

National News

- **13th Independence Day Address & 'Saptadhara' Vision for Viksit Bharat @2047:**
- **AI Skill Mission:** A flagship initiative to train **1 crore youth in Artificial Intelligence** within one year.
- **Free Digital Coaching Platform:** A nationwide Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) initiative to offer free online competitive examination coaching for students from economically weaker and middle-class backgrounds.
- **Civil Defence Network Modernization:** Announcement of a restructured, modern Civil Defence volunteer force equipped with technological tools to address contemporary non-traditional security crises.
- **Nuclear Energy Target:** Goal set to achieve **100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047**. This follows the passage of the SHANTI Act, opening civil nuclear energy to private sector participation alongside Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) such as the Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200) developed by BARC.
- **Semiconductor Expansion:** Operationalization of **7-8 new semiconductor manufacturing plants** over the next 12-24 months.

Question 1: Which of the following targets was officially announced regarding India's nuclear energy strategy toward Viksit Bharat @2047?

- A) 50 GW by 2035
- B) 75 GW by 2040
- C) 100 GW by 2047

The Economic Times

- D) 150 GW by 2050

• **Answer:** C) 100 GW by 2047

- **Explanation:** To achieve energy security and net-zero targets, India has set a roadmap to expand nuclear power capacity to 100 GW by 2047. This includes deploying Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and enabling private sector involvement under the civil nuclear legal framework.

International News

- **India-UK Comprehensive Digital Trade Facilitation Pact:**
 - India and the United Kingdom finalized a digital trade facilitation framework aimed at eliminating non-tariff digital barriers, lowering compliance costs for cross-border data flows, and accelerating high-tech manufacturing and green energy cooperation.
 - The pact includes robust dispute resolution protocols and institutional mechanisms aligning with global trade standards under the WTO.
- **Qatar-India Cross-Border Remittance Integration:**
 - Qatar Post and India Post launched PosTransfer, enabling streamlined, direct cross-border remittances integrated with India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) rail for diaspora transfers.

Business News Live, Share Market News - Read Latest Finance News, IPO, Mutual Funds News - Indiatimes

Question 2: The recently formalized Digital Trade Facilitation Pact between India and the United Kingdom primarily aims to solve which of the following trade challenges?

- A) Harmonization of agricultural import tariffs
- B) Elimination of non-tariff barriers in high-value manufacturing and digital service flows



- C) Universal adoption of a shared fiat currency
- D) Joint maritime security patrols in the North Atlantic

- **Answer:** B) Elimination of non-tariff barriers in high-value manufacturing and digital service flows
- **Explanation:** The agreement focuses on regulatory friction reduction, intellectual property frameworks, and non-tariff barrier elimination in digital trade and green energy sectors between India and the UK.

Economics & Banking

- **CBDT Opens 'FAST-DS 2026' Scheme (Effective 16 August 2026):**
 - The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) launched the **Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers Disclosure Scheme (FAST-DS), 2026**, open from August 16 to December 31, 2026.
 - **Threshold & Tax Rate:** Small taxpayers with undisclosed foreign assets or foreign income up to **₹1 crore** can declare them by paying **30% tax + 30% penalty (total 60%)** to gain immunity from prosecution under the Black Money Act.
 - **Procedural Non-Disclosure:** Foreign assets up to **₹5 crore** acquired from disclosed income but omitted in ITR schedules can be regularized via a flat fee of **₹1 lakh**.
- **RBI Adjusts FCNR(B) Deposit Window:**
 - The Reserve Bank of India announced the early closure of its special Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposit facility to August 31, 2026 (moved from Sept 30) after attracting over **\$56.8 billion** in foreign currency inflows, significantly easing commercial bank liquidity and credit-to-deposit ratios.

Question 3: Under the CBDT's Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers Disclosure Scheme (FAST-DS), 2026, what is the maximum aggregate asset value eligible for declaration under the 60% total tax and penalty category?

- A) ₹25 Lakh
- B) ₹50 Lakh
- C) ₹1 Crore
- Indiatimes
- D) ₹5 Crore

- **Answer:** C) ₹1 Crore

- **Explanation:** Taxpayers with undisclosed foreign income/assets up to ₹1 crore can declare them under FAST-DS 2026 by paying a 30% tax plus a 30% penalty, securing legal immunity under the Black Money Act.

Defense News

- **Induction of Indigenously Developed Wheeled Armoured Platforms (WhAP):**
 - Public Sector Undertaking **Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL)** delivered the first operational batch of indigenously built **Wheeled Armoured Platforms** equipped with Remote Controlled Weapon Stations (RCWS) to the Indian Army.
 - Designed for rapid amphibious and high-altitude troop transportation, the vehicle enhances operational agility along rugged border terrains.
- **ISRO Deploys Indigenous Rubidium Atomic Clock:**
 - ISRO integrated an indigenous atomic clock payload into its next-generation positioning satellites, achieving high timing precision and eliminating dependence on foreign atomic clock modules for the NavIC constellation.

Question 4: Which Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU) manufactured and delivered the indigenous Wheeled Armoured Platforms (WhAP) to the Indian Army?

- A) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)
- B) Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL)
- C) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- D) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)

- **Answer:** B) Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL)
- **Explanation:** AVNL handed over the indigenously engineered wheeled combat vehicles featuring remote-controlled weapon systems for deployment across high-altitude and desert battlegrounds.

Govt Schemes & MoUs

- **IN-SPACe Approves First Indigenous Commercial Earth Observation Constellation:**
 - The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) under the Department of Space (DoS) approved a historic agreement allowing Indian private space firms to build and operate the country's first fully commercial Earth Observation (EO) satellite constellation.
- **CAG Audit Findings on Green India Mission (GIM):**
 - The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) submitted a performance audit report on the National Mission for a Green India (GIM) covering 16 States/UTs. Key findings highlighted gaps in target achievement, funding bottlenecks, and inadequate scheme convergence (such as with MGNREGA and CAMPA funds).

Question 5: Which regulatory body under the Department of Space granted approval for India's first fully commercial indigenous Earth Observation (EO) satellite constellation?

- A) NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)
- B) IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre)
- C) Antrix Corporation
- D) Defence Space Agency (DSA)

- **Answer:** B) IN-SPACe
- **Explanation:** IN-SPACe acts as the single-window autonomous agency regulating and authorizing private sector space activities in India, including commercial Earth Observation satellite fleets.

Sports

- **National Sports Talent Hunt Mission (Ages 5–15):**
 - A nationwide talent-scouting campaign targeting youth aged 5 to 15 years across rural and urban schools was officially rolled out.
 - **Objective:** Establish a scientific multi-sport pipeline aimed at preparing athletes for India's upcoming bid for the **2036 Olympic Games**.

Question 6: What target age group is covered under the newly launched Nationwide Sports Talent Hunt Mission aimed at building India's athlete pipeline for the 2036 Olympics?

- A) 10 to 20 years
- B) 5 to 15 years
- C) 12 to 18 years
- D) 8 to 16 years
- **Answer:** B) 5 to 15 years



- **Explanation:** The initiative scouts grassroots talent early (ages 5–15) across schools, panchayats, and urban training hubs to nurture future Olympic podium contenders.

Appointments

- **New Development Bank (NDB) Local Currency Financing Drive:**
 - NDB announced a **\$7.5 billion dedicated India investment portfolio** focusing on local currency (INR) loans for infrastructure and sustainable urban projects. Senior appointments were confirmed to lead the bank's Regional Hub in GIFT City, Gujarat, overseeing Rupee-denominated green bond issuances.

Question 7: What total funding commitment was announced by the New Development Bank (NDB) to expand local currency (Rupee) project financing in India?

- A) \$2.5 Billion
- B) \$5.0 Billion
- C) \$7.5 Billion
- D) \$10.0 Billion

- **Answer:** C) \$7.5 Billion
- **Explanation:** The New Development Bank committed \$7.5 billion toward deepening INR-denominated debt financing to reduce foreign exchange volatility for public infrastructure projects.

Awards & Honors

- **Gallantry Medals & Service Decorations (Independence Day Honors):**
 - President of India approved **President's Police Medals for Gallantry (PMG)** and **Gallantry Medals** for personnel across Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

- Honorees were recognized for operational bravery during counter-insurgency engagements along the Line of Control (LoC) and anti-Naxal operations in Central India.

Books & Authors

- **Book Title:** Saptadhara: The Seven Pillars of India's Economic Awakening
- **Author / Overview:** Released by policy think-tank researchers detailing the strategic framework behind India's transition toward a high-value manufacturing, digital public infrastructure, and clean energy economy by 2047.

Important Days (National & International)

- **August 16 – National Cyber Security Awareness & Digital Resilience Focus:**
 - Observed to promote public awareness regarding online financial scams, phishing attacks, and safe adoption of AI technologies among retail digital banking consumers.

Art & Culture / Festivals

- **Chilika Lake Enhanced Protection Notification:**
 - The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notified enhanced conservation frameworks for Odisha's **Chilika Lake** under international East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership protocols.
 - **Exam Context:** Chilika Lake is Asia's largest brackish water lagoon and was designated as the **first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention in 1981.**



Question 8: Chilika Lake, recently brought under enhanced migratory flyway protection frameworks, holds which historical distinction in India's ecological history?

- A) First UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site
- B) First Indian wetland designated under the Ramsar Convention (1981)
- C) Largest freshwater lake in South Asia
- D) India's first marine national park

- **Answer:** B) First Indian wetland designated under the Ramsar Convention (1981)
- **Explanation:** Designated in 1981, Chilika Lake is India's largest brackish water lagoon and a wintering ground for over a million migratory birds.

Birth & Death Anniversaries

- **Death Anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee (16 August):**
 - 16 August marks the death anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, **Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1924–2018)**.
 - **Key Legacy Milestones:**
 - **Pokhran-II Nuclear Tests (1998):** Established India as a declared nuclear-weapon state.
 - **Golden Quadrilateral & PMGSY:** Pioneered national highway grid development and rural road connectivity (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana).
 - **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (2001):** Flagship scheme making free primary education a fundamental right for children aged 6–14.
 - Awarded India's highest civilian honor, the **Bharat Ratna**, in 2015. Memorial site: Sadaiv Atal in New Delhi.

1. National News & Independence Day 2026

Q1, In the Independence Day address on 15–16 August 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a major national initiative targeting youth skill enhancement. What is the target number of youth to be provided with AI skill training over the next year?

- (A) 25 Lakh
- (B) 50 Lakh
- (C) 1 Crore
- (D) 2 Crore

Answer: (C) 1 Crore

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (C) is Correct:** During the 80th Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a nationwide mission to provide AI (Artificial Intelligence) skill training to **1 crore youth** over the next year. The objective is to equip Indian youth with cutting-edge technological capabilities to lead globally in artificial intelligence.
- **Options (A), (B), & (D) are Incorrect:** 25 Lakh, 50 Lakh, and 2 Crore are incorrect figures. The scheme specifically aims for 1 Crore (10 Million) youth within a 12-month period to support the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.

Q2 What are the primary dual themes selected for India's 80th Independence Day celebrated in August 2026?

- (A) "Naya Bharat" & "Atmanirbhar Krishi"
- (B) "150 Years of Vande Mataram" & "Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047"
- (C) "Har Ghar Tiranga" & "Digital Kranti"



- (D) "Viksit Kisan" & "Swachh Bharat 2.0"

Answer: (B) "150 Years of Vande Mataram" & "Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047"

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (B) is Correct:** The themes for India's 80th Independence Day (15 August 2026) focus on two pillars: celebrating the **150th anniversary of the composition of Vande Mataram** (written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay) and **"Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047"**, which highlights youth innovation, entrepreneurship, and leadership.
- **Option (A):** "Naya Bharat" was the official theme for the 79th Independence Day in 2025.
- **Options (C) & (D):** Represent ongoing national campaigns and sub-initiatives, but are not the declared primary dual themes for 2026.

Q3 Under the Sapta Dhara framework announced in August 2026 for economic transformation toward Viksit Bharat by 2047, how many core pillar sectors are identified?

- (A) 5
- (B) 7
- (C) 9
- (D) 12

Answer: (B) 7

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (B) is Correct:** Sapta Dhara (Seven Streams) is a seven-point reform framework introduced for structural economic transformation. The 7 pillars include: Manufacturing Power, Agriculture & Food Processing, Technology & Innovation, Gati Shakti (Infrastructure), Defence Power, Green & Blue Economy, and Soft Power.

- **Options (A), (C), & (D):** Incorrect numbers. The term "Sapta" explicitly denotes seven pillars.

Q4 Which AI-powered translation platform was deployed at the Red Fort on 15-16 August 2026 to stream the Prime Minister's address live in over 22 Indian regional languages?

- (A) Bhashini (Digital India Bhashini)
- (B) Anuvaadini
- (C) Sarvam AI
- (D) Krutrim

Answer: (A) Bhashini (Digital India Bhashini)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (A) is Correct:** Digital India Bhashini, the National Language Translation Mission (NLTM) platform, was integrated to translate the PM's Independence Day speech in real-time into 22 constitutionally recognized Indian languages.
- **Option (B):** Anuvaadini is an AI translation tool created by AICTE, mainly used for academic textbook translation.
- **Options (C) & (D):** Private Indic LLM models developed by Indian startups (Sarovam AI and Ola's Krutrim), not the flagship government platform used for this broadcast.

Q5 To tackle evolving contemporary security threats and urban emergencies, what specialized volunteer network did the Central Government announce plans to modernize in mid-August 2026?

- (A) Special Frontier Force
- (B) National Civil Defence Network
- (C) Home Guards Reserves
- (D) Village Defence Guards (VDG)

Answer: (B) National Civil Defence Network

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (B) is Correct:** The Prime Minister announced the creation of a modernized **Civil Defence Network** with advanced training and technology integration to prepare citizen volunteer forces against modern-day urban, industrial, and cyber-physical security challenges.
- **Option (A):** SFF is an elite covert paramilitary unit under the Cabinet Secretariat.
- **Option (D):** VDGs operate specifically in Jammu and Kashmir for rural counter-militancy, not as the nationwide urban civil defence force announced.

30% to gain immunity from prosecution under foreign asset compliance regulations.

- **Options (B), (C), & (D):** Incorrect expansions of the acronym and wrong monetary thresholds.

Q 7 As of 16 August 2026, what percentage of rural households in India have been provided with tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)?

- (A) 65%
- (B) 72%
- (C) 82%
- (D) 95%

Answer: (C) 82%

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (C) is Correct:** According to official data released on 16 August 2026, the Jal Jeevan Mission has expanded rural drinking tap water coverage from 16.7% at its launch in August 2019 to over **82%**.
- **Options (A), (B), & (D):** Represent past milestones or future projections; 82% is the verified coverage reached by mid-August 2026.

Q8 According to the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission for the 2026–2031 period, what is the total allocation for direct fiscal transfers to Gram Panchayats?

- (A) ₹2.50 lakh crore
- (B) ₹3.15 lakh crore
- (C) ₹4.35 lakh crore
- (D) ₹5.00 lakh crore

Answer: (C) ₹4.35 lakh crore

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (C) is Correct:** The 16th Finance Commission has fixed direct fiscal transfers

2. Economics & Banking

Q 6 The Union Finance Ministry operationalized the FAST-DS scheme starting August 16, 2026. What does "FAST-DS" stand for, and what is the foreign asset declaration threshold limit under this scheme?

- (A) Foreign Asset Shortfall Tax-Declaration Scheme; up to ₹5 Crore
- (B) Foreign Asset Settlement & Transparency Declaration Scheme; up to ₹10 Crore
- (C) Financial Asset Safety & Tracking Declaration Scheme; up to ₹2 Crore
- (D) Foreign Account Structured Tax Declaration Scheme; up to ₹1 Crore

Answer: (A) Foreign Asset Shortfall Tax-Declaration Scheme; up to ₹5 Crore

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (A) is Correct:** Operational from 16 August 2026 to 31 December 2026, the **FAST-DS** allows resident individuals to declare undisclosed foreign financial assets up to **₹5 Crore** by paying a flat tax/fee of

to Gram Panchayats across India at **₹4.35 lakh crore** for the 5-year period of 2026–2031 to strengthen decentralized rural governance and local public infrastructure.

- **Options (A), (B), & (D):** Incorrect figures; ₹4.35 lakh crore reflects the statutory devolution target.

Q9 Which Indian semiconductor innovation firm achieved first-pass silicon success on 16 August 2026 with the 'VIHAAN' broadband chip powered by the indigenous VEGA microprocessor?

- (A) Saankhya Labs
- (B) Aheesa Digital Innovations
- (C) Mindgrove Technologies
- (D) Signalchip

Answer: (B) Aheesa Digital Innovations

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (B) is Correct:** Aheesa Digital Innovations achieved first-pass silicon success for its broadband integrated circuit **VIHAAN**, built on C-DAC's indigenous **VEGA microprocessor** architecture. The initiative is supported under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's (MeitY) Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme.
- **Options (A), (C), & (D):** Other prominent Indian fabless semiconductor companies, but not the entity that achieved the VIHAAN milestone on August 16, 2026.

Q10 What long-term civil nuclear energy capacity target did India announce during mid-August 2026 for realization by the year 2047?

- (A) 50 GW
- (B) 75 GW
- (C) 100 GW

- (D) 150 GW

Answer: (C) 100 GW

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (C) is Correct:** The Prime Minister set a target of **100 GW** of operational nuclear power capacity by **2047** (up from ~8.7 GWe in 2026). This will be driven by conventional large-scale reactors and Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) enabled by the SHANTI Act.
- **Options (A), (B), & (D):** Incorrect targets. 100 GW is the official 2047 target.

3. Defense News

Q11 On 16 August 2026, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed capital acquisition contracts worth ₹1,577 crore for which type of defense system for the Indian Army?

- (A) Heavy Artillery Guns (ATAGS)
- (B) Loiter Munition Systems
- (C) Anti-Submarine Warfare Rockets
- (D) Hypersonic Glide Vehicles

Answer: (B) Loiter Munition Systems

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (B) is Correct:** Under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat framework, the MoD signed contracts worth **₹1,577 crore** on 16 August 2026 for the procurement of indigenous **Loiter Munition Systems** to enhance the Indian Army's precision-strike capabilities along frontier borders.
- **Options (A), (C), & (D):** Represent other ongoing defense acquisitions, but the specific ₹1,577 crore deal signed on August 16 was for loiter munitions.

Q12 Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) partnered with which two domestic manufacturers on 16 August 2026 for the

production of Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand fuselages?

- (A) Tata Advanced Systems & Bharat Forge
- (B) BEML & Adani Defence
- (C) Larsen & Toubro & Mahindra Defence
- (D) Dynamatic Technologies & Godrej Aerospace

Answer: (B) BEML & Adani Defence

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (B) is Correct:** In a major milestone for private defense manufacturing integration, HAL partnered with **BEML** (to manufacture 48 fuselage units) and **Adani Defence** (to manufacture 42 fuselage units) for the LCH Prachand helicopter production line.
- **Options (A), (C), & (D):** Other major defense conglomerates, but not the dual partners selected for this specific 90-unit LCH fuselage contract.

Q13 Which milestone in India's nuclear defence and power technology was highlighted in mid-August 2026 as attaining criticality at Kalpakkam?

- (A) Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)
- (B) Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR-700)
- (C) High-Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor
- (D) Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR)

Answer: (A) Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (A) is Correct:** India's first indigenous **Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)** at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, reached core criticality. This marks the operational

transition from Stage 1 (PHWRs) to Stage 2 of India's Three-Stage Nuclear Power Programme, unlocking the ability to utilize domestic Thorium reserves in Stage 3.

- **Options (B), (C), & (D):** Represent other reactor types under development by BARC/NPCIL, but PFBR is the landmark Stage 2 reactor at Kalpakkam.

4. Government Schemes & MoUs

Q14 Which Union Ministry organized the PMIS Industry Awards in New Delhi on 16 August 2026 to honor corporate partners creating internship opportunities for youth?

- (A) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- (B) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- (C) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- (D) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Answer: (B) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (B) is Correct:** The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** hosted the **PMIS Industry Awards** on 16 August 2026 to recognize leading corporate partners for their execution under the **Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS)**.
- **Options (A), (C), & (D):** While involved in national employment and skills policy, the PMIS program is administered under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Q15 On 16 August 2026, CCRAS-NIIMH signed an MoU with which institute for the preservation and digitization of ancient medical manuscripts?

- (A) Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute
- (B) Sevadhi Museum and Indological Research Institute

- (C) Asiatic Society of Mumbai
- (D) Saraswathi Mahal Library

Answer: (B) Sevadhi Museum and Indological Research Institute

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (B) is Correct:** The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences - National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (CCRAS-NIIMH) signed a memorandum of understanding on 16 August 2026 with the **Sevadhi Museum and Indological Research Institute** to digitize, catalog, and preserve rare historical medical manuscripts.
- **Options (A), (C), & (D):** Renowned Indological research institutes, but not the specific MoU signatory on August 16, 2026.

Q16 The Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India launched the RSVC-AMRIT platform on 16 August 2026. Which financial institution developed this rural innovation platform?

- (A) SIDBI
- (B) NABARD
- (C) NHB
- (D) EXIM Bank

Answer: (B) NABARD

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (B) is Correct:** The **RSVC-AMRIT** (Rural Startup & Value Creation - Acceleration via Market & Rural Tech Integration) platform was developed by the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** and launched by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to accelerate rural tech transfer and startup innovation.
- **Option (A):** SIDBI focuses primarily on urban and general MSMEs, whereas

NABARD leads rural credit and development innovations.

- **Options (C) & (D):** Focus on housing and export-import finance respectively.

Q17 On 16 August 2026, Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia inaugurated a pioneer project integrating drone technology into which public service organization?

- (A) Indian Railways
- (B) India Post
- (C) BSNL Rural Fiber Network
- (D) Food Corporation of India

Answer: (B) India Post

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (B) is Correct:** The Union Minister of Communications inaugurated the **India Post Drone Delivery** initiative on 16 August 2026, enabling commercial mail and medical payload deliveries in hard-to-reach terrain via autonomous drone networks.

- **Options (A), (C), & (D):** Incorrect organizations.

5. International News & Environment

Q18 Which major multilateral summit working group meeting is hosted by India at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi from 17-18 August 2026?

- (A) G20 Climate Sustainability Working Group
- (B) BRICS Environment Working Group
- (C) SCO Disaster Management Ministerial
- (D) IORA Renewable Energy Forum

Answer: (B) BRICS Environment Working Group

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (B) is Correct:** India is hosting the BRICS Environment Working Group Meetings at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on 17-18 August 2026, focusing on circular economy, biodiversity preservation, and joint climate action among member nations.
- **Options (A), (C), & (D):** Other regional/multilateral bodies; the August 17-18 session at Bharat Mandapam is specifically for BRICS Environment Ministers & working groups.

Q19 A official Guinness World Record for the "Largest Flagpole Number" was established in New Jersey in mid-August 2026 using over 1,300 flags. Which dual historical milestones did this installation honor?

- (A) India's 75th & US 200th Anniversaries
- (B) India's 80th Independence Day & US 250th Anniversary
- (C) India's 100th Republic Day & US 300th Anniversary
- (D) UN 80th Anniversary & India's 80th Independence Day

Answer: (B) India's 80th Independence Day & US 250th Anniversary

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (B) is Correct:** Indian-American community organizations in New Jersey set the record by forming the number '250' using 1,300 US and Indian tricolor flags, jointly celebrating India's 80th Independence Day (2026) and the United States' 250th Anniversary (Semiquincentennial - 2026).
- **Options (A), (C), & (D):** Incorrect historical timelines and milestone combinations.

Q20 Which statutory body audit report released in mid-August 2026 pointed out

implementation gaps in the Green India Mission (GIM) across 16 States/UTs?

- (A) NITI Aayog Evaluation Office
- (B) Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India
- (C) Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)
- (D) Forest Survey of India (FSI)

Answer: (B) Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (B) is Correct:** The CAG tabled a performance audit of the Green India Mission (GIM) covering 2015-16 to 2024-25, highlighting funding delays, inter-scheme convergence gaps, and afforestation target shortfalls across 16 States and UTs.
- **Options (A), (C), & (D):** Incorrect auditing entities for formal constitutional performance audits of Central Sector schemes.

6. Sports

Q21 To create a talent pipeline for the 2036 Olympics, what target age group was designated under the nationwide Sports Talent Identification Campaign announced in August 2026?

- (A) 3 to 10 years
- (B) 5 to 15 years
- (C) 10 to 18 years
- (D) 12 to 21 years

Answer: (B) 5 to 15 years

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (B) is Correct:** The Prime Minister launched a sports talent identification campaign targeting children aged 5 to 15



years across rural and urban schools/panchayats to identify grassroots athletic talent early and prepare them for upcoming international events, including India's bid for the **2036 Olympic Games**.

- **Options (A), (C), & (D):** Incorrect age brackets.

Q22 Who won the Esports World Cup Chess Title in Paris, France in August 2026, defeating Belarusian GM Denis Lazavik 2-0 in the final?

- (A) Hikaru Nakamura
- (B) Alireza Firouzja
- (C) Magnus Carlsen
- (D) Praggnanandhaa R.

Answer: (C) Magnus Carlsen

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (C) is Correct:** World No. 1 **Magnus Carlsen** won the Esports World Cup Chess title for the second consecutive year by defeating GM Denis Lazavik 2-0 in Paris while remaining undefeated throughout the tournament representing Team Liquid.
- **Options (A), (B), & (D):** Leading international Grandmasters who competed in the circuit, but Carlsen secured the championship title.

Q 23 In mid-August 2026, India kicked off a Test Cricket series against Sri Lanka at which historic venue?

- (A) R. Premadasa Stadium, Colombo
- (B) Galle International Stadium, Galle
- (C) Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, Kandy
- (D) SSC Ground, Colombo

Answer: (B) Galle International Stadium, Galle

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (B) is Correct:** The Indian Cricket Team opened its 2026 Test tour against Sri Lanka at the **Galle International Stadium** in Galle.
- **Options (A), (C), & (D):** Other major cricket venues in Sri Lanka.

7. Appointments & Persons in News

Q24 Who attended the Queens India Day Parade in New York City in mid-August 2026 as the city's Indian-origin Mayor?

- (A) Zohran Mamdani
- (B) Vivek Ramaswamy
- (C) Raj Shah
- (D) Neal Mohan

Answer: (A) Zohran Mamdani

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (A) is Correct:** **Zohran Mamdani**, serving as New York City's Mayor, participated in the annual Queens India Day Parade on 16 August 2026, celebrating community diversity and cultural ties during India's 80th Independence Day week.
- **Option (B):** Vivek Ramaswamy is an American political figure and entrepreneur.
- **Option (D):** Neal Mohan is CEO of YouTube.

8. Awards & Honors

Q25 The PMIS Industry Awards held on 16 August 2026 were instituted to evaluate and honor organizations primarily based on which parameter?

- (A) Maximum Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund allocation
- (B) Highest number of quality internship offers and youth skill integration
- (C) Export growth in green tech manufacturing

- (D) Adoption of renewable energy microgrids in offices

Answer: (B) Highest number of quality internship offers and youth skill integration

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (B) is Correct:** The PMIS (Prime Minister Internship Scheme) Industry Awards strictly evaluate partner companies on their performance in providing high-impact, paid practical internships and technical mentorship to non-graduate/graduate youth across India.
- **Options (A), (C), & (D):** Focus on general CSR, green technology, or corporate export metrics, which are covered by separate awards like National CSR Awards or Export Promotion Awards.

9. Books & Authors

Q26 Who composed the national song Vande Mataram, which completed 150 years of its creation and formed a major motif of the 2026 Independence Day celebrations?

- (A) Rabindranath Tagore
- (B) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
- (C) Sri Aurobindo Ghose
- (D) Kazi Nazrul Islam

Answer: (B) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (B) is Correct:** Vande Mataram was written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** in 1875/1876 and later included in his famous 1882 novel Anandamath. The 80th Independence Day (2026) commemorates "150 Years of Vande Mataram".
- **Option (A):** Rabindranath Tagore composed India's National Anthem (Jana Gana Mana).

- **Option (C):** Sri Aurobindo rendered the first English prose translation of Vande Mataram.

10. Important Days & Anniversaries

Q27 The 80th Independence Day of India on 15-16 August 2026 uniquely coincided with which traditional festival celebrated prominently in Maharashtra and Gujarat?

- (A) Onam
- (B) Navroz (Parsi New Year)
- (C) Ugadi
- (D) Gudi Padwa

Answer: (B) Navroz (Parsi New Year)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (B) is Correct:** In 2026, 15-16 August coincided with **Navroz** (the Parsi New Year, based on the Shahenshahi calendar), leading to major joint socio-cultural festivities across Mumbai, Surat, and western India.
- **Options (A), (C), & (D):** Onam (Kerala), Ugadi (Karnataka/Andhra Pradesh), and Gudi Padwa (Maharashtra spring new year) occur at different points in the calendar.

Q28 Which international observation takes place annually on 19 August, following closely after India's Independence Day week?

- (A) World Humanitarian Day
- (B) International Day of Youth
- (C) World Organ Donation Day
- (D) World Biofuel Day

Answer: (A) World Humanitarian Day

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (A) is Correct:** **World Humanitarian Day** is observed worldwide on **19 August** every year to commemorate humanitarian workers killed or injured in the course of their work and to honor aid workers.

- **Option (B):** International Youth Day is observed on August 12.
- **Option (C):** World Organ Donation Day is observed on August 13.
- **Option (D):** World Biofuel Day is observed on August 10.

11. Art, Culture & Heritage

Q29 Under the eGramSwaraj portal, what digital milestone supported by BharatNet optical fiber connectivity was highlighted in rural governance updates in August 2026?

- (A) 50,000 digital libraries created
- (B) ~₹3 lakh crore in digital payments facilitated across 2.19 lakh Gram Panchayats
- (C) 100% paperless land titling across all UTs
- (D) Setup of 10,000 rural AI centers

Answer: (B) ~₹3 lakh crore in digital payments facilitated across 2.19 lakh Gram Panchayats

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (B) is Correct:** As reported in the mid-August 2026 rural empowerment metrics, the BharatNet project has connected over **2.19 lakh Gram Panchayats** with high-speed broadband, facilitating **~₹3 lakh crore** in digital financial transactions through the eGramSwaraj payment gateway.
- **Options (A), (C), & (D):** Represent separate aspirational digital targets, not the reported transaction volume figure.

12. Defense & Aerospace

Q30 Which indigenous micro-processor developed by C-DAC serves as the core computing unit for the newly announced 'VIHAAN' broadband chip?

- (A) SHAKTI
- (B) VEGA

- (C) AJIT
- (D) ALTAIR

Answer: (B) VEGA

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (B) is Correct:** The **VEGA microprocessor**, developed indigenously by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), is the core architecture powering the newly validated **VIHAAN** broadband semiconductor chip.
- **Option (A):** SHAKTI is an open-source processor developed by IIT Madras.
- **Option (C):** AJIT is a processor developed by IIT Bombay.
- **Option (D):** Altair is a commercial international chip architecture.