail, Road, Shipping)
- Partners: India, UAE, Saudi Arabia, EU, USA, others



GS Mains Link

- GS II – International Relations
- GS III – Infrastructure & Connectivity
- GS III – Indian Economy (Trade)
- GS III – Energy Security

3



Why in News?

On 17 August 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a 50 basis points cut in the policy repo rate, reducing it to 5.50%.



Key Points

- MPC voted 5:1 in favour of rate cut.
- Stance changed to 'Accommodative' from 'Neutral'.
- Decision to boost growth amidst moderating inflation.
- GDP growth estimate for FY27 retained at 6.5%.
- Inflation projection for Q2 FY27 at 3.6%.



Prelims Facts

- Repo Rate (New): 5.50%
- Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
- CRR: 4.50%
- SDF Rate: 5.25%
- Bank Rate: 5.75%



GS Mains Link

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

4



Why in News?

On 17 August 2026, India's cumulative installed solar energy capacity crossed 100 GW, as announced by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy.



Key Points

- Marks a major milestone in India's renewable energy journey.
- Solar capacity addition in FY26 was 23 GW (highest ever).
- Supports India's target of 280 GW renewable capacity by 2030.
- Contributes to energy security, job creation and climate goals.



Prelims Facts

- Total Solar Capacity: 100+ GW
- Target: 280 GW by 2030
- Achieved 100 GW on: 17 August 2026
- Ministry: MNRE



GS Mains Link

- GS III – Energy
- GS III – Environment & Sustainable Development
- GS III – Government Initiatives
- GS II – Climate Change & International Commitments

5



Why in News?

On 17 August 2026, the Government of India launched the National Blue Carbon Mission to conserve coastal ecosystems like mangroves and seagrasses.



Key Points

- Aims to develop blue carbon projects for carbon sequestration.
- Will support coastal livelihoods, fisheries and climate resilience.
- Implementation through State Action Plans.
- India aims to create carbon credits and access global climate finance.



Prelims Facts

- Mission Launched: 17 Aug 2026
- Ecosystems: Mangroves, Seagrasses, Salt Marshes
- Objective: Carbon sequestration & livelihood support
- Nodal Ministry: MoEFCC



GS Mains Link

- GS III – Environment
- GS III – Climate Change
- GS III – Conservation & Biodiversity
- GS II – Government Policies

PRELIMS RAPID REVISION



ISRO launches
EOS-11 on
PSLV-C61



IMEC first port
partnership
signed



RBI cuts repo rate
by 50 bps; now
5.50%



India crosses
100 GW
solar capacity



National Blue
Carbon Mission
launched

