

THEIAS AKADEMIA · MORNING EDITION · 08:00 IST

ANTIM ASSURED 100+

PART I · HEADLINES TO ECONOMY

Monday, 03 August 2026

§1 · TOP 10 HEADLINES

1. PM Modi launches "Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan" — 1 crore+ youth participate **GS2**
2. India concludes Commonwealth Games 2026 campaign with 39 medals, historic judo golds **GS2**
3. India and Rwanda hold first Joint Trade Committee meeting in New Delhi **GS2**
4. Favaara-UPI cross-border payment corridor goes live between India and Maldives **GS2**
5. EAM Jaishankar urges Iran to avoid attacks on commercial shipping and seafarers **GS2**
6. Defence Platform in Focus: the Arjun Mk-1A Main Battle Tank — indigenisation deep dive **GS3**
7. PM Modi inaugurates Andhra Pradesh's first semiconductor facility under India Semiconductor Mission **GS3**
8. PM Modi inaugurates Bhogapuram International Airport, ₹17,900 crore AP development package **GS3**
9. India's Composite PMI slips to 54.3 in July 2026 — weakest private-sector growth in 4 years **GS3**
10. WII-NHAI study: 18 wildlife species using Delhi-Dehradun Expressway underpasses **ENV**
11. Species in News: the Clouded Leopard — the Northeast's elusive canopy dweller **ENV**

§2 · POLITY & GOVERNANCE

GS2

Youth Affairs · Public Health

2 August 2026 · Source: PM India / ANI

PM Modi Launches "Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan"

Why in News: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the "Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan" via video conferencing on August 2, 2026, with over one crore youth from 28,000 locations participating, calling for a nationwide movement against substance abuse among young people.

Background: Building on the earlier Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, this 100-week campaign links drug-free youth to the broader Viksit Bharat vision, arguing that a physically fit and mentally strong young generation is a precondition for India's developed-nation goals by 2047.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Launched August 2, 2026; over 1 crore youth participated across 28,000 locations nationwide.
- A 100-week campaign with weekly activities every Sunday — sports events, walkathons, meditation, cultural programmes and nukkad nataks.
- Participants include MY Bharat and NSS volunteers, schools, colleges, universities, youth clubs and NGOs.
- Positions drug-free, physically and mentally strong youth as essential to the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "100 weeks, every Sunday" — the campaign's defining structural feature, distinguishing it from a one-off awareness drive.

 **PYQ LINKAGE**

GS2 (recurring): "Government initiatives for youth development and public health mobilisation."

 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The "Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan" was launched as a campaign spanning: (a) 52 weeks (b) 100 weeks (c) 150 weeks (d) 200 weeks. **Answer: (b).**

GS2

Nasha Mukh Yuva Abhiyan

Viksit Bharat

Youth Affairs

GS2

Sports Achievement

Concluded ~2 August 2026 · Source: Olympics.com / Business Standard

India Concludes Commonwealth Games 2026 Campaign With 39 Medals

Why in News: India concluded its Commonwealth Games 2026 campaign in Glasgow with 39 medals across the same 10 sports as 2022 (up from 31), retaining fourth place overall, headlined by India's first-ever CWG judo gold medals and Neeraj Chopra's return with a javelin silver.

Background: The Commonwealth Games bring together athletes from Commonwealth nations every four years; India's medal tally trend across successive editions is a recurring indicator cited in sports-governance and athlete-development discussions, feeding directly into schemes like Khelo India.

 KEY FACTS

- India's total: 39 medals (10 sports), up from 31 in 2022; retained 4th place in the overall standings.
- Asmita Dey and Harsh Singh won India's first-ever CWG judo gold medals.
- Gulveer Singh became the first Indian track-and-field athlete to win two individual medals at one CWG (10,000m silver, 5,000m bronze).
- Tejaswin Shankar became India's first CWG decathlon medallist; Neeraj Chopra won javelin silver on his return to the Games.

 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "31 to 39" — India's medal-tally jump from 2022 to 2026 is the single cleanest comparative statistic to cite when discussing sports-scheme effectiveness (e.g., alongside yesterday's Khelo India revamp).

 PYQ LINKAGE

GS1/GS2 (recurring): "Sporting achievements and their linkage to government sports-development schemes."

 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. India's first-ever Commonwealth Games judo gold medals (2026) were won by: (a) Asmita Dey and Harsh Singh (b) Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia (c) Sakshi Malik and Ravi Dahiya (d) Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh. **Answer: (a).**

GS2

Commonwealth Games 2026

Sports Governance

Judo

§3 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

GS2

Trade Diplomacy · Africa Outreach

30-31 July 2026 · Source: Odisha Diary / DD India

India and Rwanda Hold First Joint Trade Committee Meeting in New Delhi

Why in News: India and Rwanda held the first session of their Joint Trade Committee (JTC) in New Delhi on July 30-31, 2026, establishing a permanent institutional mechanism to review bilateral commerce and identifying critical minerals, pharmaceuticals, digital technologies, agriculture and renewable energy as priority sectors.

Background: India is already Rwanda's largest source of pharmaceutical imports (about 24.5% share); this JTC is distinct from the earlier India-Rwanda Joint Defence Cooperation Committee, reflecting a broadening of the bilateral relationship beyond defence into structured trade and investment cooperation.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- First JTC session held New Delhi, July 30-31, 2026; Agreed Minutes signed on July 31.
- Indian delegation led by Joint Secretary (Commerce) Amit Kumar; Rwandan side led by DG (Asia-Pacific-Middle East) Virgile Rwanyagatare.
- Priority sectors: critical minerals, pharmaceuticals/healthcare, digital technologies, agriculture, renewable energy.
- India accounts for ~24.5% of Rwanda's pharmaceutical imports; Rwanda's priority exports include chillies, macadamia, coffee and minerals.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "JTC ≠ JDCC" — Joint Trade Committee (commerce) is a distinct apex mechanism from the Joint Defence Cooperation Committee, a useful distinction when multiple "Joint [X] Committee" acronyms appear in IR questions.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 (recurring): "India's Africa outreach — institutional mechanisms for trade and investment cooperation."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. India is currently the largest source of which category of Rwanda's imports? (a) Textiles (b) Pharmaceuticals (c) Electronics (d) Automobiles. **Answer: (b).**

GS2

India-Rwanda JTC

Africa Outreach

Trade Diplomacy

GS2

Digital Diplomacy · UPI Globalisation

30 July 2026 · Source: Organiser / Upstox

Favara-UPI Cross-Border Payment Corridor Goes Live Between India and Maldives

Why in News: The integration between the Maldives' instant payment system "Favara" and India's UPI became operational on July 30, 2026, enabling real-time person-to-person transfers from Maldivian Rufiyaa to Indian Rupees via the UPI network — India's ninth country for UPI-based payment services abroad.

Background: This corridor builds on a July 2025 agreement between NPCI International Payments Limited and the Maldives Monetary Authority; India has been steadily internationalising UPI through similar tie-ups (Singapore, UAE, Sri Lanka, France, and now Maldives) as part of its digital-diplomacy and remittance-facilitation strategy.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Corridor went live July 30, 2026; transactions convert Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR) to Indian Rupees (INR) via UPI.
- First phase covers two Maldivian banks: Bank of Maldives Plc and Maldives Islamic Bank Plc.
- Built on a July 2025 NPCI International-Maldives Monetary Authority agreement; went live after a 10-day accelerated implementation.
- UPI-based payment services are now available in nine countries outside India.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "Favara meets UPI, Rufiyaa meets Rupee" — the corridor's core function is currency conversion plus real-time settlement, not just a technical linkage.

 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2/GS3 (recurring): "UPI's international expansion as an instrument of India's digital and economic diplomacy."

 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The Favara-UPI cross-border payment corridor connects India's UPI with which country's instant payment system?

(a) Sri Lanka (b) Maldives (c) Nepal (d) Bangladesh. **Answer: (b).**

GS2

Favara-UPI

India-Maldives

Digital Diplomacy

GS2

West Asia · Maritime Security

~1-2 August 2026 · Source: WION / Scroll

EAM Jaishankar Urges Iran to Avoid Attacks on Commercial Shipping and Seafarers

Why in News: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, in a telephonic conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi, strongly urged that attacks on commercial shipping and seafarers be avoided under any circumstances amid escalating West Asia hostilities, while reiterating India's support for dialogue and diplomacy.

Background: Since the outbreak of the current Middle East conflict in 2026, 16 Indian nationals (including 10 seafarers) have died and 75 have been injured; India has repeatedly stressed that civilian shipping and seafarers must stay outside the scope of military confrontation given the risk to global energy and trade supply chains.

 KEY FACTS

- Jaishankar-Araghchi call urged restraint on both sides regarding attacks on shipping/seafarers.
- 16 Indian nationals (10 seafarers) have died and 75 injured in the West Asia conflict since its 2026 outbreak.
- India reiterated support for dialogue and diplomacy, condemning attacks "regardless of who carries them out."
- India has previously set up a Quick Response Team for citizen safety amid West Asia tensions.

 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "seafarers first, sides second" — India's diplomatic messaging on West Asia consistently centres civilian/seafarer safety ahead of taking sides in the conflict.

 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 (recurring): "India's diplomatic balancing act in West Asia amid regional conflicts."

 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. India's diplomatic engagement with Iran on West Asia hostilities has primarily emphasised: (a) Military support (b) Safety of commercial shipping and seafarers (c) Trade sanctions (d) UNSC referral. **Answer: (b).**

GS2

India-Iran

West Asia

Maritime Security

Defence Platform in Focus: The Arjun Mk-1A Main Battle Tank

Why in News (Static Profile): No dedicated fresh Defence news story cleared verification for August 1-3, 2026 (Project Kusha, UTD-20 engine, RIMPAC 2026 and the Uttam AESA radar contract are all already covered and currently blocked); per the Defence & Security Static Fallback Protocol, this slot profiles a key indigenous platform instead of leaving the section empty.

Background: The Arjun is India's indigenously designed third-generation Main Battle Tank, developed by DRDO's Chennai-based Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) and manufactured at the Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF), Avadi.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Mk-1A carries 72 new features and 14 major upgrades over the Mk1, raising indigenous content to 54.3% (from 41%).
- Primary armament: 120mm rifled gun firing APFSDS, HESH, PCB and thermobaric rounds; improved Kanchan composite armour plus ERA Mk-II and NERA protection.
- Mobility: road speed ~70 km/h, cross-country speed ~40 km/h, with an improved Gunner's Main Sight and Automatic Target Tracking for firing on the move.
- MoD placed a ₹7,523 crore order for 118 Arjun Mk-1A tanks with HVF Avadi (order dated September 23, 2021) — a landmark "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" defence-production milestone.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "72 features, 54.3% indigenous" — the two headline numbers distinguishing Mk-1A from the base Arjun Mk1, useful for MCQs testing variant-specific detail.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "Indigenisation of defence production — Main Battle Tank programme and Aatmanirbhar Bharat in the defence sector."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The Arjun Mk-1A Main Battle Tank is manufactured at: (a) Ordnance Factory Medak (b) Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi (c) Bharat Earth Movers Limited (d) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders. **Answer: (b).**

GS3

Arjun Mk-1A

CVRDE/DRDO

Aatmanirbhar Bharat

§5 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

PM Modi Inaugurates Andhra Pradesh's First Semiconductor Manufacturing Facility

Why in News: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Andhra Pradesh's first semiconductor manufacturing facility in Visakhapatnam on August 1, 2026, developed by ASIP Technologies in partnership with South Korea's ATRACT under the India Semiconductor Mission.

Background: The India Semiconductor Mission aims to build a complete domestic chip ecosystem; as of May 2026, the Cabinet had approved 12 semiconductor facilities across six states with cumulative investments of about ₹1.64 lakh crore, of which this is Andhra Pradesh's first.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Inaugurated August 1, 2026, in Visakhapatnam; investment over ₹460 crore; capacity ~96 million chips/year.
- Developed by ASIP Technologies Pvt Ltd in partnership with ATRACT, Republic of Korea.

- Functions as an Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) unit — packages and tests dies from fabrication plants.
- 12 semiconductor facilities now approved across 6 states nationally, cumulative investment ~₹1.64 lakh crore (as of May 2026).

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "OSAT packages, fab fabricates" — an OSAT unit like this one tests and packages chips, it does not fabricate the silicon die itself; don't confuse the two stages of the semiconductor value chain.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2023: "Explain the purpose of the National Logistics Policy... Discuss the significance of the India Semiconductor Mission for economic self-reliance." (semiconductor ecosystem linkage)

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. An OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test) facility primarily performs: (a) Silicon wafer fabrication (b) Chip design (c) Packaging and testing of chips (d) Rare-earth mineral extraction. **Answer: (c).**

GS3

India Semiconductor Mission

OSAT

Andhra Pradesh

§6 · ECONOMY

GS3

Infrastructure · Energy Transmission

1 August 2026 · Source: PM India / Tradebrains

PM Modi Inaugurates Bhogapuram International Airport, ₹17,900 Crore AP Package

Why in News: Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, Vizianagaram district, and dedicated development projects worth over ₹17,900 crore in Andhra Pradesh on August 1, 2026, including a major renewable-energy transmission project and national highway works.

Background: The Kurnool-IV Renewable Energy Zone transmission project reflects the broader challenge of evacuating power from India's renewable energy zones to the grid, typically implemented by POWERGRID through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) under tariff-based competitive bidding.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Bhogapuram (Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport) inaugurated August 1, 2026, in Vizianagaram district.
- Total package value over ₹17,900 crore, spanning airport, semiconductor, energy and highway projects.
- Kurnool-IV Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Phase-I transmission: 4.5 GW capacity, ~₹5,550 crore, implemented by POWERGRID via SPV.
- National Highway projects dedicated/foundation-laid worth over ₹1,880 crore in the same package.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "17,900 crore, four pillars" — airport + semiconductor + REZ transmission + highways is a clean four-part breakdown to recall this multi-sector package.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "Renewable energy evacuation infrastructure and inter-state transmission planning."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The Kurnool-IV Renewable Energy Zone transmission project (Phase-I) has a capacity of: (a) 2 GW (b) 3.5 GW (c) 4.5 GW (d) 6 GW. **Answer:** (c).

GS3

Bhogapuram Airport

Kurnool-IV REZ

POWERGRID

GS3

Economic Indicators

Flash reading, data collected 8-21 July 2026 · Source: S&P Global / Republic World

India's Composite PMI Slips to 54.3 in July 2026 — Weakest Growth in Over 4 Years

Why in News: The flash HSBC India Composite Purchasing Managers' Index fell to 54.3 in July 2026 from 57.1 in June, signalling the weakest pace of private-sector expansion since March 2022, with the slowdown concentrated in the services sector.

Background: The Composite PMI combines manufacturing and services sector readings into a single gauge of private-sector activity; a flash estimate is released roughly two weeks before the final figure, based on around 85-90% of survey responses, giving policymakers and markets an early read.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Flash Composite PMI, July 2026: 54.3, down from 57.1 in June — weakest since March 2022.
- Data collected 8-21 July 2026; slowdown concentrated in services rather than manufacturing.
- Reading remains above the 50-point expansion threshold despite the deceleration.
- Distinct from the already-reported Manufacturing PMI (53.9) — this is the combined manufacturing-plus-services gauge.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "Composite = Manufacturing + Services combined" — don't confuse this reading with the standalone Manufacturing PMI figure covered in an earlier edition; they are different indices with different values.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "Purchasing Managers' Index methodology and its use as a leading economic indicator."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. India's flash Composite PMI for July 2026 marked the weakest private-sector growth since: (a) January 2020 (b) March 2022 (c) June 2023 (d) August 2024. **Answer:** (b).

GS3

Composite PMI

Services Sector

Economic Indicators

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