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WEEKLY GA + BANKING AWARENESS

English Edition | Coverage: 16-22 August 2026

100

Connected Updates

100

Five-Option MCQs

7 Days

One Complete Revision

One week, one connected revision. Daily developments are reconciled, important updates are carried forward, and Banking Awareness changes are kept alive so you do not have to hunt across multiple sources.

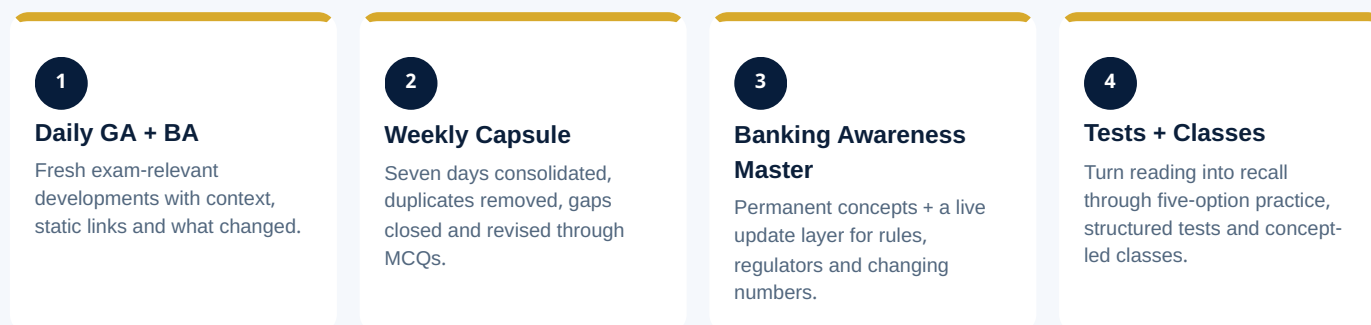
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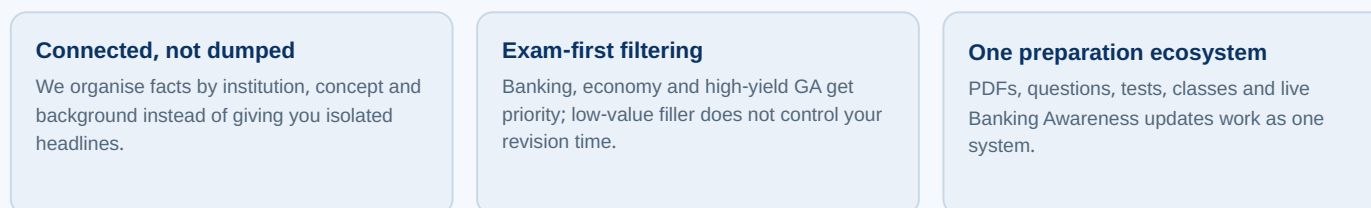
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Your complete preparation loop

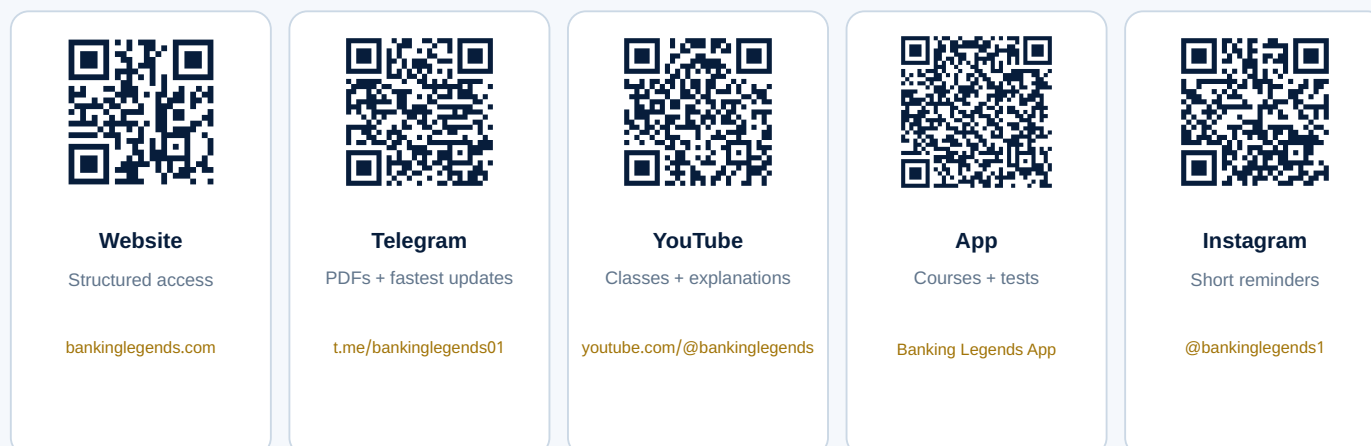


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Best starting point: Save Telegram for every PDF, use the App/Website for structured learning and tests, and use YouTube for concept-driven classes.

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Banking Awareness - What Changed This Week

- RBI: repo rate remained 5.25% with neutral stance; MPC minutes released on 19 August. RBI also used overnight VRRR operations to absorb surplus liquidity.
- Forex/liquidity: special USD-INR swap inflows reached US\$72.848 billion through 21 August, led by FCNR(B) deposits.
- RRBs: FY2025-26 credit growth was 10.3% and average Priority Sector Lending achievement reached 91.7%.
- Pensions: PFRDA April-June bulletin put total subscribers at about 9.83 crore as of 31 May 2026.
- Securities: SEBI updated mutual-fund registration paperwork, enabled digitally signed PoA for FPIs, KRA-IFSCA data sharing, and published retail derivatives-loss findings.
- Insurance: IRDAI enforcement action restricted Acko and Niva Bupa from opening new places of business for six months.
- Payments: Qatar-India PostTransfer corridor uses UPI rails; remember NPCI as UPI operator and NIPL as its international arm.
- Foreign trade: eligible export receipts in Indian Rupees received parity under the FTP amendment; DGFT remains under Commerce & Industry.
- Financial inclusion: PSB Confluence moved the reform conversation toward youth banking, deposit mobilisation, PSL, credit cards and a proposed common digital platform.
- Digital identity: Aadhaar Mandatory Biometric Update crossed 2 crore for schoolchildren; Aadhaar App crossed 5 crore downloads.

Connected Current Affairs Notes

The cards below retain the full exam-relevant weekly breadth while consolidating rolling updates instead of repeating the same story on multiple days.

1. FAST-DS 2026 comes into force: one-time window for small taxpayers to disclose specified foreign assets/income

Why in News: The Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers - Disclosure Scheme, 2026 (FAST-DS) became effective on 16 August 2026 after the Central Board of Direct Taxes notified the rules. **Key Exam Facts:** - It is a one-time voluntary disclosure scheme under Chapter IV (Sections 130-144) of the Finance Act, 2026. - Eligible declarations can be made up to 31 December 2026. - The framework covers specified undisclosed foreign assets/income and provides prescribed tax/fee treatment, valuation rules and forms. - For exam purposes, remember the full form FAST-DS and that the effective date is 16 August 2026. **Connection / Background:** This links direct-tax compliance, foreign-asset reporting and the government's push toward voluntary disclosure rather than prolonged litigation. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Do not confuse this with a permanent amnesty. It is a time-bound one-time scheme with eligibility/exclusion conditions.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-17

2. Government sets emergency LPG production potential at 63,810 tonnes per day

Why in News: India fixed refinery- and producer-wise maximum Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) production levels to create a domestic buffer if imported supply is disrupted. **Key Exam Facts:** - Combined production potential is 63,810 tonnes per day. - The order covers 21 public- and private-sector refineries/upstream companies. - Reliance Industries was assigned the largest individual production quota. - The trigger is supply stress; the objective is energy security and reduced vulnerability to import disruption. **Connection / Background:** India depends significantly on imported LPG, so geopolitical disruptions in West Asia can quickly become a household-energy issue. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** This is not normal daily output. It is a maximum production potential/ target to be activated during supply constraints.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-17

3. DRI detects more than Rs 2,500 crore customs-duty evasion in areca-nut imports

Why in News: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) uncovered a syndicate allegedly routing South-East Asian areca nuts as Bangladesh-origin goods to claim preferential tariff treatment. **Key Exam Facts:** - Potential revenue loss detected: more than Rs 2,500 crore. - Nine persons were arrested. - Rs 75 lakh cash and about 160 metric tonnes of areca nuts were seized. - Areca-nut imports ordinarily attract 100% Basic Customs Duty; qualifying Bangladesh-origin goods can get benefit under the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), subject to Rules of Origin. **Connection / Background:** The case is a clean exam linkage between customs duty, preferential trade agreements and Rules of Origin. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** SAFTA preference depends on genuine origin compliance; routing goods through a member country does not by itself establish origin.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-17

4. Ministry of Mines announces Patna roadshow for 8th tranche of critical and strategic mineral block auctions

Why in News: The Ministry of Mines announced a roadshow and National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) workshop in Patna for 17 August 2026. **Key Exam Facts:** - The event relates to the 8th tranche of auction of critical and strategic mineral blocks. - Venue city: Patna, Bihar. - NMEDT stands for National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust. - Critical-mineral auctions are central to domestic supply chains for clean energy, electronics and strategic manufacturing. **Connection / Background:** Critical minerals now sit at the intersection of mining policy, energy transition, defence and industrial policy. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Do not confuse NMEDT with the National Mineral Exploration Trust's older nomenclature; use the name given in the current release.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-17

5. Chief of the Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth begins official Nepal visit

Why in News: The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) departed for Nepal for an official visit aimed at strengthening military ties. **Key Exam Facts:** - Visit dates: 17-19 August 2026. - Purpose: strengthen India-Nepal defence cooperation and military-to-military ties. - COAS stands for Chief of the Army Staff. - Nepal remains one of India's closest defence partners, with deep institutional military linkages. **Connection / Background:** Banking exams frequently ask country-visit, defence-exercise and service-chief combinations. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** This is an official Nepal visit, not the India-Thailand Exercise MAITREE- XV, which is a separate development.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-17

6. NIELIT launches CYBER KUSHTI 2026, a national cybersecurity and AI hackathon

Why in News: The National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) launched CYBER KUSHTI 2026 on 15 August, with the formal release issued on 16 August. **Key Exam Facts:** - NIELIT works under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). - The hackathon is designed to test human judgement in cybersecurity assessment, not merely detection speed. - The final round will be held at the 3rd National Conference on Cyber Security, Digital Forensics and Intelligence (NCCDFI 2026). - AI stands for Artificial Intelligence. **Connection / Background:** This is useful for science-tech GA because it combines a government institution, cybersecurity, digital forensics and AI. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** NIELIT is not under the Ministry of Education; it is under MeitY.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-17

7. RSSDI rural diabetes portal and VISHWAS awareness video library launched

Why in News: A national outreach initiative highlighted diabetes prevention in rural India and launched digital tools for awareness and data-backed preventive healthcare. **Key Exam Facts:** - RSSDI refers to the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India. - A Rural Outreach Digital Portal was launched. - The VISHWAS Diabetes Awareness Video Library was also launched. - The policy message emphasised preventive healthcare, digital health and real-world data. **Connection / Background:** Health initiatives increasingly appear in GA when they involve national digital platforms, public-health priorities or named campaigns. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** The release framed diabetes prevention as a national priority; it did not announce a new statutory health insurance scheme.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-17

8. Department of Fisheries reiterates fisher empowerment and Blue Economy focus

Why in News: The Department of Fisheries used the Independence Day observance to highlight its commitment to fishers, fisheries growth and the Blue Economy. **Key Exam Facts:** - The Department functions under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. - Blue Economy refers broadly to sustainable economic use of ocean and aquatic resources. - Fisheries policy links livelihoods, exports, food security, aquaculture and coastal development. - For banking exams, fisheries also connects to Kisan Credit Card coverage for allied activities. **Connection / Background:** This is a useful static-current bridge: ministry structure + Blue Economy + allied-sector credit. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Blue Economy is wider than marine fishing alone; it includes broader sustainable ocean-related economic activity.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-17

9. UPDATE: Devdutt Padikkal converts maiden Test hundred into 167 at Galle

Why in News: After reaching his maiden Test century on the previous day, Padikkal extended the innings to 167 on 16 August. **Key Exam Facts:** - Score: 167. - Venue: Galle International Stadium, Sri Lanka. - It was his maiden Test hundred. - India ended day two at 460/9. **Connection / Background:** This is retained only as a material update to the previously covered Test story, not as repetition. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** The new exam-worthy fact is 167/maiden Test hundred; the earlier "600th Test" milestone should not be republished as new.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-17

10. Foreign portfolio investors turn net buyers in August; Rs 16,621 crore equity inflow reported for first half

Why in News: Overnight market-flow reporting showed foreign portfolio investors had returned to net buying in Indian equities during the first half of August. **Key Exam Facts:** - Reported equity inflow: Rs 16,621 crore in the first half of August 2026. - FPI stands for Foreign Portfolio Investor. - Key drivers cited included relative valuations, corporate earnings and expectations around US interest rates. - This is a market-flow data point, not an RBI policy action. **Connection / Background:** FPI/FDI distinctions and monthly flow direction are common economy questions. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** FPI flows are portfolio investments in market securities; they are not the same as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-17

11. Qatar-India PosTransfer remittance corridor goes live through Qatar Post, powered by UPI

Why in News: A postal remittance service integrating the Universal Postal Union Interconnection Platform (UPU-IP) with India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) became available through Qatar Post outlets. **Key Exam Facts:** - Partners: Qatar Post, India Post, UPU-IP and NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL). - The service became available in Qatar on 15 August 2026 and was officially detailed by the Government of India on 17 August. - A sender provides the recipient's UPI ID; the Indian recipient must enable foreign inward remittances in the UPI app. Credit is then made to the UPI-enabled bank account. - Transaction range: QAR 10 to QAR 4,000, subject to a maximum equivalent of Rs 1,00,000 per transaction; flat service charge QAR 15. **Connection / Background:** NIPL is the international arm of NPCI. PosTransfer uses postal networks for cross-border remittance while UPI provides the last-mile digital credit into India. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** This is an inward remittance service from Qatar to India; it is not a domestic UPI person-to-person transfer and not a Qatar central-bank CBDC project. Primary source: PIB - Ministry of Communications

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-18

12. Shabnam Sinha named incoming Chairperson of Airtel Payments Bank

Why in News: Airtel Payments Bank announced a board transition: Shabnam Sinha will succeed Sunil Bharti Mittal as Chairperson. **Key Exam Facts:** - Sinha will take charge for a three-year term beginning 1 October 2026. - Sunil Bharti Mittal will step down as Non-Executive Chairman and leave the Board effective 30 September 2026. - The appointment has been approved by the Bank's Board and by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). - Sinha was already an Independent Director at Airtel Payments Bank and chairs its Special Committee for Monitoring Frauds. **Connection / Background:** Payments Banks are differentiated banks designed mainly for deposits, payments and remittance services; they cannot undertake conventional lending from their own balance sheet. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** The announcement date was 17 August, but the new Chairperson's term starts on 1 October 2026. Primary source: Bharti Airtel exchange filing / Reuters

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-18

13. PFRDA releases Pension Bulletin for April-June 2026

Why in News: The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) published its April- June 2026 Pension Bulletin on 17 August, giving a fresh statistical snapshot of the pension ecosystem. **Key Exam Facts:** - As of 31 May 2026, total pension-system subscribers covered in the bulletin were about 9.83 crore. - Atal Pension Yojana (APY) accounted for about 7.62 crore subscribers - roughly 77.5% of the total shown. - Aggregate Assets Under Management (AUM) were about Rs 17.23 lakh crore; government-sector NPS accounted for roughly three-fourths of AUM. - The bulletin covers NPS segments, NPS Vatsalya, NPS Lite and APY, among other pension-system data. **Connection / Background:** PFRDA is the statutory regulator for the National Pension System (NPS) and the pension ecosystem. APY is a Government-backed pension scheme focused on subscribers in the unorganised sector. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Do not mix subscriber count with AUM. One is number of accounts/ subscribers; the other is the market value of pension assets managed. Primary source: PFRDA - Pension Bulletin April-June 2026

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-18

14. July 2026 PLFS: unemployment rate falls to 5.1%; labour-force participation improves

Why in News: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the July 2026 Monthly Bulletin of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS). **Key Exam Facts:** - Overall Unemployment Rate (UR) for persons aged 15 years and above fell to 5.1% in July from 5.5% in June. - Rural UR declined to 4.5% from 5.0%, while urban UR was 6.7% versus 6.6% in June. - Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) rose to 55.4% from 54.4%. - Worker Population Ratio (WPR) rose to 52.5% from 51.4%; female LFPR improved to 34.4% from 32.7%. **Connection / Background:** UR measures the unemployed as a share of the labour force; LFPR measures the share of the population that is working or seeking/available for work; WPR measures the share actually employed. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** A lower UR does not by itself prove employment rose; read it together with LFPR and WPR. In July, both participation and worker ratio also increased. Primary source: MoSPI - PLFS Monthly Bulletin, July 2026

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-18

15. SEBI cautions investors over display of live trading strategies on social-media platforms

Why in News: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued Press Release 48/2026 specifically cautioning investors regarding live trading strategies displayed on social-media platforms. **Key Exam Facts:** - Regulator: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). - Date: 17 August 2026; Press Release No. 48/2026. - The alert is specifically linked to the display of live trading strategies on social-media platforms. - For exams, connect this with SEBI's investor-protection role and regulation of securities-market intermediaries. **Connection / Background:** Investment advice, research, broking and other securities-market activities are regulated domains. Social-media content does not automatically carry regulatory approval merely because it displays real-time trades. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Do not interpret the release as a blanket ban on all market education or all social-media discussion; the official caution is specifically about live trading strategies. Primary source: SEBI Press Release 48/2026 REPORTS & CAPITAL MARKETS 7. SEBI releases Handbook of Statistics 2025-26

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-18

16. SEBI releases Handbook of Statistics 2025-26

Why in News: SEBI released its Handbook of Statistics 2025-26 on 17 August as an official statistical reference for the Indian securities market. **Key Exam Facts:** - Publication date: 17 August 2026. - SEBI Press Release No. 47/2026 accompanied the release. - The Handbook belongs to SEBI's Reports & Statistics / Publications series. - It should be distinguished from SEBI's Annual Report 2025-26, which is a separate publication. **Connection / Background:** A statistical handbook is a data compendium; an annual report also discusses the regulator's activities, policies, administration and performance during the year. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Handbook of Statistics 2025-26 and SEBI Annual Report 2025-26 are not the same document. Primary source: SEBI - Handbook of Statistics 2025-26

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-18

17. SEBI revises application form for mutual fund registration

Why in News: SEBI issued a circular on 17 August revising the application form used for mutual fund registration. **Key Exam Facts:** - Circular date: 17 August 2026. - Circular No.: 18849. - The subject is revision of the Application Form for Mutual Fund Registration. - Mutual funds and their regulatory framework fall under SEBI, not RBI. **Connection / Background:** A mutual fund pools investor money and is managed by an Asset Management Company (AMC) under SEBI's regulatory framework. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** This circular concerns the registration application form. Do not confuse it with investor KYC changes or a change in mutual-fund taxation. Primary source: SEBI Circular No. 18849 ELECTRONICS & MANUFACTURING 9. MeitY approves 31 more ECMS proposals; 106 projects now approved

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-18

18. MeitY approves 31 more ECMS proposals; 106 projects now approved

Why in News: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) announced fresh approvals under the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS). **Key Exam Facts:** - 31 additional proposals were approved with projected investment of about Rs 6,844 crore. - Cumulative approvals reached 106 projects, with proposed investment of about Rs 69,548 crore and around 75,000 direct jobs. - 38 ECMS plants were operational and 16 were in advanced stages of construction. - ECMS is aimed at deepening domestic value addition in electronic components and critical raw/ material inputs. **Connection / Background:** Electronics manufacturing policy increasingly focuses not only on final assembly but also on components and supply-chain depth, which reduces import dependence and raises domestic value addition. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** The fresh 31 proposals are a subset of the cumulative 106 approvals; do not treat 31 and 106 as competing figures. Primary source: PIB - Ministry of Electronics & IT

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-18

19. Kharif sowing area at 1,016.57 lakh hectares as of 14 August 2026

Why in News: The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare released the latest area-coverage data for kharif crops on 17 August. **Key Exam Facts:** - Total kharif area was about 1,016.57 lakh hectares versus 1,037.52 lakh hectares in the corresponding period of 2025 - a decline of 20.95 lakh hectares. - Rice area was 379.07 lakh hectares versus 393.44 lakh hectares a year earlier. - Pulses covered 108.14 lakh hectares versus 108.49 lakh hectares. - Oilseeds covered 184.46 lakh hectares versus 185.36 lakh hectares; cotton was 107.30 lakh hectares versus 108.26 lakh hectares. **Connection / Background:** Kharif crops are generally sown with the southwest monsoon and harvested in the autumn. Sowing-area data can influence expectations for agricultural output, food prices and rural income. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Area sown is not the same as production. Yield and weather conditions determine final output. Primary source: PIB - Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-18

20. Finance Minister chairs 3rd Apex Monitoring Authority meeting of NICDIT

Why in News: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the third meeting of the Apex Monitoring Authority of the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) in New Delhi. **Key Exam Facts:** - The meeting reviewed progress of projects under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP). - NICDIT stands for National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust. - NICDP is the umbrella programme for development of integrated industrial-corridor nodes and townships. - The review focused on project progress and priorities for the next phase of industrial-corridor development. **Connection / Background:** Industrial corridors combine transport connectivity, logistics and planned industrial nodes to improve manufacturing competitiveness and crowd in private investment. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** NICDIT is the implementation trust; NICDP is the programme. The acronyms are related but not interchangeable. Primary source: PIB - Ministry of Finance / Commerce & Industry

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-18

21. Kaushal Manthan focuses on PM-SETU and industry-linked ITI reform

Why in News: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) convened the Regional Conference of Skill Ministers, Kaushal Manthan, in Kolkata. **Key Exam Facts:** - The conference was chaired by Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. - States discussed PM-SETU, decentralised planning, industry partnerships and workforce mobility. - PM-SETU expands to Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs. - States were encouraged to align ITI clusters with industrial corridors, MSME concentrations, emerging technologies and upcoming investments. **Connection / Background:** The Hub-and-Spoke approach allows smaller ITIs to access shared laboratories, master trainers, career services and employer networks through stronger hub institutions. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** PM-SETU is an ITI-upgradation and employability reform programme; it is not a direct cash-transfer scheme. Primary source: PIB - Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship BRICS & DIGITAL COOPERATION 13. India hosts 7th BRICS ICT Working Group Meeting in Pune

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-18

22. India hosts 7th BRICS ICT Working Group Meeting in Pune

Why in News: The in-person BRICS Track on Cooperation in Information and Communication Technologies opened in Pune with the seventh meeting of the BRICS Working Group for Cooperation in ICTs. **Key Exam Facts:** - Venue: Pune; date: 17 August 2026. - Held under India's BRICS Chairship 2026. - India's Chairship theme: Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability. - Agenda areas included Artificial Intelligence, next-generation communications, Industry 4.0, electromagnetic-field exposure and digital-ecosystem integration. **Connection / Background:** BRICS cooperation now extends beyond macroeconomics to digital public infrastructure, future networks, cyber issues and emerging technologies. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** This was the 7th BRICS ICT Working Group Meeting; do not confuse it with the BRICS Environment or Youth meetings held under the same 2026 Chairship. Primary source: PIB - Ministry of Communications

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-18

23. India launches first Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems at UNCCD COP17

Why in News: India launched its first-ever Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems (ONES) of India at the 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). **Key Exam Facts:** - Venue: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. - Event: UNCCD COP17. - The Guide covers grasslands, savannas, deserts and other open natural ecosystems. - Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav highlighted science-based conservation and the role of grasslands in biodiversity, livelihoods and climate resilience. **Connection / Background:** UNCCD is the UN convention focused on desertification, land degradation and drought. Open natural ecosystems are ecologically valuable even when they are not tree-dense forests. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** COP17 here is UNCCD COP17, not the climate-change COP under UNFCCC or biodiversity COP under CBD. Primary source: PIB - Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-18

24. MoD signs Rs 1,943 crore lease for two MQ-9B Sea Guardian HALE RPAS for Indian Navy

Why in News: The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) to lease two MQ-9B Sea Guardian systems for the Indian Navy. **Key Exam Facts:** - Number of systems: 2. - Lease period: 30 months. - Approximate contract value: Rs 1,943 crore. - MQ-9B Sea Guardian is a High-Altitude Long-Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS), intended to strengthen maritime-domain awareness and persistent Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR). **Connection / Background:** HALE platforms can remain airborne for long periods at high altitude, making them useful for wide-area maritime surveillance over the Indian Ocean Region. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** The contract is a lease of two systems for 30 months, not the same as a long-term procurement of an entire MQ-9B fleet. Primary source: PIB - Ministry of Defence

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-18

25. Indian Army contingent departs for 15th India-Thailand Exercise MAITREE-XV

Why in News: The Indian Army contingent left for Thailand to participate in the fifteenth edition of joint military Exercise MAITREE. **Key Exam Facts:** - Exercise dates: 18-31 August 2026. - Venue: Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani, Thailand. - Each side has an 85-person contingent; India is represented mainly by 9 Gorkha Rifles. - Training focuses on joint counter-insurgency/counter-terrorist operations in jungle and semi-urban terrain under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. **Connection / Background:** Exercise MAITREE was instituted in 2006 and is a bilateral India-Thailand Army exercise designed to improve interoperability and exchange operational practices. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** MAITREE is with Thailand. Do not confuse it with India's exercises with Nepal, Sri Lanka or other Southeast Asian partners. Primary source: PIB - Ministry of Defence DIGITAL GOVERNANCE 18. Central Information Commission launches AppCoMS 2.0 for RTI second appeals and complaints

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-18

26. Central Information Commission launches AppCoMS 2.0 for RTI second appeals and complaints

Why in News: The Central Information Commission (CIC) launched an upgraded Appeal and Complaint Management System, AppCoMS 2.0. **Key Exam Facts:** - Launched on 17 August 2026 by Chief Information Commissioner Raj Kumar Goyal. - AppCoMS is the Appeal and Complaint Management System; the original online portal was introduced in September 2016. - The upgraded system supports end-to-end processing of Second Appeals and Complaints under the Right to Information Act, 2005. - New features include user accounts linked to email/mobile, case timelines, document access and Digital Signature Certificates for notices/orders. **Connection / Background:** Under the RTI framework, the CIC handles second appeals and complaints relating to Central public authorities. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** AppCoMS 2.0 belongs to the CIC and RTI appeal/complaint process; it is not CPGRAMS, the public-grievance portal. Primary source: PIB - Department of Personnel & Training / CIC

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-18

27. Five National ANUBHAV Awards conferred at 9th ceremony; pension digitalisation highlighted

Why in News: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh conferred the National ANUBHAV Awards at the 9th National ANUBHAV Awards Ceremony and the 60th Pre-Retirement Counselling Workshop in New Delhi. **Key Exam Facts:** - Five awardees received the National ANUBHAV Awards; Jury Awards were also presented. - The ceremony was held at Vigyan Bhawan on 17 August 2026. - Around 800 government officials participated in the 60th Pre-Retirement Counselling Workshop. - The Minister also released the Handbook on Pension Mitra, the awardees' citation booklet and guidelines for the Nationwide Digital Life Certificate Campaign-5. **Connection / Background:** ANUBHAV captures experiences of retiring/retired government employees and converts institutional memory into lessons for governance reforms. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** For 2026, remember five National ANUBHAV Award recipients; the broader list of selected awardees also included Jury recognition. Primary source: PIB - Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions SPORTS 20. Ayush Shetty knocks out world No. 1 Shi Yuqi at BWF World Championships in New Delhi

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-18

28. Ayush Shetty knocks out world No. 1 Shi Yuqi at BWF World Championships in New Delhi

Why in News: India's Ayush Shetty produced a major first-round upset at the 2026 Badminton World Championships, defeating defending champion and world No. 1 Shi Yuqi of China. **Key Exam Facts:** - Score: 21-14, 13-21, 21-19. - The tournament is being held in New Delhi. - Shetty was making his World Championships debut. - It was his first win over Shi after three previous defeats and sent him into the second round. **Connection / Background:** The BWF World Championships are badminton's premier individual world- title event, separate from team competitions such as the Thomas and Uber Cups. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** The opponent was China's Shi Yuqi, the world No. 1 and defending champion; this was a first-round win, not the title match. Primary source: Reuters - Badminton World Championships

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-18

29. Public Sector Bank (PSB) Confluence 2026 concludes with youth-banking campaign and common digital platform proposal

Why in News The two-day Public Sector Bank Confluence organised by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, concluded on 18 August 2026. Only the new Day-2 outcomes are included here because Day-1 themes were covered earlier. **Key Exam Facts:** - A focused month-long banking campaign for youth above 16 years is to begin on 2 October 2026 and be coordinated through the Indian Banks' Association (IBA). - A common online portal/application was proposed to give young people simple banking information along with education, skilling and entrepreneurship opportunities. - Day 2 focused on Agriculture and Horticulture Value Chain Infrastructure, Priority Sector Lending (PSL) and Reimagining Credit Card Business. - Credit-card discussions included digital onboarding, cross-selling and RuPay integration with the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). **Connection / Background:** Connect this with financial inclusion: the policy focus is shifting from merely opening accounts to early engagement, digital access, credit behaviour and long-term customer relationships. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** UPDATE only: do not repeat the earlier Day-1 four-theme fact block. The new exam facts are the 2 October youth campaign, IBA coordination and proposed common portal/app. Primary source: Open authoritative source

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-19

30. Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) report 10.3% credit growth; Priority Sector Lending achievement reaches 91.7%

Why in News The Department of Financial Services released fresh financial-year 2025-26 performance data for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). **Key Exam Facts:** - Gross loans outstanding rose 10.3% to Rs 5,78,349 crore, from Rs 5,24,163 crore. - Average Priority Sector Lending (PSL) achievement was 91.7% of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC), well above the prescribed overall RRB target of 75%. - Credit to weaker sections stood at about Rs 3.49 lakh crore. **Connection / Background:** RRBs were created to combine local rural reach with formal banking. Their exam identity is strongly linked with agriculture, weaker sections, rural credit and PSL. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** 91.7% is the achieved PSL share; 75% is the prescribed overall target for RRBs. Do not interchange the two. Primary source: Open authoritative source ENERGY & ECONOMY 3. Domestic Piped Natural Gas (PNG) Incentive Scheme approved; effective from 1 September 2026

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-19

31. Domestic Piped Natural Gas (PNG) Incentive Scheme approved; effective from 1 September 2026

Why in News The Government approved a new incentive scheme to accelerate household Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections; the release came late on 18 August. **Key Exam Facts:** - The scheme becomes effective on 1 September 2026. India currently has about 1.74 crore domestic PNG connections. - Eligible City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities will receive an additional 200 standard cubic metres (SCM) of lower-priced domestically produced Administered Price Mechanism (APM)/New APM gas for every incremental billed domestic PNG connection above the threshold. - The additional allocation is spread over two tranches across six months. - The Government expects the connection payback period to fall from about 10 years to about 3 years and has encouraged states to reduce Value Added Tax on natural gas to 5%. **Connection / Background:** Lower-priced domestic gas changes the economics of household network expansion. Link PNG with City Gas Distribution, domestic gas allocation and energy affordability. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** The 200 SCM incentive is linked to each eligible incremental billed connection; it is not a household consumption entitlement. Primary source: Open authoritative source

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-19

32. SEMICON India 2026 announced for 17-19 September at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi

Why in News The Government released details for the fifth edition of SEMICON India, positioned as a major semiconductor ecosystem event. **Key Exam Facts:** - Dates: 17-19 September 2026; venue: Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi. - Theme: "Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem". - The event is jointly organised by the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) and SEMI. - The official release said 12 semiconductor projects had been approved, 3 had commenced commercial production, 24 startups had been approved under the Design Linked Incentive (DLI), and design-tool support had reached more than 332 academic institutes and 105 startups. **Connection / Background:** For exams, connect fabrication/packaging projects, chip design support and ecosystem events under one India Semiconductor Mission chain. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** SEMICON India 2026 is the event; the India Semiconductor Mission is the government mission. Do not treat them as the same institution. Primary source: Open authoritative source DIGITAL GOVERNANCE 5. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) crosses 2 crore Mandatory Biometric Updates for school children

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33. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) crosses 2 crore Mandatory Biometric Updates for school children

Why in News The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) reported a major milestone in the school-based Mandatory Biometric Update (MBU) drive. **Key Exam Facts:** - More than 2 crore Mandatory Biometric Updates were completed across about 1.56 lakh schools. - The drive is integrated with the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) ecosystem. - Mandatory biometric updates are associated with the age milestones of 5 years and 15 years. - Biometric update charges are waived for children aged 5-17 years up to 30 September 2026 under the current arrangement. **Connection / Background:** Aadhaar biometrics change as children grow, so MBU is an identity-quality measure rather than a new Aadhaar enrolment. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Remember the age milestones: 5 and 15 years. Do not confuse MBU with ordinary demographic updates such as address or mobile-number changes. Primary source: Open authoritative source

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-19

34. Sixth Positive Indigenisation List adds 405 strategic items with Rs 3,070 crore business potential

Why in News The Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence, released the sixth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL). **Key Exam Facts:** - The sixth list contains 405 strategic items with estimated business potential of Rs 3,070 crore. - It includes 16 Indian Coast Guard (ICG) items and 389 items of Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs). - The SRIJAN portal was launched in August 2020; more than 33,000 items had been offered for indigenisation up to June 2026. - The first five Positive Indigenisation Lists together covered 5,012 items. **Connection / Background:** Positive Indigenisation Lists create future import restrictions for notified defence items and encourage domestic sourcing and vendor development. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** 405 belongs to the sixth list. 5,012 is the combined count in the first five lists. Primary source: Open authoritative source DEFENCE & TECHNOLOGY 7. Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment hands over three indigenous aerospace-engine products

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35. Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment hands over three indigenous aerospace-engine products

Why in News The Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Chennai, handed over three indigenously developed products. **Key Exam Facts:** - Co-Axial Lube Oil Filter Assembly for the Kaveri Derivative Engine (KDE). - Mainshaft Bearing for the Small Turbo Fan Engine (STFE). - Indigenous Filter Elements for MiG-29K/KUB aircraft. **Connection / Background:** The story links indigenous component manufacturing with gas-turbine and naval-aircraft support systems. CVRDE is a DRDO laboratory. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** The products are components/support items, not three new aircraft or engines. Primary source: Open authoritative source

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36. 12th BRICS Environment Ministers Meeting produces four collaborative knowledge compendiums

Why in News The 12th BRICS Environment Ministers Meeting was held in New Delhi on 18 August under India's BRICS 2026 Chairship. The previous edition had only the meeting announcement; this note keeps only the outcome. **Key Exam Facts:** - BRICS retains the acronym formed from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, although the grouping has since expanded. - Four collaborative knowledge compendiums were unveiled, including work on sustainable lifestyles. - The BRICS Environment Working Group (EWG) was established in 2015; the Contact Group on Climate Change and Sustainable Development was established in 2024. - India's 2026 BRICS Chairship theme is "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability". **Connection / Background:** The meeting outcome links environment diplomacy with practical knowledge-sharing rather than a new binding treaty. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** UPDATE: the new fact is the meeting outcome and compendiums. The meeting date/venue had already been announced earlier. Primary source: Open authoritative source

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-19

37. India-Japan bilateral trade reaches about US\$27.5 billion in financial year 2025-26

Why in News A late 18 August official release highlighted the scale of India-Japan trade and investment ties. **Key Exam Facts:** - Bilateral trade in financial year 2025-26 was about US\$27.5 billion. - Japan was identified as India's fifth-largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). - More than 1,400 Japanese companies operate in India, with 11 Japanese industrial townships across 8 states. - At the July 2026 India-Japan Annual Summit, Japan set a target of investing 10 trillion yen in India over the next decade. **Connection / Background:** Remember the chain: Japan -> FDI -> industrial townships -> long-term investment target. This is more useful than memorising the trade number alone. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** 10 trillion yen is an investment target over the next decade; it is not the annual bilateral trade figure. Primary source: Open authoritative source TRADE & ECONOMY 10. Official trade-agreement review puts financial year 2025-26 combined exports at record US\$863.1 billion

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38. Official trade-agreement review puts financial year 2025-26 combined exports at record US\$863.1 billion

Why in News A Press Information Bureau backgrounder reviewed India's active trade agreements and released consolidated export figures. **Key Exam Facts:** - Combined merchandise and services exports in financial year 2025-26 reached a record US\$863.1 billion. - Merchandise exports were US\$441.8 billion. - For April-June 2026, combined exports were estimated at US\$232.73 billion, up 11.37% year-on-year. - The India-United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) has been in force since 1 May 2022; the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) since 29 December 2022. **Connection / Background:** Trade agreements affect market access, but the exam can ask either the agreement name/effective date or the latest export totals. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** US\$863.1 billion is merchandise plus services; US\$441.8 billion is merchandise alone. Primary source: Open authoritative source

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39. National Sports Awards 2025 announced: 17 Arjuna awardees; Justice Arun Kumar Mishra chaired selection committee

Why in News The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced the National Sports Awards 2025 on 18 August 2026. **Key Exam Facts:** - The selection committee was chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Arun Kumar Mishra. - Seventeen sportspersons were named for the Arjuna Award, including Tejaswin Shankar, Treasa Jolly, Pullela Gayatri Gopichand, Vidit Santosh Gujarathi, Divya Jitendra Deshmukh, Lalremisiami and Rajkumar Pal. - I. Arumainayagam (football) was named for the Arjuna Award (Lifetime). - The Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar went to the Army Paralympic Node, Pune. **Connection / Background:** Awards questions often test award-recipient-sport mapping rather than only the total count. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** The award year is 2025, while the announcement was made in August 2026. Primary source: Open authoritative source SPORTS - CRICKET 12. International Cricket Council (ICC) July 2026 Players of the Month: Justin Greaves and Hayley Matthews

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40. International Cricket Council (ICC) July 2026 Players of the Month: Justin Greaves and Hayley Matthews

Why in News The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced its men's and women's Player of the Month awards for July 2026. **Key Exam Facts:** - West Indies all-rounder Justin Greaves won the men's award for the first time. - West Indies captain Hayley Matthews won the women's award for a record fifth time. - It was the first time West Indies players won both awards in the same month and only the fifth same-country double since the awards began in January 2021. **Connection / Background:** Monthly award questions are easy marks when remembered as country pairs: July 2026 = West Indies double. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Greaves = maiden award; Matthews = fifth award. Primary source: Open authoritative source

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-19

41. Digital Bharat Nidhi signs amended BharatNet implementation agreement for Chhattisgarh

Why in News An agreement was signed for implementation of the Amended BharatNet Programme in Chhattisgarh. **Key Exam Facts:** - The parties include Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of Chhattisgarh, Chhattisgarh State BharatNet Infrastructure Limited (CSBIL), Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Chhattisgarh Infotech Promotion Society (CHIPS). - BharatNet is the government's rural broadband infrastructure programme, built around connecting Gram Panchayats and extending last-mile digital access. **Connection / Background:** Link Digital Bharat Nidhi with telecom universal-service funding and BharatNet with rural broadband infrastructure. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Digital Bharat Nidhi is not a bank or a digital-payment scheme; it belongs to the telecom connectivity ecosystem. Primary source: Open authoritative source COMPETITION & CORPORATE 14. Competition Commission of India (CCI) clears Tata Steel acquisition of 23% in TM International Logistics

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42. Competition Commission of India (CCI) clears Tata Steel acquisition of 23% in TM International Logistics

Why in News The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved Tata Steel Limited's proposed acquisition in a logistics company. **Key Exam Facts:** - Tata Steel Limited may acquire 23% equity shareholding in TM International Logistics Limited. - The approval is a competition-law combination clearance, not a banking-regulator approval. **Connection / Background:** Large acquisitions may require competition review because the regulator examines their effect on market competition. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Regulator = Competition Commission of India, not Securities and Exchange Board of India or Reserve Bank of India. Primary source: Open authoritative source

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43. Competition Commission of India clears General Atlantic Singapore ACK to raise Acko Technology stake above 25%

Why in News The Competition Commission of India approved acquisition of additional shareholding in Acko Technology & Services Private Limited. **Key Exam Facts:** - The acquirer is General Atlantic Singapore ACK Pte. Ltd. - The fully diluted holding will cross the 25% threshold pursuant to Acko Technology's rights issue. **Connection / Background:** Acko sits in the digital insurance/insurtech ecosystem, but this specific event is a competition-law combination approval. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** The fact to retain is "crossing 25%"; the release does not say 25% is the final exact holding. Primary source: Open authoritative source COMPETITION & INSURANCE 16. Competition Commission of India approves Prudential Corporation Holdings investment in Bharti Life Insurance

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44. Competition Commission of India approves Prudential Corporation Holdings investment in Bharti Life Insurance

Why in News The Competition Commission of India approved acquisition of certain equity shareholding in Bharti Life Insurance Company Limited. **Key Exam Facts:** - Acquirer: Prudential Corporation Holdings Limited. - Target: Bharti Life Insurance Company Limited. - The announcement is a Competition Commission of India combination clearance; sectoral insurance regulation remains separate. **Connection / Background:** This is a useful regulator-map question: competition approvals come from CCI, while insurance regulation is handled by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Do not infer a specific stake percentage when the official release says only "certain equity shareholding". Primary source: Open authoritative source

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-19

45. National Cadet Corps (NCC) launches all-girls high-altitude trek "Aparajita - Parang La 2026"

Why in News Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off the National Cadet Corps (NCC) all-India girls high-altitude long trek. **Key Exam Facts:** - Twenty-eight girl cadets will undertake a 250-km, 30-day expedition. - The route crosses Parang La Pass at 5,578 metres (18,300 feet), linking Spiti Valley in Himachal Pradesh with the Changthang region of Ladakh. - The expedition is led by women officers from the three Services. **Connection / Background:** The story connects the NCC with youth development, adventure training and women-led high-altitude expeditions. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Parang La = 5,578 metres; the trek length = 250 km. These are different measures. Primary source: Open authoritative source SPORTS - HOCKEY UPDATE 18. India beat South Africa 6-1 for first win at Women's Hockey World Cup 2026

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46. India beat South Africa 6-1 for first win at Women's Hockey World Cup 2026

Why in News India recorded its first win of the tournament in its second Pool D match on 18 August, beating South Africa 6-1. **Key Exam Facts:** - Result: India 6-1 South Africa. - It followed India's 2-2 opening draw against China, which had already been covered in the previous edition. **Connection / Background:** Tournament questions often test sequence: opening draw vs China -> first win vs South Africa. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** UPDATE only: 6-1 is the new result. The 2-2 China result is background and should not be treated as a fresh story. Primary source: Open authoritative source

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-19

47. India-hosted 8th BRICS Youth Energy Summit added as overnight official confirmation

Why in News The Ministry of Power published the official confirmation on 19 August for the Eighth BRICS Youth Energy Summit 2026, held virtually during the 17-18 August window. It is included as a delayed- confirmation carry-over, not as a new 19 August event. **Key Exam Facts:** - India hosted the eighth edition under its BRICS 2026 Chairship. - The summit was held virtually and placed youth participation at the centre of BRICS energy cooperation. - It formed part of the BRICS energy-cooperation calendar under India's chairship. **Connection / Background:** This is exactly the type of overnight confirmation that can otherwise be missed by a strict midnight cutoff. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Date logic matters: event window = 17-18 August; official confirmation surfaced on 19 August. Treat it as carry-over confirmation, not duplicate current-day news. Primary source: Open authoritative source

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-19

48. Connected Current Affairs Notes RBI MPC minutes: repo held at 5.25%; neutral stance retained

Why in News: The Reserve Bank of India published the minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee meeting held from 3-5 August 2026. **Key Exam Facts:** - Policy repo rate remained unchanged at 5.25%. - All six members supported maintaining the rate and the neutral stance. - Governor Sanjay Malhotra stressed the need for greater clarity on the inflation path before any policy-rate recalibration. - The next MPC meeting is scheduled for 5-7 October 2026. **Connection / Background:** Under Section 45ZL of the RBI Act, 1934, the RBI publishes MPC minutes on the 14th day after the meeting. The minutes contain the resolution, each member's vote and individual statements. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Do not confuse the policy announcement date (5 August) with the minutes-release date (19 August).

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-20

49. Cabinet clears four railway multitracking projects worth about Rs 9,450 crore

Why in News: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved four railway multitracking projects across West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. **Key Exam Facts:** - Total estimated cost: about Rs 9,450 crore. - Network addition: about 410 km across eight districts. - The projects are expected to add freight capacity of about 76 million tonnes per annum. - They are aligned with integrated planning under PM Gati Shakti. **Connection / Background:** Multitracking raises line capacity on existing corridors and supports freight movement, industrial connectivity and passenger operations. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** 410 km is the network addition; Rs 9,450 crore is the combined project cost.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-20

50. NH-22: Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa section to be four-laned on HAM

Why in News: The CCEA approved upgradation of the Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa section of NH-22 in Bihar. **Key Exam Facts:** - Project length: 82.578 km. - Capital cost: Rs 3,590.73 crore. - Implementation model: Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM). - The corridor improves connectivity towards the India-Nepal border region. **Connection / Background:** Under HAM, part of the project cost is paid by the government during construction while the balance is linked to annuity payments over the concession period. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** HAM is not the same as a fully toll-funded BOT project.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-20

51. Delhi IGI Airport scales up international-domestic transshipment cargo operations

Why in News: Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu flagged off the scaled-up phase of transshipment cargo operations at Delhi International Airport. **Key Exam Facts:** - The reform followed a successful proof of concept. - The scaled-up phase added two international and four domestic destinations. - Operations are centred at DIAL's Transshipment Excellence Centre at IGI Airport Terminal 2. - The objective is faster cargo transfer, lower dwell time and stronger hub-and-spoke connectivity. **Connection / Background:** Transshipment means cargo is transferred through an intermediate hub without that hub being the final destination. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** This reform concerns air-cargo routing and handling, not passenger transit rules.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-20

52. Primary / official source: Open source ■ 2nd BRICS 2026 Tourism Working Group Meeting held in Jaipur

Why in News: India hosted the second BRICS Tourism Working Group meeting in Jaipur under its 2026 BRICS Chairship. **Key Exam Facts:** - Meeting dates: 19-20 August 2026. - It was chaired by Tourism Secretary Bhuvnesh Kumar. - Priority areas include AI and Tourism, sustainable/responsible tourism, tourism skilling, and seamless travel facilitation. - The BRICS Tourism Ministers' Meeting is scheduled for 21-22 August 2026 in Jaipur. **Connection / Background:** India's BRICS 2026 theme is "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Working Group meeting: 19-20 August; Ministers' Meeting: 21-22 August.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-20

53. BRICS Youth Council Meeting and Youth Summit open in Gandhinagar

Why in News: India's BRICS Chairship hosted the BRICS Youth Council Meeting and BRICS Youth Summit in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. **Key Exam Facts:** - Youth Council Meeting and Youth Summit: 19-20 August 2026, Gandhinagar. - BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting: 22 August 2026, Visakhapatnam. - Youth cooperation is a key pillar of India's BRICS 2026 people-centric agenda. - The process builds on the BRICS Youth Coordination Meeting held virtually on 25 March 2026. **Connection / Background:** India's 2026 BRICS youth programme links youth with innovation, entrepreneurship, volunteering and sustainable development. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Gandhinagar hosts the Council/Summit; Visakhapatnam hosts the Youth Ministers' Meeting.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-20

54. CAQM approves phased shift towards cleaner Light Goods Vehicles in Delhi-NCR

Why in News: The Commission for Air Quality Management approved measures for cleaner light- goods transport and stronger dust control in Delhi-NCR. **Key Exam Facts:** - The decision came through the 29th Full Commission meeting. - The framework targets a phased transition of Light Goods Vehicles towards cleaner fuels/ technologies. - Dust-control requirements for stone-crushing units were also strengthened. - CAQM is a statutory body for air-quality management in NCR and adjoining areas. **Connection / Background:** CAQM coordinates cross-state air-pollution action because the National Capital Region's airshed cuts across administrative boundaries. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** CAQM is not the Central Pollution Control Board; they are separate institutions.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-20

55. SCIENCE, FINANCE & INNOVATION Rs 1 lakh crore RDI Scheme: government reiterates conflict-of- interest safeguards

Why in News: The Science & Technology Ministry highlighted safeguards around selection and conflict-of-interest management under the Research, Development and Innovation Scheme. **Key Exam Facts:** - Total RDI Scheme outlay: Rs 1 lakh crore. - The scheme is intended to crowd in private-sector R&D; in strategic and sunrise sectors. - Department of Science & Technology is the nodal department. - The update emphasised merit-based evaluation, transparency and protection of public and private capital. **Connection / Background:** The RDI framework uses long-term financing support to strengthen commercial R&D;, especially where technology risk and gestation periods are high. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** The Rs 1 lakh crore figure is the scheme outlay, not a one-year grant to a single institution.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-20

56. RK-251: "smart" cancer drug designed to activate mainly inside cancer cells

Why in News: A science update highlighted RK-251, an experimental "smart" cancer drug designed to become active primarily inside cancer cells. **Key Exam Facts:** - The approach aims to reduce damage to healthy tissue compared with non-selective chemotherapy. - The drug strategy relies on tumour-specific biological conditions to trigger activity. - The work is research-stage and should not be treated as an approved replacement for chemotherapy. - The update illustrates the broader trend towards precision and targeted cancer therapeutics. **Connection / Background:** Targeted therapies seek to exploit molecular or cellular features that are more prominent in cancer cells than in normal tissue. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** "Could replace chemotherapy" describes research potential; it does not mean chemotherapy has already been replaced in clinical practice.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-20

57. DRI seizes 54 carved ivory artefacts in Lucknow wildlife- trafficking operation

Why in News: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence busted a suspected wildlife-trafficking syndicate in Lucknow. **Key Exam Facts:** - 54 intricately carved ivory artefacts were recovered. - Four persons linked to the syndicate were intercepted. - Ivory trade is regulated/prohibited under wildlife-protection and international conservation frameworks. - DRI is the apex intelligence and investigative agency for anti-smuggling matters under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs. **Connection / Background:** Wildlife trafficking can involve both customs offences and offences under wildlife-protection law. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** DRI functions under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-20

58. DRI recovers around 56 kg methamphetamine concealed with maize at Nava Sheva Port

Why in News: DRI foiled an attempt to export methamphetamine from India to Saudi Arabia by concealing it in a maize consignment. **Key Exam Facts:** - Around 56 kg of methamphetamine in powder form was recovered. - The operation was conducted during 16-17 August 2026 at Nava Sheva Port. - Two persons were arrested, including an exporter and a freight-forwarding-linked accused. - The case concerns transnational trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. **Connection / Background:** Methamphetamine is a psychotropic stimulant controlled under narcotics law; maritime cargo routes are a key anti-smuggling enforcement domain. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Nava Sheva is associated with Jawaharlal Nehru Port near Mumbai.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-20

59. Primary / official source: Open source ■ India's Makhana sector: Bihar remains the production hub

Why in News: A government backgrounder highlighted the growth of Makhana from a traditional crop to a higher-value food and export product. **Key Exam Facts:** - Bihar contributes roughly 90% of India's Makhana production. - Mithila Makhana has a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. - Key production districts include Madhubani, Darbhanga, Sitamarhi, Saharsa, Katihar and Purnea, among others. - Policy focus includes better production technology, post-harvest management, processing, branding and exports. **Connection / Background:** A National Makhana Board has been launched in Bihar to support the sector across production, value addition and market development. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Mithila Makhana is the GI-linked identity; "Makhana" is the broader crop/product category.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-20

60. India to host 5th Coast Guard Global Summit in New Delhi in February 2027

Why in News: India announced that the fifth Coast Guard Global Summit will be hosted in New Delhi in February 2027. **Key Exam Facts:** - The summit will coincide with the Golden Jubilee (Swarnim Jayanti) of the Indian Coast Guard. - A Working Level Meeting for the fifth summit was held in hybrid mode on 19 August 2026. - The fourth Coast Guard Global Summit was held in Rome in September 2025. - The CGGS supports international cooperation on maritime safety, security, law enforcement and information sharing. **Connection / Background:** The first Coast Guard Global Summit was convened in 2017 by the Japan Coast Guard and the Nippon Foundation. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** 2027 host city in the latest release: New Delhi.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-20

61. India-Malaysia hold 2nd Joint Working Group on Public Administration and Governance Reforms

Why in News: India and Malaysia held their second Joint Working Group meeting on cooperation in public administration and governance reforms. **Key Exam Facts:** - The mechanism focuses on administrative reform, capacity building and exchange of good governance practices. - India's side is anchored in the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances. - Such bilateral JWG mechanisms support institutional learning and civil-service cooperation. - The 19 August meeting marked the second round of this structured dialogue. **Connection / Background:** Governance-reform cooperation often covers digital governance, citizen-centric service delivery, capacity building and administrative innovation. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** This is a bilateral governance mechanism, not a BRICS or ASEAN-wide body.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-20

62. MMDR Amendment Act, 2026 updates the mineral-regulation framework

Why in News: A government explainer highlighted the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2026. **Key Exam Facts:** - The parent MMDR Act dates to 1957. - The 2026 amendment addresses regulation of mineral-bearing land and state levies on mineral rights/mineral-bearing land. - The central framework seeks greater uniformity and predictability in mineral taxation and regulation. - Mining regulation remains a high-value intersection of federalism, resource security and industrial policy. **Connection / Background:** Mineral policy matters for steel, power, infrastructure and strategic supply chains because royalty, taxation and access rules affect input costs and investment. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** MMDR regulates mines/minerals; it should not be confused with environmental-clearance law.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-20

63. "Friends of MY Bharat" launched as a global youth-connect module

Why in News: The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports introduced "Friends of MY Bharat" to connect Indian-origin youth living abroad with India's youth and volunteering ecosystem. **Key Exam Facts:** - Global Indian youth can register as a "Friend of MY Bharat". - The module showcases volunteering opportunities in education, environment, health awareness, disaster relief and cultural preservation. - A "Know Your India" section covers culture, heritage, history, tourism and prominent leaders. - MY Bharat was launched on 31 October 2023. **Connection / Background:** Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) is a national youth platform built around service, duty, participation, experiential learning and leadership. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Friends of MY Bharat is a module under MY Bharat, not a separate ministry or statutory body.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-20

64. Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027 begins with Viksit Bharat Quiz

Why in News: The 2027 edition of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue began with a nationwide Viksit Bharat Quiz. **Key Exam Facts:** - The process is designed as a merit-based youth leadership and idea-development journey. - Selected participants can progress towards the National Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue in New Delhi. - The programme provides a platform for youth to present ideas linked to nation-building and Viksit Bharat. - The quiz is the entry stage, not the final dialogue itself. **Connection / Background:** VBYLD uses competitive stages to identify and mentor young leaders, combining knowledge testing with idea presentation and dialogue. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Remember the sequence: quiz first; national dialogue later.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-20

65. Primary / official source: Open source ■ Defence Secretary concludes two-day visit to Armenia

Why in News: Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh concluded a visit to Armenia covering 17-18 August 2026. **Key Exam Facts:** - The visit included bilateral meetings with Armenian defence leadership. - Discussions focused on strengthening defence cooperation and institutional engagement. - Armenia is located in the South Caucasus region. - Defence diplomacy includes government-to-government dialogue, training, capability cooperation and industrial engagement. **Connection / Background:** India-Armenia defence engagement has gained importance within India's wider ties with the South Caucasus. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Armenia's capital is Yerevan; it is not a Central Asian country.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-20

66. 65th Subroto Cup International Football Tournament opens in New Delhi

Why in News: The 65th edition of the Subroto Cup International Football Tournament opened at Dr B.R. Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi. **Key Exam Facts:** - The tournament is one of India's prominent school football competitions. - The 65th edition commenced on 18 August 2026, with the official update released on 19 August. - The competition is associated with youth and school-level football. - It is named after Air Marshal Subroto Mukerjee. **Connection / Background:** The Subroto Cup has long served as a grassroots platform for school football talent. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Subroto Cup is a school football tournament, not a professional club league.

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-20

67. international affairs, science, defence, sports and important days - connected for retention and exam use. RBI Central Board: S. Somanath appointed; Anand Mahindra reappointed

Why in News: The Government appointed Somanath Sreedhara Panicker, former Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation, as a part-time non-official Director on the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and reappointed Anand Gopal Mahindra in the same category. **Key Exam Facts:** - Both appointments are for four years with effect from 20 August 2026. - The RBI Central Board includes official directors and non-official directors appointed/nominated under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. - This is a governance appointment to the central bank; it is not an appointment to the six-member Monetary Policy Committee. **Connection / Background:** For exams, separate the RBI Central Board (institutional governance) from the Monetary Policy Committee (policy-rate decisions). **Exam Trap / What Changed:** S. Somanath is the former Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman; Anand Mahindra is Chairman of Mahindra Group. RBI - S. Somanath appointment ■ RBI - Anand Mahindra reappointment ■ BANKING | LIQUIDITY RBI absorbs surplus liquidity through two overnight VRRR auctions

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

68. RBI absorbs surplus liquidity through two overnight VRRR auctions

Why in News: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted two one-day Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) auctions on 20 August under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF), signalling active fine-tuning of surplus system liquidity. **Key Exam Facts:** - First auction: notified amount Rs 1,00,000 crore; bids received Rs 1,36,732 crore; accepted Rs 1,00,032 crore. - Second auction: notified amount Rs 50,000 crore; bids received Rs 53,938 crore; accepted Rs 50,013 crore. - The cut-off rate and weighted average rate in both auctions were 5.24%. - A VRRR absorbs liquidity from banks; a Variable Rate Repo injects liquidity. **Connection / Background:** LAF operations help keep overnight money-market rates aligned with the policy rate corridor without changing the policy repo rate itself. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** VRRR is liquidity absorption, not a repo-rate cut. The 5.24% auction rate is not the policy repo rate. RBI - first VRRR result ■ RBI - second VRRR result ■ Website | Telegram | Instagram | YouTube | App CAPITAL MARKETS | SEBI SEBI permits digitally signed Power of Attorney from Foreign Portfolio Investors

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

69. SEBI permits digitally signed Power of Attorney from Foreign Portfolio Investors

Why in News: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) allowed Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to submit digitally signed Power of Attorney (PoA) documents, easing documentary requirements for overseas investors. **Key Exam Facts:** - The circular is dated 20 August 2026. - A digitally signed PoA can now be accepted without the earlier physical notarisation/apostillisation/ consularisation chain, subject to the specified framework. - The change is aimed at ease of doing investment and faster onboarding of FPIs. **Connection / Background:** FPI onboarding involves registration, Know Your Client checks, custodial arrangements and authorised signatories. Digital document acceptance reduces friction without removing regulatory due diligence. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** The reform does not abolish FPI registration or Know Your Client requirements; it changes how a PoA may be authenticated/submitted. SEBI circular ■ CAPITAL MARKETS | KYC SEBI enables KRA data sharing with IFSCA-regulated entities

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

70. SEBI circular ■ SEBI enables KRA data sharing with IFSCA-regulated entities

Why in News: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) enabled Know Your Client (KYC) Registration Agencies (KRAs) to share KYC information with entities regulated by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA). **Key Exam Facts:** - Circular date: 20 August 2026; it took effect immediately. - IFSCA was specified for access under Regulation 16A(1) of the SEBI KRA Regulations. - The objective is interoperability of KYC records and reduced duplication for clients accessing financial services in International Financial Services Centres. **Connection / Background:** KRAs centralise KYC records for the securities market; IFSCA is the unified regulator for financial products, services and institutions in India's International Financial Services Centres. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** KRA is a KYC-record infrastructure entity; it is not a credit-rating agency. SEBI circular ■ Website | Telegram | Instagram | YouTube | App CAPITAL MARKETS | DATA SEBI studies: 87.7% of individual equity-derivatives traders lost money in FY26

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

71. SEBI studies: 87.7% of individual equity-derivatives traders lost money in FY26

Why in News: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) released studies on retail participation, trading behaviour and profitability in the equity derivatives segment for financial year 2025-26. **Key Exam Facts:** - Active individual traders declined by about 20%, from 98.1 lakh in FY25 to 78.6 lakh in FY26. - About 87.7% of individual traders incurred losses in FY26. - Aggregate individual losses were about Rs 91,685 crore; options accounted for roughly 92% of these losses. **Connection / Background:** Equity derivatives include futures and options. SEBI uses such studies to assess investor outcomes and market conduct; the findings are different from exchange turnover data. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** 87.7% is the share of individual traders who lost money, not a market return or a margin requirement. SEBI press release ■ **INSURANCE** | IRDAI IRDAI action: Acko and Niva Bupa barred from opening new places of business for six months

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

72. IRDAI action: Acko and Niva Bupa barred from opening new places of business for six months

Why in News: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) disclosed enforcement orders against Acko General Insurance and Niva Bupa Health Insurance for exceeding prescribed Expenses of Management (EoM) limits. **Key Exam Facts:** - Both insurers were directed not to open any new place of business for six months from the respective order date. - The orders relate to non-compliance with EoM limits for financial year 2024-25 under the IRDAI (Expenses of Management, including Commission, of Insurers) Regulations, 2024. - Acko's excess over allowable EoM was reported at Rs 334.78 crore; Niva Bupa's at Rs 248.37 crore. **Connection / Background:** EoM rules discipline operating and distribution costs, including commissions, so that insurer growth does not bypass prudential expense limits. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** This is a restriction on opening new places of business; it is not cancellation of the insurers' registration or a ban on serving existing policyholders. IRDAI - warnings and penalties ■ Website | Telegram | Instagram | YouTube | App **ECONOMY** | **CORE INDUSTRIES** July 2026 core-industry growth at 5.4%; iron ore leads the new nine-industry series

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

73. July 2026 core-industry growth at 5.4%; iron ore leads the new nine-industry series

Why in News: The Index of Core Industries (ICI) grew 5.4% year-on-year in July 2026, compared with the final 6.0% growth in June. **Key Exam Facts:** - Cumulative growth for April-July 2026 was 4.3%, against 1.5% in the same period a year earlier. - Iron ore grew 29.5%, cement 13.1%, electricity 9.0%, coal 7.6%, steel 2.9% and refinery products 2.7%. - Natural gas, crude oil and fertilisers contracted. - The revised ICI uses base year 2022-23 and has nine core industries after adding iron ore. **Connection / Background:** The ICI is released by the Office of the Economic Adviser under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and feeds into industrial-activity analysis ahead of the Index of Industrial Production. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Do not use the old eight-core-industry count for the revised 2022-23 series: iron ore is now the ninth core industry. Office of Economic Adviser - ICI data ■ PIB - new ICI series background ■ **TRADE POLICY** | DGFT Duty-free raw-sugar import quota of 10 lakh tonnes allowed till 31 October

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

74. Duty-free raw-sugar import quota of 10 lakh tonnes allowed till 31 October

Why in News: The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) notified a Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) for duty-free import of raw sugar to augment domestic availability. **Key Exam Facts:** - Notification No. 31/2026-27 permits 10 lakh metric tonnes of raw sugar under the TRQ. - The window is available up to 31 October 2026, subject to the notified conditions. - The measure concerns raw sugar; it does not mean a blanket duty waiver on all refined/white sugar imports. **Connection / Background:** A TRQ allows a specified quantity to be imported at a lower or zero tariff; imports beyond the quota remain subject to the normal tariff regime. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** TRQ is quantity-linked tariff relief, not an unrestricted free-import policy. DGFT notifications ■ Website | Telegram | Instagram | YouTube | App **FOREIGN TRADE** | **INR SETTLEMENT** FTP amended: eligible export receipts in Indian Rupees get parity with foreign-currency earnings

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

75. FTP amended: eligible export receipts in Indian Rupees get parity with foreign-currency earnings

Why in News: The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) amended the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 to broaden recognition of export contracts and receipts settled in Indian Rupees (INR). **Key Exam Facts:** - Notification No. 30/2026-27 amended paragraphs 2.52 and 2.53 of FTP 2023 with immediate effect. - For non-Asian Clearing Union transactions, export contracts/invoices may be denominated in foreign currency or INR and proceeds may be realised in either. - INR receipts for exports to countries other than Nepal and Bhutan through approved banking channels are eligible for FTP benefits/incentives and export-obligation fulfilment at par with foreign-currency earnings, subject to the specified exceptions. **Connection / Background:** The change aligns trade-policy benefits with permitted cross-border rupee settlement under the foreign-exchange framework and supports greater use of INR in international trade. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** This is not a common BRICS currency and it does not make every cross-border rupee transaction automatically eligible; banking/FEMA and country-specific conditions still apply. DGFT notifications ■ GOVERNMENT SCHEME | HOUSING Over 11.18 lakh PMAY-G houses approved for Bihar; allocation about Rs 13,427 crore

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

76. Over 11.18 lakh PMAY-G houses approved for Bihar; allocation about Rs 13,427 crore

Why in News: A major rural-housing approval was announced for Bihar under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G). **Key Exam Facts:** - Approved houses: 11,18,937 for eligible rural families. - The associated allocation announced was about Rs 13,427 crore. - PMAY-G is the Union rural-housing scheme aimed at providing pucca houses with basic amenities to eligible rural households. **Connection / Background:** PMAY-G is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development and uses beneficiary identification, geo-tagging and direct benefit transfer-linked monitoring. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** PMAY-G is rural housing; Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban is a separate urban-housing programme. PMAY-G official portal ■ Ministry of Rural Development ■ Website | Telegram | Instagram | YouTube | App POLITY | JUDICIARY Cabinet enables sitting of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court bench in Ladakh

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

77. Cabinet enables sitting of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court bench in Ladakh

Why in News: The Union Cabinet approved a step enabling a bench/sitting of the common High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in the Union Territory of Ladakh, improving local access to justice. **Key Exam Facts:** - The High Court serves both the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh. - The decision addresses the distance and access burden for litigants in Ladakh. - Administrative/notification follow-through is distinct from creating a separate High Court. **Connection / Background:** Under the post-2019 reorganisation framework, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh share a common High Court. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** The decision is about a bench/sitting in Ladakh, not the creation of an independent Ladakh High Court. Ministry of Home Affairs ■ PIB ■ DIGITAL ECONOMY | DPI PhonePe PulsePro data to support PM GatiShakti planning through MeitY MoU

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

78. PhonePe PulsePro data to support PM GatiShakti planning through MeitY MoU

Why in News: PhonePe signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to integrate aggregated and anonymised PulsePro insights with the Prime Minister GatiShakti National Master Plan ecosystem. **Key Exam Facts:** - The integration is to be coordinated with the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N). - PulsePro provides hyperlocal, near-real-time market and transaction signals in aggregated form. - The intended use includes infrastructure planning, economic analysis and urban/rural development. **Connection / Background:** PM GatiShakti is a geospatial digital platform for integrated infrastructure planning; adding aggregated private-sector demand signals can improve evidence-based planning. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** The MoU concerns aggregated/anonymised analytics, not sharing individual users' payment histories with planners. PhonePe press release ■ Website | Telegram | Instagram | YouTube | App STARTUPS | INDUSTRY DPIIT expands startup support through separate partnerships with PhonePe and Shell India

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

79. DPIIT expands startup support through separate partnerships with PhonePe and Shell India

Why in News: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) announced separate industry partnerships with PhonePe and Shell India to support DPIIT-recognised startups. **Key Exam Facts:** - The partnerships focus on access to technology/digital infrastructure, mentorship, market opportunities and industry networks. - They are ecosystem-support agreements rather than direct government equity investments in startups. - DPIIT administers the Startup India recognition framework under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. **Connection / Background:** Startup India recognition can connect eligible firms to policy incentives and ecosystem support; corporate MoUs add mentorship and market-access channels. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Do not confuse the DPIIT-PhonePe startup MoU with the separate PhonePe PulsePro-MeitY data-planning MoU. DPIIT / Ministry of Commerce & Industry ■ PIB ■ DIGITAL IDENTITY | UIDAI Aadhaar App crosses 5 crore downloads; update usage rises sharply

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

80. Aadhaar App crosses 5 crore downloads; update usage rises sharply

Why in News: The Aadhaar App crossed 50 million (5 crore) downloads, marking another adoption milestone for mobile-based digital identity services. **Key Exam Facts:** - More than 60 lakh mobile-number updates, over 15 lakh address updates and more than 23 lakh email updates were reported through the app. - Services include mobile/address/email update, biometric lock/unlock and e-Aadhaar download. - More than 200 Offline Verification Seeking Entities (OVSEs) had been onboarded for consent-based offline identity verification. **Connection / Background:** The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is the statutory authority for Aadhaar; offline verification can use QR/digitally signed data without exposing unnecessary identity fields. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** App downloads are not the same as the number of Aadhaar holders or the number of Aadhaar authentications. UIDAI ■ MeitY ■ Website | Telegram | Instagram | YouTube | App INTERNATIONAL | ENERGY India-Mauritius deepen energy ties with long-term petroleum- supply arrangement

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

81. India-Mauritius deepen energy ties with long-term petroleum- supply arrangement

Why in News: India and Mauritius signed a Government-to-Government oil-and-gas cooperation Memorandum of Understanding and a long-term petroleum-products supply arrangement during the visit of India's Petroleum Minister. **Key Exam Facts:** - The supply arrangement covers petrol, diesel and aviation fuel. - Indian Oil is the Indian public-sector company linked to the sales-and-purchase arrangement. - The agreements were concluded in Port Louis on 20 August 2026. **Connection / Background:** Mauritius depends heavily on imported refined petroleum products; India has longstanding energy and commercial links with the island nation in the Indian Ocean. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** The arrangement covers refined products; it is not a crude-oil import deal into India. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas ■ IndianOil ■ DEFENCE | INDIA-JAPAN India and Japan sign Maritime Security Cooperation arrangement

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

82. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas ■ IndianOil ■ India and Japan sign Maritime Security Cooperation arrangement

Why in News: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Japan's Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi held talks in New Delhi and signed an arrangement to deepen maritime security cooperation. **Key Exam Facts:** - The framework covers Maritime Domain Awareness, Search and Rescue, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, ship visits/exercises and exchanges. - The two sides also discussed logistics, ports, maintenance/repair and opportunities in shipbuilding/ design. - A senior-official working mechanism is expected to support implementation. **Connection / Background:** India-Japan defence ties sit within their Special Strategic and Global Partnership and a shared focus on a free and open Indo-Pacific. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** This is a defence-maritime cooperation arrangement, not a mutual- defence treaty. Japan Ministry of Defense - joint statement ■ Ministry of Defence India ■ Website | Telegram | Instagram | YouTube | App CENTRE-STATE | ZONAL COUNCIL 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting focuses on inter-state coordination and water disputes

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

83. 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting focuses on inter-state coordination and water disputes

Why in News: The 31st meeting of the Southern Zonal Council was held near Mahabalipuram/Kovalam in Tamil Nadu under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. **Key Exam Facts:** - The Southern Zonal Council covers Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, along with Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep. - States agreed to pursue faster resolution of pending water disputes through dialogue and coordination with the Union government. - Zonal Councils are statutory bodies created under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956. **Connection / Background:** Zonal Councils are cooperative-federalism forums for inter-state issues such as boundaries, transport, security, infrastructure and water. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** The Southern Zonal Council is not a constitutional body and should not be confused with the Inter-State Council under Article 263. Ministry of Home Affairs - Zonal Councils ■ PIB ■ BLUE ECONOMY | SCIENCE CMLRE releases national assessment of deep-sea and distant- water fishery resources

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

84. CMLRE releases national assessment of deep-sea and distant- water fishery resources

Why in News: The Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, released a national report on deep-sea and distant-water fishery resources as part of its Silver Jubilee observance. **Key Exam Facts:** - The report draws on more than 400 oceanographic cruises under the Marine Living Resources Programme. - The Fisheries Oceanographic Research Vessel (FORV) Sagar Sampada has been a key survey platform. - Coverage spans the Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, Lakshadweep, Andaman Sea and Southern Ocean, supporting a science-based Blue Economy roadmap. **Connection / Background:** Deep-sea resource assessment links fisheries, biodiversity, export potential and ecological sustainability; CMLRE is a specialised Ministry of Earth Sciences institution based in Kochi. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** CMLRE is under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, not the Department of Fisheries. CMLRE ■ Ministry of Earth Sciences ■ Website | Telegram | Instagram | YouTube | App BRICS | DIGITAL | UPDATE UPDATE: Digital BRICS Forum & Expo held in Pune; cyber trust and resilient ICT ecosystems in focus

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

85. UPDATE: Digital BRICS Forum & Expo held in Pune; cyber trust and resilient ICT ecosystems in focus

Why in News: The Digital BRICS Forum and Expo was held on 20 August as the outcome-stage event within the ongoing BRICS Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Track in Pune. **Key Exam Facts:** - The forum brought together government, industry, academia, startups and research institutions. - Panel themes included Cybersecurity and Trustworthy ICT, Child Online Protection, and Sustainable and Resilient Digital and ICT Ecosystems. - The 12th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting was scheduled for 21 August as the next high- level stage. **Connection / Background:** This is a material update to the previously announced BRICS ICT schedule: the new fact is the forum's actual holding and thematic outcome on 20 August. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Do not republish the old five-day schedule as fresh news; remember Digital Forum = 20 August, Ministers Meeting = 21 August. PIB - BRICS ICT Track ■ BRICS | SCIENCE 16th BRICS STI Senior Officials Meeting concludes in Chennai

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

86. PIB - BRICS ICT Track ■ 16th BRICS STI Senior Officials Meeting concludes in Chennai

Why in News: The 16th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Senior Officials Meeting concluded in Chennai on 20 August, preparing the agenda for the ministerial-level meeting. **Key Exam Facts:** - The senior-official deliberations were held on 19-20 August in Chennai. - The meeting reviewed BRICS STI working groups, research partnerships, innovation networks and proposed cooperation priorities. - It preceded the 14th BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting. **Connection / Background:** BRICS cooperation extends well beyond finance into research, technology, health, education and innovation. The Department of Science and Technology coordinates India's STI engagement. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Senior Officials Meeting and Ministerial Meeting are separate levels; do not mix the 16th SOM with the 14th Ministerial Meeting. Department of Science and Technology ■ BRICS India 2026 ■ Website | Telegram | Instagram | YouTube | App SPORTS | HOCKEY | UPDATE UPDATE: India women hold England 0-0 and advance from World Cup pool

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

87. UPDATE: India women hold England 0-0 and advance from World Cup pool

Why in News: India's women drew 0-0 with England in their final Pool D match at the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey World Cup and advanced to the next stage. **Key Exam Facts:** - India finished second in Pool D with five points. - China topped the pool with seven points. - The result followed India's earlier draw with China and win over South Africa; only the new qualification outcome is carried here. **Connection / Background:** For banking-exam sports GA, stable tournament outcomes such as qualification, medals, winners and host cities are more durable than live-match details. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** This is the women's World Cup Pool D outcome; do not mix it with the men's tournament result against Wales. Hockey India ■ **SPORTS | BADMINTON | UPDATE BWF Worlds: Treesa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand reach women's doubles quarterfinals**

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

88. BWF Worlds: Treesa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand reach women's doubles quarterfinals

Why in News: At the Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Championships in New Delhi, India's Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand advanced to the women's doubles quarterfinals. **Key Exam Facts:** - The Indian pair defeated Japan's seventh seeds Rin Iwanaga and Kie Nakanishi in straight games. - The 2026 BWF World Championships are being hosted in New Delhi. - Ayush Shetty's exit ended India's men's singles challenge. **Connection / Background:** The event's host-city fact was already established earlier; today's new item is the Indian pair reaching the quarterfinals. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** Do not confuse the BWF World Championships with the annual India Open. Badminton World Federation ■ Badminton Association of India ■ **Website | Telegram | Instagram | YouTube | App IMPORTANT DAYS 20 August: Sadbhavana Diwas, World Mosquito Day and Akshay Urja Day**

Coverage checkpoint: 2026-08-21

89. RBI special USD-INR swap facility draws US\$72.848 billion through 21 August 2026

Why in News: RBI reported cumulative inflows of US\$72.848 billion through its special USD-INR swap facility up to 21 August 2026. **Key Exam Facts:** : US\$65.397 billion came through FCNR(B) deposits, US\$4.860 billion through OFCB deposits and US\$2.591 billion through ECB. **Connection / Background:** FCNR(B) is a foreign-currency non-resident term deposit; ECB means External Commercial Borrowing. **Exam Trap / What Changed:** remember the total and the three-channel split; this is a liquidity/forex facility, not an FDI figure.

Coverage checkpoint: 21-22 Aug

90. India and ADB sign US\$230 million loan for Chennai water supply and sanitation

Why in News: India and the Asian Development Bank signed a US\$230 million loan to modernise water supply and sanitation in Chennai. **Connection / Background:** ADB is a multilateral development bank headquartered in Manila. Exam focus: institution + amount + city + sector.

Coverage checkpoint: 21-22 Aug

91. BRICS Tourism Ministers adopt Jaipur Declaration

Why in News: The BRICS Tourism Ministers' Meeting under India's 2026 Chairship concluded in Jaipur with adoption of the BRICS Tourism Ministers' Communique 2026, called the Jaipur Declaration. Connection: link Jaipur with the Tourism track and India's BRICS Presidency.

Coverage checkpoint: 21-22 Aug

92. 12th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting held in Pune

Why in News: India chaired the 12th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting in Pune on 21 August. Focus areas included sustainable ICT infrastructure, digital inclusion, cybersecurity and trustworthy ICT ecosystems. Exam link: Pune + communications/ICT track.

Coverage checkpoint: 21-22 Aug

93. India and Brazil sign telecom and ICT cooperation MoU

Why in News: India and Brazil signed an MoU to deepen cooperation in telecommunications and information and communication technologies on the sidelines of the BRICS ICT track meeting in Pune. Exam link: bilateral partner + sector + BRICS setting.

Coverage checkpoint: 21-22 Aug

94. BRICS Science Ministerial adopts Chennai Declaration

Why in News: BRICS science ministers unanimously adopted the Chennai Declaration, reaffirming cooperation in science, technology and innovation. Exam link: Chennai Declaration = BRICS STI track under India's 2026 Chairship.

Coverage checkpoint: 21-22 Aug

95. BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting concludes in Visakhapatnam with Joint Statement

Why in News: The BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting 2026 concluded in Visakhapatnam and adopted a Joint Statement. Connect this with the Youth Council Meeting and Youth Summit held in Gandhinagar on 19-20 August.

Coverage checkpoint: 21-22 Aug

96. Mangrol delivered as third ASW Shallow Water Craft built by CSL

Why in News: Mangrol, the third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft built by Cochin Shipyard Limited, was delivered. Exam link: ASW-SWC + Cochin Shipyard + indigenous naval shipbuilding.

Coverage checkpoint: 21-22 Aug

97. IAF concludes multinational exercises Pitch Black and Udara Shakti 2026

Why in News: The Indian Air Force concluded participation in high-tempo multinational exercises Pitch Black and Udara Shakti 2026. Exam focus: exercise names + Indian Air Force + international air cooperation.

Coverage checkpoint: 21-22 Aug

98. DFS workshop focuses on accessibility of financial services for Divyangjans

Why in News: Department of Financial Services concluded a two-day workshop on enhancing accessibility of financial services for Divyangjans. Banking Awareness link: accessibility is part of inclusive banking across branches, digital channels, ATMs and customer service.

Coverage checkpoint: 21-22 Aug

99. DGGI detects about Rs 185 crore evasion in clandestine pan masala and tobacco network

Why in News: Directorate General of GST Intelligence detected alleged evasion of about Rs 185 crore and seized 27 undeclared pouch-packing machines in Uttar Pradesh. Exam link: DGGI operates under CBIC and focuses on GST intelligence/enforcement.

Coverage checkpoint: 21-22 Aug

100. National Biodiversity Authority releases Rs 2.82 crore ABS funds

Why in News: National Biodiversity Authority released Rs 2.82 crore of Access and Benefit Sharing funds to 27 State Biodiversity Boards, 3 UT Biodiversity Councils and ICAR-IIHR. Exam link: ABS is tied to biodiversity-resource benefit sharing.

Coverage checkpoint: 21-22 Aug

Practice - 100 Weekly MCQs

Attempt without looking back at the notes. Exactly five options are provided for every question.

Q1. The August 2026 RBI MPC minutes relate to a policy repo rate of:

A. 4.75% B. 5.00% C. 5.25% D. 5.50% E. 5.75%

Q2. RBI publishes MPC minutes under which section of the RBI Act, 1934?

A. 45ZA B. 45ZB C. 45ZL D. 42(1) E. 17(5)

Q3. RRB average Priority Sector Lending achievement in FY2025-26 was:

A. 75.0% B. 82.5% C. 88.4% D. 91.7% E. 96.2%

Q4. The PSB youth banking campaign announced at PSB Confluence 2026 is to begin on:

A. 1 Sep 2026 B. 2 Oct 2026 C. 14 Nov 2026 D. 1 Jan 2027 E. 1 Apr 2027

Q5. The Domestic PNG Incentive Scheme becomes effective from:

A. 20 Aug 2026 B. 1 Sep 2026 C. 2 Oct 2026 D. 1 Jan 2027 E. 1 Apr 2027

Q6. PFRDA Pension Bulletin reported total subscribers of about:

A. 7.62 crore B. 8.23 crore C. 9.83 crore D. 10.83 crore E. 17.23 crore

Q7. July 2026 PLFS unemployment rate for persons aged 15+ was:

A. 4.5% B. 5.1% C. 5.5% D. 6.1% E. 6.7%

Q8. Shabnam Sinha was named incoming Chairperson of:

A. India Post Payments Bank B. Airtel Payments Bank C. NSDL Payments Bank D. Fino Payments Bank E. Jio Payments Bank

Q9. Qatar-India PostTransfer remittance service is powered by:

A. RuPay Credit B. UPI C. NEFT D. BBPS E. AePS

Q10. SEBI warned investors about display of what on social media?

A. FD rates B. Live trading strategies C. Gold prices D. Insurance returns E. GST notices

Q11. SEBI revised the application form for registration of:

A. AIFs B. Mutual Funds C. FPIs D. Stock Exchanges E. CRAs

Q12. The latest ECMS approvals took cumulative approved projects to:

A. 75 B. 90 C. 100 D. 106 E. 138

Q13. SEMICON India 2026 is scheduled at:

A. Bharat Mandapam B. Yashobhoomi C. BIEC D. HITEX E. Jio World Centre

Q14. UIDAI Mandatory Biometric Update is especially linked to ages:

A. 3 & 10 B. 5 & 12 C. 5 & 15 D. 7 & 14 E. 10 & 18

Q15. The sixth Positive Indigenisation List contains:

A. 305 B. 355 C. 405 D. 505 E. 5,012

Q16. The 12th BRICS Environment Ministers Meeting produced how many knowledge compendiums?

A. 2 B. 3 C. 4 D. 5 E. 6

Q17. India-Japan bilateral trade in FY2025-26 was about:

A. US\$17.5 bn B. US\$22.5 bn C. US\$27.5 bn D. US\$37.5 bn E. US\$47.5 bn

Q18. FY2025-26 combined exports were reported at a record:

A. US\$763.1 bn B. US\$813.1 bn C. US\$863.1 bn D. US\$913.1 bn E. US\$963.1 bn

Q19. The four railway multitracking projects approved on 19 August cost about:

A. Rs 3,590 cr B. Rs 5,070 cr C. Rs 7,500 cr D. Rs 9,450 cr E. Rs 13,427 cr

Q20. The NH-22 Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa project uses:

A. EPC B. BOT-Toll C. HAM D. TOT E. OMT

Q21. RBI appointed which former ISRO chief to its Central Board?

A. K. Sivan B. S. Somanath C. A. S. Kiran Kumar D. G. Madhavan Nair E. Radhakrishnan

Q22. VRRR is primarily used by RBI to:

A. Inject durable capital B. Absorb surplus liquidity C. Set CRR D. Issue currency E. Regulate insurance

Q23. SEBI allowed digitally signed Power of Attorney for:

A. RIAs B. FPIs C. Mutual Funds D. Depositories E. Credit Rating Agencies

Q24. In SEBI terminology, KRA stands for:

A. Know Risk Agency B. KYC Registration Agency C. Key Regulatory Authority D. KYC Review Authority E. Knowledge Rating Agency

Q25. SEBI study said what share of individual equity-derivatives traders lost money in FY26?

A. 67.7% B. 77.7% C. 82.7% D. 87.7% E. 92.7%

Q26. July 2026 core-industry growth was:

A. 3.4% B. 4.4% C. 5.4% D. 6.4% E. 7.4%

Q27. Duty-free raw sugar import quota allowed was:

A. 2 lakh t B. 5 lakh t C. 8 lakh t D. 10 lakh t E. 15 lakh t

Q28. PMAY-G houses approved for Bihar were over:

A. 5.18 lakh B. 7.18 lakh C. 9.18 lakh D. 11.18 lakh E. 13.18 lakh

Q29. Aadhaar App crossed how many downloads?

A. 1 crore B. 2 crore C. 3 crore D. 5 crore E. 10 crore

Q30. The 2nd BRICS Tourism Working Group Meeting was held in:

A. Goa B. Jaipur C. Gandhinagar D. New Delhi E. Pune

Q31. BRICS Youth Council Meeting and Youth Summit were held in:

A. Jaipur B. Pune C. Gandhinagar D. Chennai E. Visakhapatnam

Q32. The BRICS Youth Ministers Meeting was held in:

A. Jaipur B. Pune C. Gandhinagar D. Chennai E. Visakhapatnam

Q33. The Jaipur Declaration is associated with BRICS:

A. Environment B. Tourism C. Youth D. Science E. Finance

Q34. The Chennai Declaration is associated with BRICS:

A. Tourism B. Science, Technology & Innovation C. Youth D. Energy E. Agriculture

Q35. The 12th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting was held in:

A. Delhi B. Pune C. Jaipur D. Chennai E. Hyderabad

Q36. India signed a telecom/ICT MoU on 21 August with:

A. Brazil B. Russia C. China D. South Africa E. UAE

Q37. India and ADB signed a US\$230 million loan for water and sanitation in:

A. Mumbai B. Chennai C. Kolkata D. Pune E. Ahmedabad

Q38. ADB is headquartered in:

A. Bangkok B. Manila C. Singapore D. Jakarta E. Tokyo

Q39. RBI special USD-INR swap inflows through 21 Aug totalled:

A. US\$62.848 bn B. US\$67.848 bn C. US\$72.848 bn D. US\$77.848 bn E. US\$82.848 bn

Q40. Largest component of the special swap inflows was through:

A. ECB B. OFCB C. FCNR(B) D. FDI E. FPI

Q41. FCNR(B) expands to:

A. Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) B. Foreign Credit Non-Resident Banking C. Foreign Currency National Reserve Bank D. Fixed Currency Non-Resident Bond E. Foreign Capital Non-Resident Bank

Q42. ECB in external-sector banking stands for:

A. External Commercial Borrowing B. Exchange Control Balance C. External Currency Bond D. Economic Credit Buffer E. Export Credit Bureau

Q43. FAST-DS 2026 is a one-time scheme related to:

A. GST refunds B. Foreign asset/income disclosure C. Bank recapitalisation D. MSME credit E. Pension transfer

Q44. FAST-DS eligible declarations can be filed up to:

A. 30 Sep 2026 B. 31 Oct 2026 C. 30 Nov 2026 D. 31 Dec 2026 E. 31 Mar 2027

Q45. Emergency LPG production potential was fixed at:

A. 53,810 t/day B. 58,310 t/day C. 63,810 t/day D. 68,310 t/day E. 73,810 t/day

Q46. DRI detected more than Rs 2,500 crore duty evasion involving imports of:

A. Gold B. Areca nuts C. Electronics D. Coal E. Edible oil

Q47. The two MQ-9B Sea Guardian systems were leased for:

A. 12 months B. 18 months C. 24 months D. 30 months E. 36 months

Q48. Exercise MAITREE-XV is between India and:

A. Thailand B. Vietnam C. Indonesia D. Malaysia E. Singapore

Q49. AppCoMS 2.0 is used for:

A. GST appeals B. RTI second appeals/complaints C. Banking Ombudsman D. Tax appeals E. Consumer cases

Q50. National ANUBHAV Awards 2026 ceremony was the:

A. 7th B. 8th C. 9th D. 10th E. 11th

Q51. Ayush Shetty defeated world No.1:

A. Axelsen B. Vitidsarn C. Shi Yuqi D. Naraoka E. Lee Zii Jia

Q52. The RDI Scheme corpus highlighted during the week was:

A. Rs 10,000 cr B. Rs 25,000 cr C. Rs 50,000 cr D. Rs 75,000 cr E. Rs 1 lakh cr

Q53. India will host the 5th Coast Guard Global Summit in:

A. Mumbai B. Goa C. New Delhi D. Kochi E. Chennai

Q54. The 65th Subroto Cup is associated with:

A. Hockey B. Football C. Badminton D. Athletics E. Basketball

Q55. Mangrol is a:

A. Frigate B. Destroyer C. ASW Shallow Water Craft D. Survey vessel E. Fleet tanker

Q56. Mangrol was built by:

A. GRSE B. MDL C. Cochin Shipyard Limited D. Goa Shipyard E. HSL

Q57. DGGI functions under:

A. CBDT B. CBIC C. RBI D. SEBI E. DPIIT

Q58. DGGI detected about how much evasion in the cited pan-masala/tobacco case?

A. Rs 85 cr B. Rs 125 cr C. Rs 185 cr D. Rs 285 cr E. Rs 385 cr

Q59. National Biodiversity Authority released ABS funds of:

A. Rs 1.82 cr B. Rs 2.82 cr C. Rs 3.82 cr D. Rs 5.82 cr E. Rs 8.82 cr

Q60. ABS in biodiversity governance means:

A. Asset Backed Security B. Access and Benefit Sharing C. Annual Biodiversity Survey D. Agro-Bio Scheme E. Area Based Support

Q61. IRDAI action during the week involved Acko and:

A. Star Health B. Niva Bupa C. HDFC Life D. LIC E. ICICI Lombard

Q62. IFSCA is the unified regulator for financial services in:

A. SEZs generally B. IFSCs C. Cooperative banks D. RRBs E. Payment banks

Q63. DGFT functions under the Ministry of:

A. Finance B. Commerce & Industry C. MSME D. External Affairs E. Corporate Affairs

Q64. PM GatiShakti is primarily linked with:

A. Pension portability B. Integrated infrastructure planning C. Crop insurance D. Bank resolution E. School education

Q65. An Exclusive Economic Zone generally extends to:

A. 12 nm B. 24 nm C. 100 nm D. 200 nm E. 350 nm

Q66. PhonePe PulsePro data partnership was linked with:

A. PMJDY B. PM GatiShakti C. PM-KISAN D. PMAY-U E. PM SVANidhi

Q67. India-Mauritius development during the week focused on long-term:

A. Coal supply B. Petroleum supply C. Wheat supply D. Uranium supply E. LNG only

Q68. India-Japan signed an arrangement on:

A. Space tourism B. Maritime Security Cooperation C. Civil nuclear fuel D. Postal payments E. Agriculture insurance

Q69. CMLRE assessment concerned:

A. Groundwater B. Deep-sea and distant-water fishery resources C. Forest cover D. Coal reserves E. Urban air quality

Q70. Digital BRICS Forum & Expo was held in:

A. Jaipur B. Pune C. Chennai D. Delhi E. Goa

Q71. BRICS STI Senior Officials Meeting was held in:

A. Pune B. Jaipur C. Chennai D. Gandhinagar E. Visakhapatnam

Q72. The new core-industry series mentioned during the week covers:

A. 6 industries B. 7 industries C. 8 industries D. 9 industries E. 10 industries

Q73. The new core-industry series base year is:

A. 2011-12 B. 2015-16 C. 2020-21 D. 2022-23 E. 2025-26

Q74. India hosted the 8th BRICS Youth Energy Summit in which mode?

A. New Delhi physical B. Pune physical C. Virtual D. Hybrid in Jaipur E. Chennai physical

Q75. The Digital Bharat Nidhi agreement during the week related to BharatNet in:

A. Bihar B. Chhattisgarh C. Odisha D. Rajasthan E. Assam

Q76. CCI cleared Tata Steel acquisition of what stake in TM International Logistics?

A. 15% B. 20% C. 23% D. 25% E. 49%

Q77. The Acko transaction cleared by CCI crossed which shareholding threshold?

A. 10% B. 15% C. 20% D. 25% E. 49%

Q78. Aparajita - Parang La 2026 was an all-girls trek by:

A. NSS B. NCC C. BSF D. CRPF E. SAI

Q79. India beat South Africa in Women's Hockey World Cup by:

A. 3-1 B. 4-1 C. 5-1 D. 6-1 E. 7-1

Q80. ICC July 2026 men's Player of the Month was:

A. Shubman Gill B. Justin Greaves C. Ben Stokes D. Travis Head E. Kane Williamson

Q81. ICC July 2026 women's Player of the Month was:

A. Smriti Mandhana B. Hayley Matthews C. Nat Sciver-Brunt D. Laura Wolvaardt E. Amelia Kerr

Q82. National Sports Awards 2025 included how many Arjuna awardees?

A. 12 B. 15 C. 17 D. 20 E. 25

Q83. SEBI Handbook released during the week covered statistics for:

A. 2023-24 B. 2024-25 C. 2025-26 D. 2026-27 E. 2022-23

Q84. Kharif sowing area as of 14 August 2026 was:

A. 916.57 lakh ha B. 966.57 lakh ha C. 1,016.57 lakh ha D. 1,066.57 lakh ha E. 1,116.57 lakh ha

Q85. PM-SETU is linked with reform of:

A. Universities B. ITIs C. District hospitals D. RRBs E. Ports

Q86. The 7th BRICS ICT Working Group Meeting was held in:

A. Delhi B. Pune C. Jaipur D. Chennai E. Goa

Q87. India's grasslands guide was launched at:

A. UNFCCC COP31 B. UNCCD COP17 C. CBD COP17 D. Ramsar COP15 E. G20 Summit

Q88. UNCCD COP17 was held in:

A. Astana B. Ulaanbaatar C. Baku D. Tashkent E. Kathmandu

Q89. DRI methamphetamine seizure at Nava Sheva was around:

A. 26 kg B. 36 kg C. 46 kg D. 56 kg E. 66 kg

Q90. DRI seized how many carved ivory artefacts in Lucknow?

A. 24 B. 34 C. 44 D. 54 E. 64

Q91. Friends of MY Bharat is best described as a:

A. Banking app B. Global youth-connect module C. Defence portal D. Pension platform E. Tax portal

Q92. Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027 began with:

A. Essay contest B. Viksit Bharat Quiz C. Hackathon D. Sports meet E. Debate

Q93. The BRICS 2026 Presidency theme includes Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and:

A. Security B. Sustainability C. Solidarity D. Stability E. Sovereignty

Q94. The Department of Financial Services is under the Ministry of:

A. Commerce B. Finance C. Corporate Affairs D. Home Affairs E. MSME

Q95. Priority Sector Lending is most directly associated with:

A. Directed bank credit to identified sectors B. Stock exchange margins C. Insurance solvency D. Pension annuities E. Forex reserves

Q96. RuPay is operated under the umbrella of:

A. RBI directly B. NPCI C. SEBI D. IBA E. PFRDA

Q97. UPI is operated by:

A. RBI directly B. NPCI C. SEBI D. PFRDA E. IBA

Q98. NIPL expands to:

A. National India Payments Ltd B. NPCI International Payments Limited C. National Interbank Payments Link D. New India Payment Layer E. NPCI Integrated Payment Ledger

Q99. The Foreign Trade Policy amendment gave parity to eligible export receipts in:

A. Gold B. Indian Rupees C. Crypto assets D. SDRs only E. Euro only

Q100. The High Court bench enabled by Cabinet during the week relates to:

A. J&K; only B. Ladakh C. Sikkim D. Goa E. Puducherry

Answer Key + Explanations

Q1. C - 5.25%

5.25%.

Q2. C - 45ZL

Section 45ZL.

Q3. D - 91.7%

91.7%.

Q4. B - 2 Oct 2026

2 October 2026.

Q5. B - 1 Sep 2026

1 September 2026.

Q6. C - 9.83 crore

9.83 crore.

Q7. B - 5.1%

5.1%.

Q8. B - Airtel Payments Bank

Airtel Payments Bank.

Q9. B - UPI

UPI.

Q10. B - Live trading strategies

Live trading strategies.

Q11. B - Mutual Funds

Mutual Funds.

Q12. D - 106

106.

Q13. B - Yashobhoomi

Yashobhoomi, New Delhi.

Q14. C - 5 & 15

5 and 15 years.

Q15. C - 405

405 items.

Q16. C - 4

4.

Q17. C - US\$27.5 bn

US\$27.5 billion.

Q18. C - US\$863.1 bn

US\$863.1 billion.

Q19. D - Rs 9,450 cr

Rs 9,450 crore.

Q20. C - HAM

Hybrid Annuity Mode.

Q21. B - S. Somanath

S. Somanath.

Q22. B - Absorb surplus liquidity

Absorb surplus liquidity.

Q23. B - FPIs

Foreign Portfolio Investors.

Q24. B - KYC Registration Agency

KYC Registration Agency.

Q25. D - 87.7%

87.7%.

Q26. C - 5.4%

5.4%.

Q27. D - 10 lakh t

10 lakh tonnes.

Q28. D - 11.18 lakh

11.18 lakh.

Q29. D - 5 crore

5 crore.

Q30. B - Jaipur

Jaipur.

Q31. C - Gandhinagar

Gandhinagar.

Q32. E - Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam.

Q33. B - Tourism

Tourism.

Q34. B - Science, Technology & Innovation

Science, Technology & Innovation.

Q35. B - Pune

Pune.

Q36. A - Brazil

Brazil.

Q37. B - Chennai

Chennai.

Q38. B - Manila

Manila.

Q39. C - US\$72.848 bn

US\$72.848 billion.

Q40. C - FCNR(B)

FCNR(B).

Q41. A - Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank)

Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank).

Q42. A - External Commercial Borrowing

External Commercial Borrowing.

Q43. B - Foreign asset/income disclosure

Foreign asset/income disclosure.

Q44. D - 31 Dec 2026

31 December 2026.

Q45. C - 63,810 t/day

63,810 tonnes/day.

Q46. B - Areca nuts

Areca nuts.

Q47. D - 30 months

30 months.

Q48. A - Thailand

Thailand.

Q49. B - RTI second appeals/complaints

RTI second appeals and complaints.

Q50. C - 9th

9th.

Q51. C - Shi Yuqi

Shi Yuqi.

Q52. E - Rs 1 lakh cr

Rs 1 lakh crore.

Q53. C - New Delhi

New Delhi.

Q54. B - Football

Football.

Q55. C - ASW Shallow Water Craft

Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft.

Q56. C - Cochin Shipyard Limited

Cochin Shipyard Limited.

Q57. B - CBIC

CBIC.

Q58. C - Rs 185 cr

Rs 185 crore.

Q59. B - Rs 2.82 cr

Rs 2.82 crore.

Q60. B - Access and Benefit Sharing

Access and Benefit Sharing.

Q61. B - Niva Bupa

Niva Bupa.

Q62. B - IFSCs

International Financial Services Centres.

Q63. B - Commerce & Industry

Commerce & Industry.

Q64. B - Integrated infrastructure planning

Integrated infrastructure planning.

Q65. D - 200 nm

200 nautical miles.

Q66. B - PM GatiShakti

PM GatiShakti.

Q67. B - Petroleum supply

Petroleum supply.

Q68. B - Maritime Security Cooperation

Maritime Security Cooperation.

Q69. B - Deep-sea and distant-water fishery resources

Deep-sea and distant-water fishery resources.

Q70. B - Pune

Pune.

Q71. C - Chennai

Chennai.

Q72. D - 9 industries

9 industries.

Q73. D - 2022-23

2022-23.

Q74. C - Virtual

Virtual.

Q75. B - Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh.

Q76. C - 23%

23%.

Q77. D - 25%

25%.

Q78. B - NCC

NCC.

Q79. D - 6-1

6-1.

Q80. B - Justin Greaves

Justin Greaves.

Q81. B - Hayley Matthews

Hayley Matthews.

Q82. C - 17

17.

Q83. C - 2025-26

2025-26.

Q84. C - 1,016.57 lakh ha

1,016.57 lakh hectares.

Q85. B - ITIs

Industrial Training Institutes.

Q86. B - Pune

Pune.

Q87. B - UNCCD COP17

UNCCD COP17.

Q88. B - Ulaanbaatar

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Q89. D - 56 kg

56 kg.

Q90. D - 54

54.

Q91. B - Global youth-connect module

Global youth-connect module.

Q92. B - Viksit Bharat Quiz

Viksit Bharat Quiz.

Q93. B - Sustainability

Sustainability.

Q94. B - Finance

Finance.

Q95. A - Directed bank credit to identified sectors

Directed bank credit to identified sectors.

Q96. B - NPCI

NPCI.

Q97. B - NPCI

NPCI.

Q98. B - NPCI International Payments Limited

NPCI International Payments Limited.

Q99. B - Indian Rupees

Indian Rupees.

Q100. B - Ladakh

Ladakh.

Rapid Revision - 30 Numbers & Traps

- Repo rate 5.25%; neutral stance.
- RRB PSL achievement 91.7%.
- RRB credit growth 10.3%.
- PFRDA subscribers ~9.83 crore.
- PLFS July unemployment 5.1%.
- ECMS cumulative approvals 106.
- Sixth Positive Indigenisation List: 405 items; Rs 3,070 crore potential.
- India-Japan FY26 trade ~US\$27.5 bn.
- FY26 combined exports US\$863.1 bn.
- Rail multitracking package ~Rs 9,450 crore.
- RDI Scheme corpus Rs 1 lakh crore.
- Core industries July growth 5.4%.
- Raw sugar duty-free quota 10 lakh tonnes.
- PMAY-G Bihar: 11.18 lakh+ houses.
- Aadhaar App: 5 crore+ downloads.
- RBI swap inflows: US\$72.848 bn.
- FCNR(B) component: US\$65.397 bn.
- OFCB component: US\$4.860 bn.
- ECB component: US\$2.591 bn.
- ADB Chennai loan: US\$230 million.
- DGGI evasion case: ~Rs 185 crore.
- NBA ABS release: Rs 2.82 crore.
- FAST-DS deadline: 31 Dec 2026.
- Emergency LPG potential: 63,810 tonnes/day.
- MQ-9B lease: 30 months; Rs 1,943 crore.
- BRICS Tourism: Jaipur Declaration.
- BRICS STI: Chennai Declaration.
- BRICS Communications: Pune.
- BRICS Youth Ministers: Visakhapatnam.
- Mangrol: third ASW Shallow Water Craft built by CSL.

Final instruction: Revise the Banking Awareness change-list first, then Rapid Revision, then attempt the 100 MCQs. Return to the full cards only for questions you miss.