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19 AUGUST 2026 (WEDNESDAY)

★ 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



CABINET APPROVES FOUR RAILWAY MULTITRACKING PROJECTS ADDING 410 KM TO NETWORK

Why in News?

The Union Cabinet approved four multitracking railway projects covering eight districts in West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, adding about 410 km to the railway network.



Key Points

- Covers 8 districts across 4 States.
- Adds approximately 410 km to the network.
- Improves rail capacity and operational efficiency.
- Supports faster passenger and freight movement.
- Strengthens regional connectivity and economic activity.



Prelims Facts

- Ministry: Ministry of Railways
- Decision by: Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)
- States: West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu & Andhra Pradesh
- Network addition: ~410 km



GS Mains Link

- GS II – Centre–State Relations & Development
- GS III – Infrastructure
- GS III – Transport & Logistics
- GS III – Regional Development

2



INDIA'S MAKHANA SECTOR: TRADITIONAL CROP TO GLOBAL SUPERFOOD

Why in News?

PIB released a detailed backgrounder on India's Makhana sector, highlighting its growing importance as an agri-food product and export opportunity.



Key Points

- Makhana (Fox Nut) is an aquatic crop.
- Scientific name: Euryale ferox.
- India is the world's largest producer.
- Bihar is the leading producer.
- National Makhana Board established.
- Central Sector Scheme with outlay of ₹476.03 crore (2025–26 to 2030–31).
- Focus on research, processing, branding and exports.



Prelims Facts

- Botanical name: Euryale ferox
- GI tag: Mithila Makhana
- Major production region: North Bihar
- Key districts: Supaul, Saharsa, Madhepura
- National Research Centre for Makhana: Darbhanga



GS Mains Link

- GS III – Agriculture
- GS III – Food Processing
- GS III – Agricultural Exports
- GS III – Farmer Income & Value Addition

3



INDIA-MALAYSIA COOPERATION ON GOVERNANCE REFORMS

Why in News?

The 2nd India–Malaysia Joint Working Group Meeting on public administration and governance reforms was held, focusing on capacity building and exchange of best practices.



Key Points

- Cooperation between DARPG/NCGG and Malaysia's Public Service Department.
- Areas: Digital Government, AI, Cloud, Cybersecurity, Blockchain, Data-driven governance.
- India shared CPGRAMS and AI-enabled Samadhan Didi initiative.
- Malaysia–India Governance Partnership 2027–2029 Strategic Roadmap discussed.



Prelims Facts

- JWG = Joint Working Group
- Institutions: DARPG & NC GG (India)
- CPGRAMS: Centralized Public Grievance Redress & Monitoring System
- India–Malaysia relationship elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in Aug 2024.



GS Mains Link

- GS II – International Relations
- GS II – e-Governance
- GS II – Governance & Civil Services
- GS II – Digital Public Services

4



8th BRICS YOUTH ENERGY SUMMIT 2026 HELD VIRTUALLY

Why in News?

India hosted the 8th BRICS Youth Energy Summit 2026 virtually under its BRICS Chairship. The summit focused on youth participation in energy cooperation.



Key Points

- Hosted by India under BRICS Chairship 2026.
- More than 100 participants from BRICS nations & partner countries.
- Focus areas: Energy security, access & equity; technology & innovation.
- Emphasis on youth-led innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Participation from ISA, IRENA and SEforALL.



Prelims Facts

- BRICS components: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa + expanded members.
- India's BRICS 2026 theme: "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".
- Energy-track theme: "Energy for All".
- Organizations: ISA, IRENA, SEforALL.



GS Mains Link

- GS II – International Organisations
- GS II – International Cooperation
- GS III – Energy Security
- GS III – Renewable Energy & Technology

5



NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS 2025 ANNOUNCED

Why in News?

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced the National Sports Awards 2025 on 19 August 2026.



Key Points

- Recognises excellence and contribution to Indian sports.
- Arjuna Award recognises sustained sportspersons' excellence.
- Dronacharya Award recognises outstanding coaches.
- Arjuna Award (Lifetime) for continuing contribution after sports career.
- Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar for organisations promoting sports.



Prelims Facts

- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
- National Sports Day: 29 August
- Major awards: Khel Ratna, Arjuna Award, Dronacharya Award, Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar



GS Mains Link

- GS II – Government Policies
- GS II – Human Resource Development
- GS II – Social Development
- GS II – Sports & Youth Development



Railway Projects
Multitracking Projects
~410 km



Makhana
Scientific name:
Euryale ferox



India–Malaysia JWJG
Institutions: DARPG
& NC GG



BRICS Youth Energy Summit
Theme: Energy for All
Organizations: ISA, IRENA



National Sports Awards
National Sports Day:
29 August

