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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz, August 14, 2026

14 August 2026



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

linkedin.com/in/epicbharat

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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz, August 14, 2026

14 August 2026 · 8 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1

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The President's address to the nation on the eve of Independence Day, delivered on August 14, 2026, is best understood constitutionally as which of the following?

- ☐ A An exercise of the President's independent executive discretion under Article 53
- ☒ B **A settled ceremonial convention, with real executive power resting with the Council of Ministers under Article 74 ✓**
- ☐ C A binding directive to Parliament under Article 79
- ☐ D An emergency power exercised under Article 352

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The President's eve-of-Independence-Day and eve-of-Republic-Day address is a settled ceremonial convention, not an explicit constitutional mandate; India's parliamentary system vests real executive power in the Council of Ministers under Article 74, with the President acting as ceremonial head of state. **ANALYSIS:** This distinction, between the President's formal constitutional position (Article 53, in whom executive power is vested) and the practical reality of ministerial-council-driven governance (Article 74), is a foundational and frequently tested polity concept.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

Article 53 vests the executive power of the Union in the President, but Article 74 requires the President to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister, a structure that makes India's presidency largely ceremonial in day-to-day governance while retaining important formal and occasionally discretionary functions (such as during a hung Parliament or in exercising certain constitutional safeguards). The eve-of-Independence-Day address, delivered annually, is one of the President's recurring ceremonial functions, alongside the address to the joint sitting of Parliament at the start of the year under Article 87.

The 2026 address, delivered by President Droupadi Murmu, covered Operation Sindoor, the Indus Waters Treaty suspension, and the Viksit Bharat @2047 vision, and was notable for the first-time inclusion of the full Vande Mataram, not just its first stanza, before the broadcast.

Q1 **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 (Indian polity, executive, President's role, Article 74).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	ceremonial head of state, Article 74, aid and advice, Council of Ministers.
 COMMON MISTAKE	treating the President's address as an independent policy pronouncement rather than a ceremonial function reflecting government positions communicated via convention.
 EXAM TIP	distinguish Article 53 (formal vesting of executive power) from Article 74 (practical exercise via ministerial advice) as a recurring polity pairing.
 INTERVIEW	does a largely ceremonial presidency still serve an important constitutional function, and if so, what is it?

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Question 2

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India's WPI inflation for July 2026 stood at 9.78%, sharply above the same month's CPI reading of 4.45%. Which government body releases the WPI, and what does it measure that the CPI does not?

- ☐ A The RBI; it measures retail consumer prices exclusively
- ☒ B The Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry; it measures wholesale/producer-level prices ✓
- ☐ C NITI Aayog; it measures only agricultural commodity prices
- ☐ D MoSPI; it measures the same basket as CPI but at a different frequency

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Wholesale Price Index is released monthly by the Office of Economic Adviser under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and measures price changes at the wholesale or producer level, distinct from the Consumer Price Index (released by MoSPI), which measures retail prices paid by consumers and is the RBI's operational inflation-targeting metric. **ANALYSIS:** The wide WPI-CPI gap in July 2026 (9.78% vs 4.45%) reflects how cost pressures at the wholesale level, especially fuel and power, have not fully passed through to retail consumer prices, a distinction essential to correctly interpreting India's inflation data.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

India runs two parallel inflation-measurement systems: the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), released monthly by the Office of Economic Adviser (Ministry of Commerce and Industry) using a 2022-23 base year, and the Consumer Price Index (CPI), released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), which is the RBI Monetary Policy Committee's operational target under the flexible inflation-targeting framework (4% target, 2-6% band). WPI captures price changes before goods reach the retail consumer, making it more sensitive to input-cost volatility (commodity prices, fuel), while CPI captures the price consumers actually pay, smoothed by retail margins, taxes and distribution costs. In July 2026, WPI's Fuel and Power sub-index alone stood at 20.05%, a major driver of the elevated headline WPI figure relative to CPI.

Q2 **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (Indian economy, price indices, inflation).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	WPI, CPI, Office of Economic Adviser, MoSPI, flexible inflation targeting.
 COMMON MISTAKE	assuming WPI and CPI measure the same thing at different points in the supply chain in lockstep; they can diverge significantly, as in July 2026, when input-cost pressures do not fully transmit to retail prices.
 EXAM TIP	memorise "WPI, Office of Economic Adviser, Commerce Ministry, wholesale" vs "CPI, MoSPI, RBI target, retail" as a fixed institutional pairing.
 INTERVIEW	should India consider giving more policy weight to WPI trends as a leading indicator of future CPI pressure, or does the current CPI-only targeting framework serve consumers better?

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Question 3

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The Reliance-Rolls-Royce strategic partnership announced on August 14, 2026 targets developing a sovereign combat engine for which Indian defence programme, and what specific capability gap does it address?

- ☐ A Tejas Mark 1A; addressing a shortage of avionics suppliers
- ☒ B **AMCA (Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft); addressing India's lack of an indigenous high-thrust combat-jet engine ✓**
- ☐ C INS Vikrant follow-on carrier; addressing a shortage of naval propulsion systems
- ☐ D Agni-V missile programme; addressing solid-fuel propellant shortages

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The partnership targets India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), a fifth-generation stealth fighter programme under the Aeronautical Development Agency, and specifically addresses the long-standing absence of an indigenous high-thrust combat-jet engine, a capability gap that has kept India dependent on imported engines (GE F404/F414-class) even for its existing Tejas fleet. **ANALYSIS:** The announcement is explicitly framed as strategic intent and partnership exploration, not a signed engine-supply contract, an important distinction for accurately characterising the programme's current status.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) is India's fifth-generation stealth fighter programme, developed under the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) in coordination with DRDO, intended to eventually succeed or complement the Su-30MKI and Tejas fleets. The programme's most persistent bottleneck has been engine development: India has never indigenously developed a high-thrust combat-jet engine, relying instead on imported engines even for the domestically designed Tejas (GE F404/F414-class).

The Reliance-Rolls-Royce announcement, made via an official Rolls-Royce press release on August 14, 2026, proposes jointly designing, developing and manufacturing a sovereign indigenous combat engine, including exploring a dedicated Aerospace Gas Turbine Complex in India, marking a private-sector entry into strategic defence production alongside established players like Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Q3 **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (science and technology, defence indigenisation, Atmanirbhar Bharat).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	AMCA, Aeronautical Development Agency, indigenous jet engine, private-sector defence production.
 COMMON MISTAKE	treating this announcement as a confirmed, signed engine-supply contract; it is explicitly strategic intent and partnership exploration at this stage.
 EXAM TIP	remember "AMCA equals 5th-generation stealth fighter, under ADA" as a fixed fact, and that engine development, not airframe design, has been India's historic bottleneck.
 INTERVIEW	does private-sector entry into strategic defence production (like Reliance in engine development) strengthen or dilute the accountability structures traditionally associated with public-sector defence undertakings?

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Question 4

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[Source](#) →

Exercise Udara Shakti 2026, which concluded on August 14, 2026, is a bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force and which country's air force, conducted under which broader Indian foreign-policy framework?

- ☐ A Vietnam People's Air Force, under the Neighbourhood First policy
- ☒ B Royal Malaysian Air Force, under the Act East Policy ✓
- ☐ C Indonesian Air Force, under the SAGAR doctrine
- ☐ D Philippine Air Force, under the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Exercise Udara Shakti 2026, its third edition, is a bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF), conducted at Subang Air Base, Selangor, Malaysia, and forms part of India's Act East Policy and its growing defence engagement with ASEAN nations. **ANALYSIS:** Bilateral exercises like this serve dual functions, building genuine interoperability between air forces and functioning as strategic signalling within India's broader Indo-Pacific defence-diplomacy posture, distinct from purely symbolic diplomatic gestures.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

India's Act East Policy, an upgrade of the earlier Look East Policy launched to deepen economic, strategic and cultural engagement with Southeast Asian and broader Indo-Pacific nations, includes an increasingly active defence-diplomacy component, of which bilateral military exercises are a key instrument. Exercise Udara Shakti, now in its third edition, is specifically an India-Malaysia bilateral air exercise, distinct from other regional multilateral exercises.

The 2026 edition ran from August 10-14 at Subang Air Base, Selangor, with India fielding Rafale fighters (101 Squadron) and C-17 Globemaster III transport aircraft (81 Squadron), and Malaysia fielding Su-30MKM and F/A-18D fighters alongside an A400M transport aircraft, reflecting genuine operational interoperability training rather than a purely ceremonial exercise.

Q4
 **CONCEPT KIT**
 CROSS-PAPER

GS2 (India's Act East Policy, bilateral relations, ASEAN engagement); GS3 (defence exercises, security cooperation).

 MAINS KEYWORDS

Act East Policy, bilateral air exercise, interoperability, Indo-Pacific.

 COMMON MISTAKE

confusing Udara Shakti (India-Malaysia bilateral) with other similarly-named or multilateral Indo-Pacific exercises; each bilateral exercise has a specific partner country and history.

 EXAM TIP

note that Malaysia, alongside Vietnam, Singapore and Indonesia, is a key Act East Policy defence partner distinct from Quad or SAGAR-specific frameworks.

 INTERVIEW

how do bilateral defence exercises like Udara Shakti concretely advance India's Act East Policy beyond symbolic diplomatic value?

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Question 5

of 8

[Source](#)

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, observed for the sixth time on August 14, 2026, is deliberately marked one day before Independence Day. Under which piece of legislation was the actual Partition of India legally executed?

- ☐ A The Government of India Act, 1935
- ☒ B The Indian Independence Act, 1947, passed by the British Parliament ✓
- ☐ C The Indian Constitution, 1950, under Article 1
- ☐ D The Radcliffe Boundary Commission Act, 1947

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Partition of India was legally executed under the Indian Independence Act, 1947, passed by the British Parliament, which provided for the creation of India and Pakistan as independent dominions effective August 15, 1947. **ANALYSIS:** The Radcliffe Line, the actual boundary demarcating the two new countries, was announced by Sir Cyril Radcliffe only on August 17, 1947, two days after independence had already taken legal effect, a frequently tested sequencing fact that shows the boundary was not settled at the moment of independence itself.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The Indian Independence Act, 1947 received royal assent on July 18, 1947, and provided for the creation of two independent dominions, India and Pakistan, effective August 15, 1947, ending British paramountcy over princely states and transferring legislative power to the respective constituent assemblies. The actual territorial boundary between the two new nations, the Radcliffe Line, was determined by a Boundary Commission chaired by Sir Cyril Radcliffe, but was announced only on August 17, 1947, after independence had already taken effect, contributing to the chaotic, violent nature of the resulting mass migration.

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day (Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas), first observed on August 14, 2021 after being announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was deliberately placed on the eve of Independence Day so the commemoration of Partition's human cost is not overshadowed by the following day's celebrations.

Q5
 **CONCEPT KIT**
 CROSS-PAPER

GS1 (modern Indian history, the freedom struggle, Partition); GS4 (ethics, collective memory and reconciliation as a policy tool, optional angle).

 MAINS KEYWORDS

Indian Independence Act 1947, Radcliffe Line, Partition Horrors Remembrance Day.

 COMMON MISTAKE

assuming the Radcliffe Line was announced simultaneously with independence on August 15; it was actually announced two days later, on August 17, 1947.

 EXAM TIP

sequence the three dates precisely, Act passed July 18, 1947; independence and Partition effective August 15, 1947; Radcliffe Line announced August 17, 1947.

 INTERVIEW

what is the value, and what are the risks, of state-sponsored remembrance days for traumatic historical events like Partition?

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Question 6

of 8

[Source →](#)

An Indian Express editorial argues India's environmental jurisprudence developed substantially through judicial interpretation rather than statutory codification. Which article of the Constitution did the Supreme Court read an implicit right to a healthy environment into?

- ☐ A Article 14
- ☐ B Article 19
- ☒ C Article 21 ✓
- ☐ D Article 32

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Supreme Court read an implicit right to a healthy environment into Article 21's right to life, elevating environmental protection to constitutional, not merely statutory, status, alongside judicially developed doctrines like the polluter-pays principle and the precautionary principle. **ANALYSIS:** Because this doctrine developed through PIL-driven case law rather than explicit constitutional text, its continued strength depends on judicial consistency in application, precisely the concern the editorial raises about recent decisions balancing environmental protection against development.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

India's environmental jurisprudence is a leading example of judicial interpretation expanding fundamental rights beyond their explicit text. Article 21 guarantees the right to life and personal liberty; the Supreme Court, through a series of landmark public interest litigation cases from the 1980s onward, interpreted this to include an implicit right to a clean and healthy environment, alongside developing the polluter-pays principle (holding polluters financially responsible for environmental harm) and the precautionary principle (requiring preventive action even absent full scientific certainty of harm).

Because these doctrines lack a direct textual anchor in the Constitution or comprehensive statute, an Indian Express editorial on August 14, 2026 raised concern about the Supreme Court showing recent inconsistency in applying them when balancing environmental protection against development and infrastructure clearances.

Q6
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS2 (fundamental rights, judicial interpretation); GS3 (environmental law, PIL).


MAINS KEYWORDS

Article 21, polluter-pays principle, precautionary principle, PIL-driven jurisprudence.


COMMON MISTAKE

citing Article 48A (a Directive Principle on environmental protection) as the source of the enforceable right; the enforceable fundamental-rights basis is Article 21, while Article 48A is a non-justiciable DPSP.


EXAM TIP

pair "Article 21 equals enforceable environmental right" with "Article 48A equals non-justiciable DPSP" as a fixed distinction.


INTERVIEW

should judicially developed environmental doctrine eventually be codified into statute for greater predictability and consistency?


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Question 7

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[Source →](#)

The Indian Express editorial on the Jantar Mantar internet shutdown during the 2026 NEET-paper-leak protests cites which current legal framework as governing the suspension order?

- ☐ A The Information Technology Act, 2000 and its 2011 Rules
- ☐ B The Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services Rules, 2017 only
- ☒ C **The Telecommunications Act, 2023 and its 2024 Suspension Rules ✓**
- ☐ D The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The mobile-internet suspension around Jantar Mantar was imposed under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and its associated 2024 Suspension Rules, the current statutory framework governing telecom service suspension, which superseded the earlier 2017 Suspension Rules. **ANALYSIS:** The editorial's core concern is that this framework permits shutdowns with insufficient transparency about specific justification and insufficient independent review, restricting Article 19(1)(a) and (b) rights without meeting the Supreme Court's proportionality standard for such restrictions.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

India's telecom suspension framework transitioned with the Telecommunications Act, 2023, which along with its 2024 Suspension Rules now governs the legal basis for internet and telecom service suspension orders, replacing the earlier Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017. Internet shutdowns directly restrict fundamental rights under Article 19(1)(a) (freedom of speech) and Article 19(1)(b) (freedom of assembly), and the Supreme Court has held that such restrictions must meet a proportionality standard, being the least restrictive means necessary to address a specific, demonstrated threat. India has been repeatedly noted internationally for having among the highest frequencies of localised internet shutdowns globally.

Q7
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS2 (fundamental rights, governance transparency, telecom regulation).


MAINS KEYWORDS

Telecommunications Act 2023, proportionality standard, Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(1)(b).


COMMON MISTAKE

citing the older 2017 Suspension Rules as the current governing framework; they have been superseded by the 2023 Act and 2024 Rules.


EXAM TIP

memorise "Telecommunications Act, 2023, replaced the 2017 Suspension Rules framework" as a fixed regulatory-transition fact.


INTERVIEW

should internet shutdown orders require prior, expedited judicial review before implementation, given their direct impact on fundamental rights?


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Question 8

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[Source](#)

A Business Standard editorial by R Jagannathan argues against imposing a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI transactions. What is the estimated annual infrastructure cost of keeping UPI free that the editorial weighs against its broader benefits?

- ☐ A Rs 1,000-2,000 crore
- ☒ B Rs 10,000-20,000 crore ✓
- ☐ C Rs 50,000-75,000 crore
- ☐ D Rs 1-1.5 lakh crore

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The editorial cites UPI's zero-MDR infrastructure cost at an estimated Rs 10,000-20,000 crore annually, currently absorbed by the state and banking system rather than charged to merchants or consumers. **ANALYSIS:** The author argues broader benefits, financial inclusion, transaction traceability, sovereign payments-technology advantage, justify continuing this subsidy despite its substantial and likely growing scale as UPI transaction volumes increase.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

UPI (Unified Payments Interface), operated by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has become India's dominant digital-payments rail since its 2016 launch, with no merchant discount rate charged on person-to-merchant transactions, a policy credited with driving its rapid, broad-based adoption, particularly among small merchants and low-income users who are price-sensitive to even nominal fees. This zero-MDR structure carries a real infrastructure cost, estimated at Rs 10,000-20,000 crore annually, currently borne by the state and banking system.

The debate over introducing an MDR resurfaced following the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, with R Jagannathan's Business Standard editorial arguing the broader economic and social benefits of keeping UPI free outweigh this cost.

Q8
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS3 (Indian economy, digital payments, financial inclusion); GS2 (Digital Public Infrastructure policy).


MAINS KEYWORDS

UPI, Merchant Discount Rate, NPCI, Digital Public Infrastructure.


COMMON MISTAKE

assuming UPI transactions are costless simply because they are free to end users; the infrastructure cost is real and substantial, currently subsidised rather than eliminated.


EXAM TIP

memorise "UPI infrastructure cost, Rs 10,000-20,000 crore annually" as a fixed, quotable Prelims figure.


INTERVIEW

is it fiscally sustainable to indefinitely subsidise a widely adopted digital public good as its transaction volume continues to grow?


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Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

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