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Current Affairs Today, August 21, 2026

21 August 2026 ·

ECONOMY**REPORTS & SCHEMES**

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

August 21 marks the **International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism**, established under **UN General Assembly Resolution 72/165 (2017)**, with 2026 marking its 9th observance under the theme “Healing Through Memory.”

Key Data

- Global minute of silence at 9 am; UN virtual high-level event held
- India continues pushing for adoption of the **Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT)**, pending at the UN since 1996

UPSC Angle

GS2: international counter-terrorism architecture (UNSC 1267 Sanctions Committee, FATF); India’s consistent advocacy for CCIT given its experience with cross-border terrorism.

WORLD SENIOR CITIZENS DAY

August 21 is observed globally as **World Senior Citizens Day**, recognising the contributions and needs of the elderly.

Key Data

- Key Indian schemes: Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY), National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE, launched 2010-11), Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007
- India’s 60+ population has crossed 16 crore

UPSC Angle

GS1/GS2: demographic transition, elderly welfare policy, and gaps in long-term care infrastructure for India’s ageing population.

CABINET COMMITTEE APPROVES 75% PRUDENTIAL STAKE ACQUISITION IN BHARTI LIFE INSURANCE

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** cleared **Prudential Corporation Holdings Ltd's** acquisition of a **75% stake** in **Bharti Life Insurance Company** from **Bharti Life Ventures Pvt Ltd** and **360 ONE Asset Management**, for approximately **Rs 3,500 crore**.

Key Data

- CCI review conducted under the **Competition Act, 2002**
- Post-transaction, Prudential's India footprint includes Bharti Life Insurance, Prudential HCL Health Insurance, and minority stakes in ICICI Prudential entities

UPSC Angle

GS3: continuing FDI interest in India's insurance sector following the raised FDI cap, and CCI's role in reviewing anti-competitive effects of major acquisitions.

FLASH PMI: INDIA'S PRIVATE SECTOR ACTIVITY SHOWS MIXED SIGNALS IN AUGUST

The **HSBC Flash India Composite PMI** rose to **54.6** in August 2026 from July's 52-month low of 54.3, with **Services PMI** improving to 54.5 but **Manufacturing PMI** falling to **52.9**, its weakest expansion pace in five years.

Key Data

- PMI above 50 indicates expansion; survey compiled by S&P Global, sponsored by HSBC
- Employment growth hit a joint-fastest pace since June 2025

UPSC Angle

GS3: PMI as a leading economic indicator, and the diverging manufacturing-versus-services growth trend as a signal of uneven economic momentum.

GLOBAL DIGITAL CAPACITY BUILDING ALLIANCE COMPLETES SIX MONTHS

The **Global Digital Capacity Building Alliance (GDCBA)** completed six months on **August 21, 2026**. For background: it was launched at the **India AI Impact Summit** on **February 20, 2026**, and has since engaged **10 countries** and over **250 public officials** in digital-governance capacity building.

Key Data

- Nodal body: **Capacity Building Commission (CBC)**, Government of India, under the Mission Karmayogi framework
- Partners include the Gates Foundation, World Bank, UNICEF, and the Commonwealth

UPSC Angle

GS2: India's Mission Karmayogi civil-service reform extended into South-South digital-governance cooperation, reinforcing India's Digital Public Infrastructure diplomacy.

UP SIGNS MULTIPLE MOUS WITH JAPAN'S YAMANASHI PREFECTURE

The UP Legislative Assembly and Yamanashi Prefectural Assembly signed MoUs covering legislative exchange, education, tourism, agriculture, and green hydrogen and clean-energy cooperation, as part of the UP-Japan Investment Meet 2026 (August 18-23).

Key Data

- Signed by UP Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana and Yamanashi Chairman Hidenori Miyamoto
- Builds on an earlier December 2024 UP-Yamanashi MoU

UPSC Angle

GS2/GS3: sub-national diplomacy as a growing channel within the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, and clean-energy technology cooperation at the state level.

FIRST STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD FOR THE 57TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF INDIA

*The first Steering Committee meeting for the **57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**, scheduled in Goa from **November 20-28, 2026**, was held in New Delhi, chaired by MoS Information & Broadcasting **Dr L. Murugan**.*

UPSC Angle

GS1: IFFI's role in India's cultural soft power, organised by the Directorate of Film Festivals under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

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International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism: UNGA Res. 72/165 (2017), 9th observance

CCI clears Prudential's 75% Bharti Life Insurance stake, ~Rs 3,500 crore

August 2026 Flash Composite PMI: 54.6 (Services 54.5, Manufacturing 52.9, a 5-year low)

GDCBA: background, launched Feb 20, 2026; six-month milestone reached, 10 countries engaged

57th IFFI: Goa, November 20-28, 2026

Sources: *PIB, ANI, S&P Global/HSBC, Business Standard*

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