

THEIAS AKADEMIA · MORNING EDITION · 08:00 IST

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PART I · HEADLINES TO ECONOMY

Tuesday, 04 August 2026

§1 · TOP 11 HEADLINES

1. Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj Party wins its first-ever Assembly seat — Bankipur bypoll, Bihar **GS2**
2. ECI bypoll results: Congress retains Datia (MP), BJP retains Manjalpur (Gujarat) **GS2**
3. World Breastfeeding Week 2026 (Aug 1-7): WCD Ministry pushes "Golden Hour" breastfeeding awareness **GS2**
4. India chairs BRICS Heads of National Statistical Offices Meeting in Lucknow **GS2**
5. Rajnath Singh addresses 85th AFHQ Civilian Services Day, launches digital initiatives **GS3**
6. IMD's Doppler Radar network and early-warning system flag Kerala's extreme rainfall in advance **GS3**
7. India's fiscal deficit touches 18.2% of FY27 target in Q1 (CGA data) **GS3**
8. RBI's Monetary Policy Committee meets August 3-5; repo rate decision awaited **GS3**
9. Ministry of Textiles to host "GI & Beyond 2.0 Summit" in Delhi on August 5 **GS3**
10. Kerala floods and landslides: at least 8 dead, thousands displaced across four districts **ENV**
11. Species in News: the Nilgiri Tahr — the Western Ghats' endangered mountain icon **ENV**

§2 · POLITY & GOVERNANCE

GS2

Party System · Electoral Politics

3 August 2026 · Source: ECI Results / Sunday Guardian / ANI

Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj Party Wins Maiden Assembly Seat — Bankipur Bypoll, Bihar

Why in News: Prashant Kishor, contesting on a Jan Suraj Party ticket, won the Bankipur assembly bypoll in Patna, Bihar, on August 3, 2026, defeating BJP's Neeraj Kumar by a margin of 19,419 votes — the party's first-ever Assembly seat win, months ahead of Bihar's full Assembly elections.

Background: Jan Suraj Party was founded by poll-strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor after a nationwide padyatra; this by-election win is being widely read as an early test of the party's electoral viability in Bihar's fragmented party landscape.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Prashant Kishor (Jan Suraj) defeated BJP's Neeraj Kumar in Bankipur (Patna) by 19,419 votes.
- This is Jan Suraj Party's first-ever Assembly seat win since its founding.
- Bankipur was among three Assembly bypolls held simultaneously (with Datia, MP and Manjalpur, Gujarat) — all polled July 30, counted August 3.
- Comes months ahead of Bihar's next Legislative Assembly general elections.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "19,419 votes, first win" — Jan Suraj's electoral debut, distinguishing it from the two other same-day bypolls that saw established parties retain seats.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 (recurring): "Emergence of new political formations and their impact on India's evolving party system."

 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The Jan Suraaj Party's first-ever Assembly seat win (2026) came from which constituency? (a) Bankipur (b) Datia (c) Manjalpur (d) Raghopur. **Answer: (a).**

GS2

Jan Suraaj Party

Bihar Bypoll

Prashant Kishor

GS2

Electoral Process · Representation of the People Act

3 August 2026 · Source: ECI / Sunday Guardian / News on Air

ECI Bypoll Results: Congress Retains Datia (MP), BJP Retains Manjalpur (Gujarat)

Why in News: Counting for assembly bypolls in Datia (Madhya Pradesh) and Manjalpur (Gujarat) concluded on August 3, 2026, with Congress's Ghanshyam Singh winning Datia by 6,056 votes and BJP's Satish Govindbhai Patel retaining Manjalpur by 30,630 votes.

Background: The Datia seat fell vacant after the disqualification of Rajendra Bharti (April 2, 2026), while Manjalpur fell vacant following the death of sitting MLA Yogeshbhai Narandas Patel (June 2, 2026); polling for both, alongside Bankipur, was held July 30, 2026.

 KEY FACTS

- Datia (MP): Congress's Ghanshyam Singh defeated BJP's Ashutosh Tiwari by a margin of 6,056 votes.
- Manjalpur (Gujarat): BJP's Satish Govindbhai Patel retained the seat by a margin of 30,630 votes.
- Datia vacancy: disqualification of sitting MLA Rajendra Bharti (April 2, 2026).
- Manjalpur vacancy: death of sitting MLA Yogeshbhai Narandas Patel (June 2, 2026).

 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "Congress flips Datia, BJP holds Manjalpur" — one seat changed hands, one didn't; a clean two-outcome contrast for MCQs.

 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 (recurring): "Disqualification of legislators and the resulting by-election process under the Representation of the People Act."

 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The Datia assembly seat (Madhya Pradesh) fell vacant due to: (a) Death of the sitting MLA (b) Resignation (c) Disqualification (d) Election petition. **Answer: (c).**

GS2

ECI Bypolls

Datia

Manjalpur

GS2

Maternal & Child Health · Poshan Abhiyan

1-7 August 2026 · Source: PIB / WCD Ministry / LatestLY

World Breastfeeding Week 2026: WCD Ministry's "Golden Hour" Push

Why in News: The Ministry of Women and Child Development is observing World Breastfeeding Week 2026 from August 1-7 under the theme "Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in Life: Strengthen What Works," urging early initiation of breastfeeding within the "Golden Hour" of birth.

Background: The observance links to India's Poshan Abhiyan/National Nutrition Mission framework, which identifies early and exclusive breastfeeding as a key lever for reducing child stunting and wasting among India's nutrition indicators.

 KEY FACTS

- Observed August 1-7, 2026, by the Ministry of Women and Child Development nationwide.
- 2026 theme: "Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in Life: Strengthen What Works."
- Key message: initiate breastfeeding within the "Golden Hour" — the first hour after birth; colostrum termed the baby's "first natural vaccine."
- Ministry also cites maternal benefits — reduced risk of certain cancers, diabetes and postpartum depression.

 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "Golden Hour = first hour" — the single most testable fact from this year's observance week.

 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 (recurring): "Government schemes and observance weeks addressing maternal and child nutrition."

 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. World Breastfeeding Week 2026 is being observed in India from: (a) July 25-31 (b) August 1-7 (c) August 8-14 (d) September 1-7. **Answer: (b).**

GS2

World Breastfeeding Week

Poshan Abhiyan

WCD Ministry

§3 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

GS2

BRICS · Statistical Cooperation

3-4 August 2026 · Source: PIB / IBEF

India Chairs BRICS Heads of National Statistical Offices Meeting in Lucknow

Why in News: India is chairing the Meeting of Heads of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of BRICS countries in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, from August 3-4, 2026, under the theme "Quality Statistics as Driver of Change," with two side events on administrative data and AI readiness in statistics.

Background: The meeting builds on the BRICS Joint Statistical Publication (introduced 2020) and reflects India's push to strengthen statistical cooperation among an expanded BRICS grouping that now spans eleven countries beyond the original five.

 KEY FACTS

- Held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, August 3-4, 2026, under India's BRICS chairship.
- Theme: "Quality Statistics as Driver of Change."
- Side events: "Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data" (Aug 3) and "AI Readiness in the Evolving Data Ecosystem" (Aug 4).
- Current forum membership: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE (11 countries).

 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "11 members, 2 side events" — a quick handle for this specific BRICS statistical forum, distinct from BRICS summit-level diplomacy.

 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 (recurring): "India's institutional leadership role within BRICS beyond summit-level engagement."

 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The 2026 BRICS Heads of National Statistical Offices Meeting, chaired by India, was held in: (a) New Delhi (b) Lucknow (c) Varanasi (d) Bhopal. **Answer: (b).**

GS2

BRICS

Lucknow

National Statistical Office

§4 · DEFENCE & SECURITY

GS3

Defence Administration · Military-Civil Integration

3 August 2026 · Source: PIB / ANI / Rajnath Singh Press Release

85th AFHQ Civilian Services Day: Rajnath Singh on Military-Civil Integration

Why in News: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed the 85th Armed Forces Headquarters (AFHQ) Civilian Services Day celebrations in New Delhi on August 3, 2026, calling military-civil integration key to a robust defence ecosystem, while launching several digital initiatives and releasing the 34th issue of the "Samvad" magazine.

Background: AFHQ Civilian Services personnel handle policy, administrative and logistics functions supporting the armed forces; this year's celebrations emphasised deeper civil-military integration amid India's wider defence-modernisation and digitisation push.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- 85th AFHQ Civilian Services Day held in New Delhi on August 3, 2026.
- Digital initiatives launched: IBAMS (Internet-Based Accommodation Management System) portal; eHRMS-TULIP 2.0 integration; CAO office-TULIP 2.0 integration; SPARROW portal onboarding.
- Rajnath Singh released the 34th issue of "Samvad" magazine, featuring writing by AFHQ/Inter-Service Organisation employees.
- Also launched the revised Vision and Mission Statement of the JS & CAO office and presented awards to AFHQ personnel and their children.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "85th year, 4 digital tools" — IBAMS, eHRMS-TULIP, CAO-TULIP, SPARROW — the four named systems from this year's celebration.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "Military-civil integration and administrative/digital reform within India's defence establishment."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The SPARROW portal, referenced at the 85th AFHQ Civilian Services Day, is primarily used for: (a) Pension processing (b) Performance appraisal reporting (c) Procurement tracking (d) Pay disbursal. **Answer: (b).**

GS3

AFHQ Civilian Services Day

Rajnath Singh

Defence Administration

§5 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

GS3

Meteorology · Disaster Early Warning

1-2 August 2026 (hook) · Source: IMD / Watchers.news / The Quint

IMD's Doppler Radar Network and Multi-Hazard Early Warning System Flagged Kerala's Extreme Rainfall

Why in News: As torrential rainfall triggered deadly floods and landslides across Kerala from July 31 to August 2, 2026, attention has turned to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Doppler Weather Radar network and colour-coded warning system that flagged the extreme rainfall in advance.

Background: IMD operates a growing network of Doppler Weather Radars (DWRs) feeding into a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System, issuing red/orange/yellow alerts by district; translating these warnings into timely evacuation remains a persistent governance challenge in hilly, landslide-prone terrain like the Western Ghats.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- IMD recorded 250 mm of rainfall at Laha, Pathanamthitta, in the 24 hours ending 08:30 IST on August 1, 2026 — among the triggers for Kerala's disaster.
- IMD's DWR network detects rainfall intensity and storm movement in real time, feeding colour-coded (red/orange/yellow) district-level alerts.
- Colour-coded alerts are meant to trigger district Disaster Management Plans under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, for evacuation and relief pre-positioning.
- Following the warnings and onset of flooding, 5,792 people were relocated to 209 relief camps in Kerala.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "250mm at Laha" — a concrete rainfall data point tying IMD's radar detection directly to the Kerala disaster's scale.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "Early warning systems and disaster preparedness — the role of IMD in mitigating extreme-weather impact."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. India's Multi-Hazard Early Warning System primarily relies on which technology for real-time rainfall and storm detection? (a) LIDAR (b) Doppler Weather Radar (c) GPS-based sensors (d) Seismographs. **Answer: (b).**

GS3

IMD

Doppler Weather Radar

Disaster Management

§6 · ECONOMY

GS3

Fiscal Policy · FRBM

Released 31 July 2026 · Source: CGA / The Print / Business Standard

India's Fiscal Deficit Touches 18.2% of FY27 Target in Q1

Why in News: Data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on July 31, 2026, showed India's fiscal deficit for the April-June quarter (Q1 FY27) at ₹3,07,833 crore, or 18.2% of the full-year budgeted target — higher than the 17.9% recorded in the same period of FY26.

Background: The fiscal deficit — the gap between total government expenditure and total non-borrowed receipts — is budgeted at 4.3% of GDP (₹16.96 lakh crore) for FY27; CGA's monthly/quarterly progress data is watched closely as an indicator of the pace of government spending and revenue mobilisation.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Q1 FY27 fiscal deficit: ₹3,07,833 crore, or 18.2% of the full-year Budget Estimate.
- Compares with 17.9% of BE recorded in the same period (Apr-Jun) of FY26.

- Centre's net tax revenue up to June 2026: ₹6.36 lakh crore, or 22.2% of the FY27 Budget Estimate for total receipts.
- Full-year fiscal deficit target for FY27: 4.3% of GDP, or ₹16.96 lakh crore.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "18.2 vs 17.9" — a one-percentage-point year-on-year rise, a clean trend-comparison figure for MCQs.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "Fiscal deficit, fiscal consolidation roadmap, and targets under the FRBM Act."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. India's fiscal deficit target for FY27, as a share of GDP, is budgeted at: (a) 3.4% (b) 4.3% (c) 5.1% (d) 5.9%. **Answer: (b).**

GS3

Fiscal Deficit

CGA

FRBM

GS3

Monetary Policy · RBI

Meeting 3-5 August 2026 · Source: Business Standard

RBI's Monetary Policy Committee Meets August 3-5; Repo Rate Decision Awaited

Why in News: The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is meeting from August 3-5, 2026, under Governor Sanjay Malhotra, with the repo rate decision to be announced on August 5 amid a growth-inflation balancing act following weaker PMI and rising fiscal-deficit data.

Background: The six-member MPC, constituted under the RBI Act, 1934 (as amended in 2016), meets at least four times a year to decide the policy repo rate, aiming to keep retail inflation within its mandated target band while supporting growth.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- MPC meeting dates: August 3-5, 2026; decision to be announced by Governor Sanjay Malhotra on August 5.
- Comes amid a weakening Composite PMI (54.3 in July) and a rising Q1 FY27 fiscal deficit (18.2% of target).
- The MPC's retail inflation target band remains $4\% \pm 2\%$ (i.e., 2-6%), under the RBI Act framework.
- This is a scheduled bi-monthly policy review — one of at least four mandated per year.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "Aug 3-5 meets, Aug 5 decides" — the MPC's three-day meeting window versus its single decision-announcement date.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "Composition and functions of the Monetary Policy Committee under the RBI Act, 1934."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. Under the RBI Act framework, the Monetary Policy Committee's retail inflation target band is: (a) 2-4% (b) 2-6% (c) 3-7% (d) 4-8%. **Answer: (b).**

GS3

RBI MPC

Monetary Policy

Repo Rate

GS3

Geographical Indications · Handloom Exports

Announced 2 August 2026, event 5 August 2026 · Source: UNI India / New Kerala

Ministry of Textiles to Host "GI & Beyond 2.0 Summit" in Delhi on August 5

Why in News: The Ministry of Textiles announced on August 2, 2026, that it will organise the "GI & Beyond 2.0 Summit" in New Delhi on August 5, showcasing over 100 Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged handloom and handicraft products to overseas buyers from around 10 countries.

Background: GI tags, granted under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, protect products whose distinctive qualities are linked to a specific geographic origin; the summit aims to help GI-tagged crafts scale into export markets.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Summit scheduled for August 5, 2026, at the Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.
- Organised by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) with the Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC).
- Over 100 GI-registered handloom and handicraft products to be displayed; buyers expected from around 10 countries.
- Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles Pabitra Margherita to inaugurate as chief guest.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "100+ products, 10 countries" — the two headline scale-figures for this GI-focused summit.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "Geographical Indications — legal framework and export potential of GI-tagged products."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. Geographical Indications in India are protected under an Act enacted in: (a) 1999 (b) 2003 (c) 2005 (d) 2011. **Answer: (a).**

GS3

Geographical Indications

Handloom

Ministry of Textiles

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