

15 AUGUST 2026 (SATURDAY)

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

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”
— Eleanor Roosevelt

1 NATIONAL NEWS

PM Inaugurates National Turmeric Board Building in Nizamabad



- Prime Minister inaugurated the National Turmeric Board (NTB) building at Nizamabad, Telangana.
- NTB was established on 23 May 2025.
- Aims to promote research, development, marketing, value addition and export of turmeric.
- Nizamabad is known as the 'Turmeric City of India'.

Ministry of Culture Launches 'Sanskriti Quest'



- A national quiz initiative on India's art, culture, heritage and civilisational legacy.
- Open to students, teachers and the general public.
- Aims to encourage youth participation and promote cultural awareness.

2 INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India-Australia Critical Minerals Partnership Strengthened



- Both countries held the 2nd India-Australia Critical Minerals Dialogue.
- Focus on diversifying supply chains, joint exploration and processing.
- Supports clean energy transition and resilient mineral security.
- Australian firms showed interest in investing in India's mineral sector.

India Hosts 1st BIMSTEC Ports Cooperation Conference



- Conference held in Visakhapatnam.
- Focus on enhancing port connectivity, digitalisation and green shipping.
- BIMSTEC countries discussed coastal shipping, capacity building and sustainable port development.
- Strengthens regional maritime cooperation.

3 ECONOMY

India's Gross GST Collection Crosses ₹1.95 Lakh Crore in July 2026



- Gross GST collection for July 2026 stood at ₹1,95,341 crore.
- 8% growth compared to July 2025.
- Strong growth across major sectors including manufacturing, services and trade.
- Reflects steady economic activity and improved compliance.

Department of Financial Services Launches 'Niveshak Didi' Initiative



Niveshak Didi

- Initiative aims to enhance financial literacy among women investors.
- Special focus on rural and semi-urban women.
- To empower women in investment decisions and financial planning.
- Part of broader investor education programmes.

4 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISRO Successfully Conducts SSLV-D4 / EOS-10 Launch



- ISRO launched EOS-10 satellite onboard SSLV-D4 from Sriharikota.
- EOS-10 is an Earth Observation satellite.
- Demonstrates ISRO's reliable small satellite launch capability.
- Strengthens India's capabilities in satellite technology.

India's Polar Research Vessel 'Nistar' Undertakes Sea Trials



- 'Nistar', India's first indigenously built polar research vessel, entered sea for comprehensive trials.
- Designed for polar research in Arctic and Antarctic regions.
- Will support research in climate, ocean and environment.

5 ENVIRONMENT

MoEFCC Notifies 'India Cooling Action Plan'



- Plan aims to reduce cooling demand by 25-40% by 2037-38.
- Focus on energy efficiency, sustainable cooling technologies and passive cooling.
- Seeks to avoid locking in high-emission cooling solutions.
- Supports India's climate and energy goals.

National Wetlands Conservation Programme Revised Guidelines Issued



- Revised guidelines for identification, management and conservation of wetlands.
- Promotes community participation and wise use of wetlands.
- Supports biodiversity, livelihoods and ecological balance.

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 covers performance of PSBs for the year ended March 2025.
- Highlights governance, profitability, asset quality and digital initiatives.
- Observations on NPA management and risk mitigation.
- Emphasis on strengthening internal controls and compliance frameworks.

S&T Clusters Annual Report 2025-26 Released



- Report released by Office of PSA.
- Covers 8 S&T Clusters across India.
- Focus on innovation, industry connect, commercialisation and start-up support.

7 IMPORTANT FOR PRELIMS (Quick Facts)

- ✓ PM inaugurated National Turmeric Board building in Nizamabad.
- ✓ Ministry of Culture launched 'Sanskriti Quest'.
- ✓ India-Australia held 2nd Critical Minerals Dialogue.
- ✓ India hosted 1st BIMSTEC Ports Cooperation Conference.
- ✓ Gross GST collection in July 2026: ₹1,95,341 crore.
- ✓ Department of Financial Services launched 'Niveshak Didi' initiative.
- ✓ ISRO launched EOS-10 satellite on SSLV-D4.
- ✓ India's polar research vessel 'Nistar' entered sea for trials.
- ✓ India Cooling Action Plan notified by MoEFCC.
- ✓ Revised guidelines for wetlands conservation issued.
- ✓ NITI Aayog report: Logistics cost in India 13-14% of GDP.
- ✓ CAG Report on Public Sector Banks (2026) tabled in Lok Sabha.
- ✓ S&T Clusters Annual Report 2025-26 released.

PRELIMS QUICK FACTS

- NTB – National Turmeric Board
- BIMSTEC – Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
- GST – Goods and Services Tax
- SSLV – Small Satellite Launch Vehicle
- EOS – Earth Observation Satellite
- PSB – Public Sector Bank
- CAG – Comptroller and Auditor General of India
- NITI Aayog – National Institution for Transforming India
- PSA – Principal Scientific Adviser

PRACTICE MCQ

Q. With reference to 'Sanskriti Quest', consider the following statements:

1. It is a quiz initiative launched by the Ministry of Culture.
2. It aims to promote awareness about India's art, culture and heritage.
3. It is open only to school students.

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



“Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together.”

— Vincent Van Gogh



TODAY IN HISTORY – 15 AUGUST
15 August 1947 – India attained Independence from British rule.

It is celebrated as Independence Day to honour the freedom struggle and sacrifices of our freedom fighters.

SCAN TO JOIN OUR TELEGRAM CHANNEL

