



18 AUGUST 2026 (TUESDAY)

★ RELEVANT FOR UPSC PRELIMS & MAINS ★

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PIB
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Ministry
Press Releases



PRS India
prsindia.org



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libro.gov.in



All India Radio
newsonair.gov.in

**UPSC SYLLABUS
RELEVANCE**
GS I | GS II | GS III
**PRELIMS FACTS
& MAINS ANALYSIS**

1



6th POSITIVE INDIGENISATION LIST: 405 DEFENCE ITEMS NOTIFIED

Why in News?

On 18 August 2026, the Department of Defence Production notified the 6th Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) comprising 405 strategically important defence items.



Key Points

- Promotes Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence manufacturing.
- Reduces dependence on imported defence equipment.
- Encourages domestic industry and indigenous technologies.
- Strengthens strategic autonomy and defence supply chains.



Prelims Facts

- Positive Indigenisation Lists are notified by the Department of Defence Production (DDP).
- Linked with Make in India and defence indigenisation.
- Focuses on equipment/ components to be progressively sourced domestically.



GS Mains Link

- GS III – Defence & Security
- GS III – Indigenisation of Technology
- GS III – Manufacturing & Strategic Autonomy

2



12th BRICS ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS' MEETING HELD IN NEW DELHI

Why in News?

On 18 August 2026, Finance BRICS Inauguration ceremony was held in New Delhi as part of its BRICS Chairship 2026.



Key Points

- Focus on practical environmental cooperation.
- Emphasis on climate change, biodiversity and pollution.
- Addresses the concerns of the Global South.
- Strengthens international cooperation for sustainable development.



Prelims Facts

- BRICS = Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa + expanded members.
- India holds the BRICS Chairship in 2026.
- Environmental cooperation is an important BRICS thematic area.



GS Mains Link

- GS II – International Relations
- GS III – Environment & Climate Change
- GS III – Biodiversity & Sustainable Development

3



REGIONAL RURAL BANKS SHOW STRONG FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Why in News?

The Ministry of Finance highlighted continued improvement in the performance of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), with highest-ever net profit of ₹10,177 crore in FY 2025–26.



Key Points

- RRBs play an important role in rural credit delivery.
- Focus on agriculture, MSMEs and economically weaker sections.
- Financial consolidation and improved efficiency have strengthened RRBs.
- Important for financial inclusion and rural economic development.



Prelims Facts

- RRBs were created to improve institutional credit in rural areas.
- Sponsored by commercial banks.
- Regulated by RBI and supervised by NABARD.
- Serve rural and semi-urban populations.



GS Mains Link

- GS III – Indian Economy
- GS III – Banking & Financial Inclusion
- GS II – Welfare & Inclusive Development

4



7th BRICS ICT WORKING GROUP MEETING FOCUSES ON DPI & DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

Why in News?

The 7th BRICS ICT Working Group Meeting is continuing in Pune, with strategic focus on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and digital governance.



Key Points

- Promotes cooperation in information and communication technologies.
- DPI is a major area of discussion.
- Focus on digital governance and technology-led development.
- Important for sharing India's digital governance experience.



Prelims Facts

- NAVIC Nucleus: e-satellite delivery of digital public services.
- India's important DPI examples: Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, CoWIN.
- BRICS provides platform for technology & development cooperation.



GS Mains Link

- GS II – e-Governance
- GS II – International Relations
- GS III – Science & Technology
- GS III – Digital Public Infrastructure

5



NHAI EXPANDS DIGITAL FASTag LOCAL PASS FACILITY TO 121 TOLL PLAZAS

Why in News?

NHAI has extended the Digital FASTag Local Pass Facility to 121 toll plazas across India.



Key Points

- Facilitates easier toll payments for eligible local commuters.
- Uses FASTag-based digital authentication.
- Reduces dependence on physical/local pass processes.
- Supports technology-driven toll management.



Prelims Facts

- FASTag uses RFID technology for electronic toll collection.
- Implemented under India's electronic toll collection system.
- NHAI develops & manages National Highways.



GS Mains Link

- GS II – e-Governance
- GS III – Infrastructure
- GS III – Digital Technology
- GS III – Transport & Logistics



6th Positive
Indigenisation List:
405 items



12th BRICS
Environment Ministers'
Meeting held



RRB highest-ever
net profit:
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7th BRICS ICT WG:
Focus on DPI &
Digital Governance



Digital FASTag Local
Pass extended to
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