

“Success is not final,
failure is not fatal: it is
the courage to continue
that counts.”
— Winston Churchill

1 NATIONAL NEWS

NHAI Expands Digital FASTag Local Pass Facility to 121 Toll Plazas



- NHAI has expanded the Digital FASTag Local Pass facility to 121 toll plazas across India.
- Facilitates digital access to local-pass benefits for frequent commuters.
- Uses FASTag-based authentication.
- Strengthens India's electronic toll collection ecosystem.

National Sports Awards 2025 Announced



- Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced National Sports Awards 2025.
- Awards include Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna and Arjuna Awards.
- Recognises excellence and outstanding contribution in Indian sports.

2 INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India-Japan Bilateral Trade Reaches US\$27.5 Billion



- Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal highlighted growing India-Japan economic ties.
- Bilateral trade has reached US\$27.5 billion.
- Japan remains one of India's major sources of FDI.
- Cooperation focused on investment, manufacturing and technology.

12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting Concludes in New Delhi



- 12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting held under India's Chairship 2026.
- Joint Ministerial Statement adopted by consensus.
- Four knowledge products launched.
- Emphasis on people-centric environmental action and sustainability.

3 ECONOMY

Regional Rural Banks Record Strong Growth in Credit Delivery



- Gross loans outstanding increased by 10.3% in FY 2025-26.
- Outstanding credit reached ₹5.78 lakh crore.
- RRBs play a vital role in rural credit delivery.
- Supports agriculture, rural enterprises and financial inclusion.

India-Japan Economic Engagement Strengthened



- Japan remains an important source of foreign investment in India.
- Cooperation includes manufacturing, technology and infrastructure.
- Strengthens India's global value chain integration and economic partnership.

4 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme Gains Momentum



- Under ECMS, 38 plants are operational.
- 16 plants are in advanced stages of construction.
- Strengthens domestic manufacturing of electronic components.
- Aims to reduce import dependence and build strong supply chains.

AI, Quantum Technology & Cybersecurity Transforming Governance



- Emerging technologies enhance public service delivery and decision-making.
- AI, quantum technology and cybersecurity improve efficiency and security.
- Digital governance is becoming more responsive and data-driven.

5 ENVIRONMENT

BRICS Environment Ministers Adopt Joint Ministerial Statement



- 12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting concluded in New Delhi.
- Joint Ministerial Statement adopted by consensus.
- Four knowledge products were launched at the meeting.
- Focus on resilience, innovation and sustainability.

India Calls for People-Centric Environmental Action



- India stressed implementation-oriented environmental action.
- Emphasis on resilience without leaving communities behind.
- Technology cooperation and institutional partnerships highlighted.
- Sustainability to remain central to development.

6 APPOINTMENTS & REPORTS

National Sports Awards 2025 Announced



- Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced the awards.
- Recognises excellence across sports disciplines.
- Khel Ratna is India's highest sporting honour.
- Part of India's sports governance and development framework.

RRBs Report Strong Credit Performance in FY 2025-26



- Gross loans outstanding rose by 10.3%.
- Outstanding credit reached ₹5.78 lakh crore.
- Highlights the role of RRBs in rural financial inclusion.
- Supports agricultural and rural economic growth.

7 IMPORTANT FOR PRELIMS (Quick Facts)

- ✓ NHAI expanded Digital FASTag Local Pass facility to 121 toll plazas.
- ✓ National Sports Awards 2025 announced.
- ✓ India-Japan bilateral trade reached US\$27.5 billion.
- ✓ Japan remains one of India's major sources of FDI.
- ✓ 12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting concluded in New Delhi.
- ✓ Joint Ministerial Statement adopted by consensus.
- ✓ RRBs: Gross loans outstanding increased by 10.3% in FY 2025-26.
- ✓ Outstanding credit reached ₹5.78 lakh crore.
- ✓ ECMS: 38 plants operational, 16 under construction.
- ✓ AI, quantum technology & cybersecurity are transforming governance.
- ✓ BRICS Chairship 2026 is held by India.
- ✓ FASTag Local Pass facility improves toll convenience.

PRELIMS QUICK FACTS

- FASTag – RFID based toll collection
- NHAI – National Highways Authority of India
- RRB – Regional Rural Bank
- RRB Act – 1976
- ECMS – Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme
- BRICS – Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa
- Khel Ratna – Highest sporting honour
- AI – Artificial Intelligence
- UNCCD – United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

PRACTICE MCQ

- Q. With reference to Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), consider the following statements:
- They were established under the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976.
 - Their primary objective includes providing credit to rural and semi-urban areas.
 - They are wholly owned by the Central Government.
- 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, 2 and 3

Answer: A) 1 and 2 only



TODAY IN HISTORY – 18 AUGUST

1945 – Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: 18 August is associated with the reported plane crash involving Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at Taihoku (present-day Taipei). The circumstances remain historically contested.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

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SCAN TO JOIN
OUR TELEGRAM
CHANNEL

