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Weekly Current Affairs

August 2026 - Week 2

10 – 16 August 2026 | Exam Revision Notes

40+ Topics · 12 Sections · ~30 Min Read

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Dear Aspirants,

Greetings from ReadingRoomz! This week brought significant developments across international security, national governance, economy, science, environment, defence, and the performing arts — all directly relevant to your APPSC, Group-1, Group-2, DSC, and SI journey.

Read each topic carefully, note the key facts, and revise before your next practice session. Consistency is your greatest weapon. **Every small step today brings you closer to your dream tomorrow.**

— Team ReadingRoomz | contact@readingroomz.com

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1. International Current Affairs

Mecca Joint Defence Agreement – Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye signed the **Mecca Joint Defence Agreement** in **Mecca, Saudi Arabia** on **7 August 2026**. Signed by Saudi Crown Prince **Mohammed bin Salman**, Turkish President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**, and Pakistani PM **Shehbaz Sharif**.

Feature	Detail
Core Clause	An armed attack against any one member is considered an attack against all three — compared to Article 5 of NATO by Türkiye's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan
Member Capabilities	Pakistan — nuclear-armed State Saudi Arabia — major economic/energy power in West Asia Türkiye — NATO member with large military and expanding defence-industrial base
Response Mechanism	Does not automatically specify precise military response — members would consult on degree, form, and format of assistance
Institutional Structure	Ministerial committee and general secretariat to be established, based in Saudi Arabia
India Relevance	Strategic significance as Pakistan is a member; signatories describe pact as defensive and not directed against any particular country

RCF Kapurthala to Roll Out First LHB Coach Rake for Bangladesh Railway

The **Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala** is set to roll out the first rake of customised **Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) broad-gauge passenger coaches** for **Bangladesh Railway** on **12 August 2026**. Part of Bangladesh Railway's 2024 order via **ITES** for **200 broad-gauge coaches in seven variants**. RCF had earlier supplied 120 LHB broad-gauge coaches to Bangladesh Railway.

2. National Current Affairs

GI-Tagged Mithila Makhana - First Commercial Sea Shipment to Australia

APEDA facilitated the first-ever commercial sea shipment of **GI-tagged Mithila Makhana** from Bihar to Australia — a consignment of **18 metric tonnes** of premium raw Mithila Makhana shipped from **BIADA Industrial Area, Bihta, Bihar**. Bihar accounts for nearly **85% of India's Makhana production**.

India Gifts Five Peacocks to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)

India donated five **Indian peacocks (*Pavo cristatus*)** to the **United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)** on **7 August 2026**, reviving a decades-old tradition. Formally handed over by India's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, **Arindam Bagchi**, to UNOG Director-General **Tatiana Valovaya**.

Kalanamak Rice - Eastern UP; Production Up 5× in Siddharthnagar (2018-2025)

Kalanamak rice, a traditional aromatic rice of eastern Uttar Pradesh, has seen significant growth. In **Siddharthnagar district**, production increased more than **fivefold between 2018 and 2025**. Farmers cultivating it rose from **2,915 in 2018 to ~23,000 in 2024**. Promoted under UP's **ODOP (One District One Product)** initiative.

National Waterways - 19 New NWs Identified; 111 Total; Three in Andhra Pradesh

The Government identified **19 additional National Waterways (NWs)** for cruise tourism and passenger ferry operations. India has **111 NWs** under the **National Waterways Act, 2016**; **32 operational**; network: **~20,187 km across 23 States and 4 UTs**.

National Waterway	River	Coverage
NW-4	Krishna-Godavari River System and associated canals	Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring States/UT
NW-79	Penna (Pennar) River	Andhra Pradesh
NW-104	Tungabhadra River	Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka

New NWs to be Operationalised in 2026-27: NW-49 (Jhelum River, J&K;) | NW-26 (Chenab River, J&K;) | NW-84 (Ravi River, J&K;) NW-51 (Kabini River, Karnataka) | NW-90 (Sharavati River, Karnataka) | NW-88 (Sal River, Goa)

3. Polity & Governance

SC Reinforces Safeguards Against Arbitrary Arrest - Article 22(1); Vihaan Kumar v. State of Haryana (2025)

The Supreme Court reinforced that every arrested person must be **effectively and meaningfully informed of the grounds of arrest** under **Article 22(1)**. Failure to communicate directly renders the arrest illegal and can vitiate subsequent remand.

Legal Provision	Key Content
Article 22(1)	Every arrested person must be informed of grounds of arrest directly in an understandable language Informing relatives does NOT satisfy Article 22(1) Arrest memo ≠ "grounds of arrest"
Article 22(2)	Arrested person must be produced before the nearest Magistrate within 24 hours of arrest (excluding travel time)
Article 21	Failure to follow Article 22 safeguards can also violate right to life and personal liberty under Article 21
BNSS 2023, Section 47	Person arrested without warrant must be informed immediately of full particulars of the offence or grounds for arrest
BNSS 2023, Section 35	Regulates police power to arrest without a warrant; specified conditions must be satisfied in relevant cases

4. Economy

UPI Transactions Will Remain Free for Individual Users - Government Clarification

The Government clarified that **UPI transactions will continue to remain free for individual users**. All **P2P transactions** will continue without charges. The Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 amends **Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007** — it is an **enabling provision only** and does not itself impose charges. A proposed **UPI and Services Steering Committee headed by NPCI** will decide whether any **MDR** is introduced.

UPI Scale: July 2026 alone — 2,366 crore transactions worth ₹29.9 lakh crore | FY 2025-26 — 24,161.69 crore transactions valued at ₹314.23 lakh crore.

Government Approves Field Trials of ₹10 and ₹20 Polymer Banknotes

The Government approved the **RBI's proposal for polymer banknotes of ₹10 and ₹20 denominations** for field trials — **one billion pieces each** (up to two billion total). Submitted under **Section 25 of the RBI Act, 1934**, which requires Central Government approval for the design, form, and material of banknotes after considering RBI Central Board recommendations. Polymer notes are made from a **synthetic polymer substrate** and have a **significantly longer lifespan** than paper notes.

India Launches CBDC-Based Food Subsidy under PMGKAY - 14 August 2026

India launched **CBDC-based DBT under PMGKAY** in **Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli** on **14 August 2026**. Inaugurated by Union Minister **Pralhad Joshi**.

Detail	Fact
How It Works	Eligible beneficiaries receive food subsidy in Digital Rupee (₹) wallets instead of conventional bank accounts
Programmable CBDC	Purpose-bound — can only be used to purchase foodgrains from empanelled merchants
Payment Methods	Smartphone users: QR code scanning Feature-phone users: OTP-based mechanism
Earlier Pilots	Gujarat (15 February 2026) Puducherry (26 February 2026)
Significance	First large-scale CBDC application in a Central Government welfare programme; proof-of-concept for scaling to other States/UTs

What is the Digital Rupee (₹)? India's CBDC issued by the RBI | Digital form of the physical rupee | Liability of the RBI and legal tender | Unlike UPI (a payment mechanism), ₹ itself represents money | Retail CBDC pilot: 1 December 2022. About PMGKAY: Provides free foodgrains to ~81.35 crore beneficiaries under NFSA (Antyodaya Anna Yojana + Priority Household beneficiaries) | Free for 5 years from 1 January 2024 | Estimated expenditure: ~₹11.80 lakh crore.

5. Science & Technology

India Crosses 300 GW Non-Fossil Fuel Power Capacity - 54% of Total Installed Capacity

India's installed electricity generation capacity from non-fossil fuel sources crossed **300 GW**, reaching **300.50 GW as of 31 July 2026** — more than **60% of India's 500 GW non-fossil fuel target by 2030**. Non-fossil sources now constitute more than **54%** of India's total installed capacity of **~552 GW**.

Source	Installed Capacity
Solar Power	164.59 GW (largest contributor)
Wind Power	58.14 GW
Large and Small Hydro Power	57.24 GW
Bio-Power	11.75 GW
Nuclear Power	8.78 GW
Total Non-Fossil	300.50 GW (>54% of ~552 GW total)

6. Environment

World Elephant Day - 12 August; India Has ~60% of World's Wild Asian Elephants; AP's Rayala Reserve

World Elephant Day observed annually on **12 August** (first launched 12 August 2012). India supports nearly **60%** of the world's wild Asian elephant population.

Key Data	Fact
India's Elephant Population	22,446 — per SAIEE 2021–25 (India's first DNA-based nationwide elephant estimation)
Highest State	Karnataka — ~6,013 elephants Followed by Assam, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala
Elephant Reserves	33 Elephant Reserves covering ~80,777 sq. km across 14 major elephant States
Elephant Corridors	150 identified corridors West Bengal has the most — 26 corridors
Largest Reserve	Singhbhum Elephant Reserve, Jharkhand — ~13,440 sq. km
AP's Elephant Reserve	Rayala Elephant Reserve — ~766 sq. km, Chittoor region, notified 2003 Includes Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary Elephants from Karnataka-Tamil Nadu movement into Kuppam-Palamaner landscape

7. Schemes

Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP) - 36 States/UTs; 751 Districts; 1,856 Centres

PMNDP has expanded to **all 36 States and Union Territories**, covering **751 districts** (including 44 linked districts). As of **30 June 2026**: **1,856 haemodialysis centres** with **13,535 haemodialysis machines**.

Key Facts: Announced in Union Budget 2016–17 | Rolled out 7 April 2016 under National Health Mission (NHM) | Provides accessible and affordable dialysis for poor patients with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) | No single fixed national outlay — financial support through NHM based on States' annual Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs).

8. Defence

PRAHAAR - India's First National Counter-Terrorism Policy and Strategy

The Ministry of Home Affairs unveiled **PRAHAAR** — India's first comprehensive **National Counter-Terrorism Policy and Strategy** — on **23 February 2026**. Uses coordinated "**whole-of-government**" and "**whole-of-society**" approaches to prevent and respond to terrorism and radicalisation, reaffirming India's policy of **zero tolerance towards terrorism**.

India's Defence Sector - Record ₹1.78 Lakh Crore Production; ₹38,424 Crore Exports (56× Rise Since 2013-14)

Indicator	Data
Defence Budget (2026-27)	₹7.85 lakh crore (up from ₹2.53 lakh crore in 2013-14)
Capital Expenditure (2026-27)	₹2.19 lakh crore (up from ₹94,587.95 crore in 2014-15)
Defence Production (FY25-26)	₹1.78 lakh crore — highest ever Public sector: ~76% Private: 24%
Defence Exports	₹38,424 crore (from ₹686 crore in 2013-14 — 56× rise) Exported to 80+ countries
Production/Export Targets by 2029	₹3 lakh crore production ₹50,000 crore exports
Major Approvals	97 Tejas Mk-1A fighter aircraft 156 Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand
Defence Industrial Corridors	UP: ₹42,057 crore investment Tamil Nadu: ₹32,699 crore investment
FDI in Defence	74% under Automatic Route 100% under Government Route

9. Awards & Honours

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2024-2025 - AP & Telangana Recipients

President of India conferred **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships (Akademi Ratna)** and **Awards (Akademi Puraskar)** for 2024 and 2025 at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on 13 August 2026**. Total: **7 Akademi Fellows and 108 Akademi Award recipients**. Fellowship: **₹3 lakh**. Award: **₹1 lakh + Tamrapatra + Angavastram**.

Award / Year	Recipient	Art Form / State
Akademi Ratna (Fellowship)	Pasumarthi Rattaiah Sarma	Kuchipudi Andhra Pradesh
Akademi Award - 2024	Komanduri Seshadri	Carnatic Instrumental (Violin) Telangana
Akademi Award - 2024	Rajeswari Sainath	Bharatanatyam Telangana
Akademi Award - 2024	Kumara Surya Narayana	Kuchipudi Andhra Pradesh
Akademi Award - 2024	Gummadi Gopala Krishna Rao	Theatre, Acting Andhra Pradesh
Akademi Award - 2024	Dursheti Ramaiah	Folk Music Telangana
Akademi Award - 2024	Voleti Rangamani	Overall Contribution in Dance Andhra Pradesh
Akademi Award - 2025	Pantula Rama	Carnatic Vocal Andhra Pradesh
Akademi Award - 2025	D. Srinivas	Carnatic, Veena Telangana
Akademi Award - 2025	P. Nagajyothi & Seetha Nagajyothi	Kuchipudi AP cultural association
Akademi Award - 2025	Sindhe Chithambara Rao	Shadow Puppetry AP (Dharmavaram)

10. Ranks & Reports

NITI Aayog Report - India's Services Sector; 7th Globally in Services Exports

NITI Aayog published "*India's Services Sector: Insights on Regulatory Regime in Professional Services*" in August 2026. Examines the regulatory framework for legal, accounting, architectural, engineering, and healthcare services.

Key Indicator	Data
Services GDP Share (FY23-24)	55% of India's GDP
India's Global Services Export Rank	7th globally — 4.3% of global services exports in 2024 (up from ~2% in 2005)
Professional Services Export Share	~20% of India's total services exports (2024-25)
Professional Services CAGR	~18% between FY15 and FY25
OECD STRI Rankings (among 51 countries)	Architectural services: 2nd most restrictive Legal services: 3rd Accounting: 4th Engineering: 38th (more open)

11. Important Days

World's Indigenous Peoples Day - 9 August; Theme 2026: "Honouring Indigenous Midwives"

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples observed on **9 August**. Theme for 2026: "**Honouring Indigenous Midwives: Safeguarding Life and Well-being.**"

World Lion Day - 10 August; Asiatic Lion Population 891 in 2025; Project Lion

World Lion Day observed on **10 August**. India's **Asiatic Lion population** increased from **523 in 2015 to 891 in 2025** (up from 674 in 2020). Concentrated in the **Greater Gir landscape, Gujarat**.

Project Lion: Announced by PM Modi on 15 August 2020 for long-term conservation of Asiatic Lions | Lion's geographical range expanded from ~30,000 sq. km (2020) to ~35,000 sq. km.

12. Miscellaneous

E-Samudra - Digital Maritime Administration; 72+ Services Unified

E-Samudra provides end-to-end digital workflows, online payments, real-time application tracking, and digitally issued certificates for maritime administration. Aims to shift maritime governance towards **Digital First and Faceless Governance**. More than **72 maritime services** are being unified under the platform.

‘Triumph of the Indian Republic’ - Autobiography of Former President Ram Nath Kovind

PM Modi released the autobiography of former President **Ram Nath Kovind**, titled ***Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles***, on **12 August 2026** at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. Kovind served as the **14th President of India** from **25 July 2017 to 25 July 2022**. He is from **Paraunkh village, Uttar Pradesh**.

e-FIR - Section 173 of BNSS, 2023; Electronic Reporting of Cognizable Offences

Section 173 of the BNSS, 2023 allows information about a cognizable offence to be given to the police officer in charge either orally or through **electronic communication**, irrespective of the area where the offence was committed. This gives statutory recognition to the principle of **Zero FIR**.

Process: Oral report: police officer reduces to writing, reads it over to the informant, and obtains the informant's signature. Electronic report: taken on record after it is signed by the informant within 3 days. Electronic reporting is permitted, but authentication must subsequently be completed.