

14 AUGUST 2026 (FRIDAY)

★ **RELEVANT FOR UPSC PRELIMS & MAINS** ★

“The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.”
— H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

1 NATIONAL NEWS

Government Launches National Digital Health Mission Implementation Portal



- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare launched a portal to fast-track implementation of NDHM.
- Enables States/UTs to onboard health facilities and integrate with ABHA.
- Aims to improve interoperability, accessibility and quality of healthcare services.

Cabinet Approves Continuation of PM Matsya Sampada Yojana Beyond 2026



- Approved continuation with a total outlay of ₹20,050 crore.
- Focus on sustainable aquaculture, fisheries infrastructure and value chain development.

2 INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India-UK Free Trade Agreement Enters into Force



- FTA came into force on 14 August 2026.
- Covers goods, services, investments and digital trade.
- Expected to boost bilateral trade to USD 120 billion by 2030.
- Benefits key sectors like textiles, gems & jewellery, auto components, IT/ITeS.

India Participates in 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus



- Raksha Mantri led the Indian delegation.
- Discussions on maritime security, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping.
- Reiterated India's commitment to a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

3 ECONOMY

RBI Announces Measures to Strengthen MSME Credit Flow



- Revised framework to facilitate credit flow to MSMEs through digital lending.
- Co-lending model to be expanded.
- Focus on formalisation and financial inclusion of micro & small enterprises.

WPI Inflation Declines to -0.58% in July 2026



- WPI inflation in July 2026 was -0.58% (against -0.13% in June 2026).
- Decline mainly due to lower prices of food articles, crude petroleum & natural gas and basic metals.

4 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISRO Conducts Successful Test of Semi-Cryogenic Engine



- ISRO completed a 650-second test of semi-cryogenic engine.
- Engine will power LVM3 and future launch vehicles.
- Strengthens India's capability for heavier payload launches.

India Develops Indigenous Quantum Communication Prototype



- Researchers demonstrated a secure quantum key distribution prototype.
- A significant step toward indigenous quantum communication systems.
- Applications in secure communication and defence.

5 ENVIRONMENT

India Notifies Mangrove Conservation Guidelines 2026



- Guidelines focus on mapping, restoration and sustainable management of mangroves.
- Involves local communities and scientific monitoring.
- Supports coastal protection, biodiversity and livelihoods.

- Southwest monsoon activity continues over central and eastern India.
- Above-normal rainfall forecast for August in parts of East & Northeast India.
- Advisories issued to States for flood and landslide preparedness.

6 APPOINTMENTS & REPORTS

NITI Aayog Releases Report on Logistics Efficiency Improvement



- Report suggests reforms in logistics infrastructure, digital systems and last-mile connectivity.
- Aims to reduce logistics cost from -13% of GDP to below 9%.
- Focus on multimodal integration and state-level logistics plans.

CAG Report on Public Sector Banks (2026) Tabled in Lok Sabha



- Report highlights governance, asset quality and digital transformation.
- Observations on NPA management and risk mitigation.
- Emphasis on strengthening internal controls and compliance frameworks.

7 IMPORTANT FOR PRELIMS (Quick Facts)

- ✓ National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) implementation portal launched.
- ✓ PM Matsya Sampada Yojana continued with ₹20,050 crore outlay.
- ✓ India-UK FTA entered into force on 14 August 2026.
- ✓ 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus — India participated.
- ✓ RBI announced measures to strengthen MSME credit flow.
- ✓ WPI inflation in July 2026 was -0.58%.
- ✓ ISRO successfully tested semi-cryogenic engine for 650 seconds.
- ✓ India developed indigenous quantum communication prototype.
- ✓ Mangrove Conservation Guidelines 2026 notified.
- ✓ IMD released monsoon update for August.
- ✓ NITI Aayog released logistics efficiency report.
- ✓ CAG Report on Public Sector Banks (2026) tabled in Lok Sabha.

PRELIMS QUICK FACTS

- NDHM — National Digital Health Mission
- ABHA — Ayushman Bharat Health Account
- FTA — Free Trade Agreement
- ASEAN — Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- MSME — Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
- WPI — Wholesale Price Index
- IMD — India Meteorological Department
- CAG — Comptroller & Auditor General of India

PRACTICE MCQ

Q. With reference to Free Trade Agreement (FTA), consider the following statements:

- FTA aims to eliminate tariffs and non-tariff barriers.
- India-UK FTA came into force on 14 August 2026.
- FTA does not cover services and investments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 and 2 only B) 2 and 3 only C) 1 and 3 only D) 1 and 2

Answer: A) 1 and 2 only



QUOTE OF THE DAY

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TODAY IN HISTORY – 14 AUGUST
14 August 1947 – Pakistan became Independent from British rule.



A historic moment that led to the creation of two independent nations – India and Pakistan.

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