

## DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS - 17.08.2026

### Highlights of the Day

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## Tamil Nadu Highlights

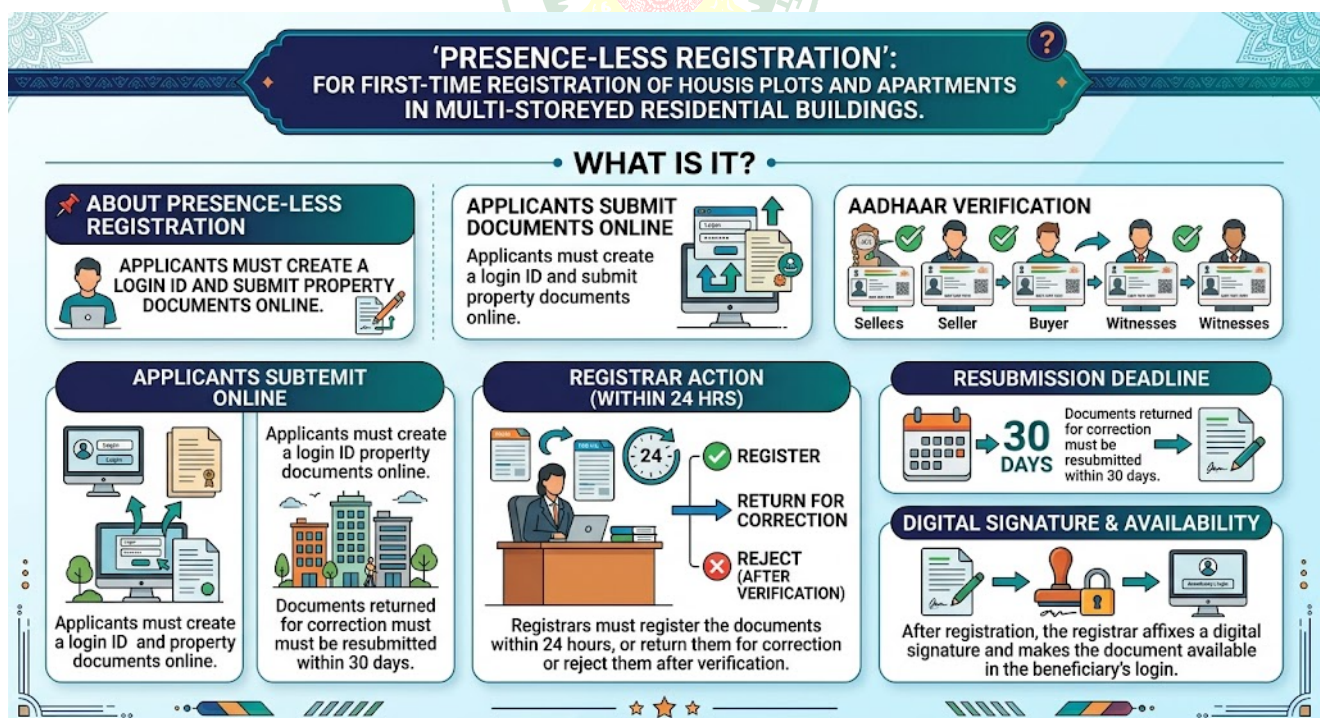
### Tamil Nadu Launches 'Presence-less Registration' of Housing Plots and Apartments

#### Context

- Honourable **Tamil Nadu** Chief Minister **C. Joseph Vijay** launched compulsory '**Presence-less Registration**' for the first-time registration of housing plots and apartments in multi-storeyed residential buildings.
- The initiative aims to improve efficiency and transparency in property registration without requiring citizens to visit registrar offices.

#### About Presence-less Registration

- Applicants must create a login ID and submit property documents online.
- The seller, buyer and witnesses must upload their **Aadhaar** cards, which are subject to verification.
- Registrars must register the documents within **24 hours**, or return them for correction or reject them after verification.
- Documents returned for correction must be resubmitted within **30 days**.
- After registration, the registrar affixes a digital signature and makes the document available in the beneficiary's login.



### Key Safeguards

- The registration endorsement uses **Dynamic Random Five Colours**, with the colour changing each time.
- The original colour digital copy remains available in the beneficiary's login for **60 days**, helping verify the authenticity of registration documents.
- Each page carries a **QR code** containing the document number, date of registration and nature of the document.
- Changes made to a paper document can be compared with the digital version; the '**X**' **symbol** indicates changes.

### Earlier Initiative

- **Tamil Nadu** had already introduced '**Anywhere Registration**', allowing citizens to register certain properties and documents without visiting the registrar's office.
- **Presence-less Registration** further advances the State's digital and paperless property-registration system.

## National Highlights

### India Celebrates 80th Independence Day – 15 August 2026

#### Context

- **India** celebrated its **80th Independence Day** on **15 August 2026** at the **Red Fort, New Delhi**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** delivered his **13th** consecutive Independence Day address, becoming the second Indian Prime Minister after **Jawaharlal Nehru**, who delivered **17** consecutive addresses.
- The celebrations marked **150 years** of **Vande Mataram** and highlighted the theme '**Yuva Shakti – Leading the Journey to Viksit Bharat@2047**'.

#### Key Themes

- **150 Years of Vande Mataram**: The celebrations commemorated **150 years** of India's national song **Vande Mataram**.
- **Yuva Shakti**: Focused on the role of youth power in achieving **Viksit Bharat@2047**.

#### Ceremonial Highlights

- **Coordinating Service**: The **Indian Army** served as the coordinating service for the national event.
- **Guard of Honour**: Comprised one officer and **24** defence personnel each from the **Indian Army, Indian Air Force** and **Delhi Police**.
- **Guard Commander**: **Lieutenant Colonel Arjun Singh**; the **Indian Army** contingent was commanded by **Major Aditya Sharma**.

- **Flag Hoisting:** Captain Sonia Singh Chauhan assisted the Prime Minister in hoisting the **National Flag**.
- The flag hoisting was synchronised with a **21-gun salute** by the **1721 Field Battery (Ceremonial)** using indigenous **105 mm Light Field Guns**.
- **Indian Air Force Mi-17 helicopters** carrying the **National Flag** and '**Vande Mataram**' showered flower petals.

#### **Vande Mataram at Red Fort**

- For the first time in eight decades of Independence Day celebrations, **Vande Mataram** was played at the **Red Fort** by the **Army Band**.
- The band consisted of one **Junior Commissioned Officer** and **25** other ranks, and the song was sung by guests present at the event.

#### **Shakti Ki Saptadhara**

The Prime Minister unveiled '**Shakti Ki Saptadhara**', a seven-pronged development strategy covering:

- Manufacturing
- Agriculture and food production
- Technology and innovation
- Infrastructure and connectivity
- Defence
- Green and blue economy
- Soft Power



The strategy aims to support **India's** journey towards **Viksit Bharat@2047**.

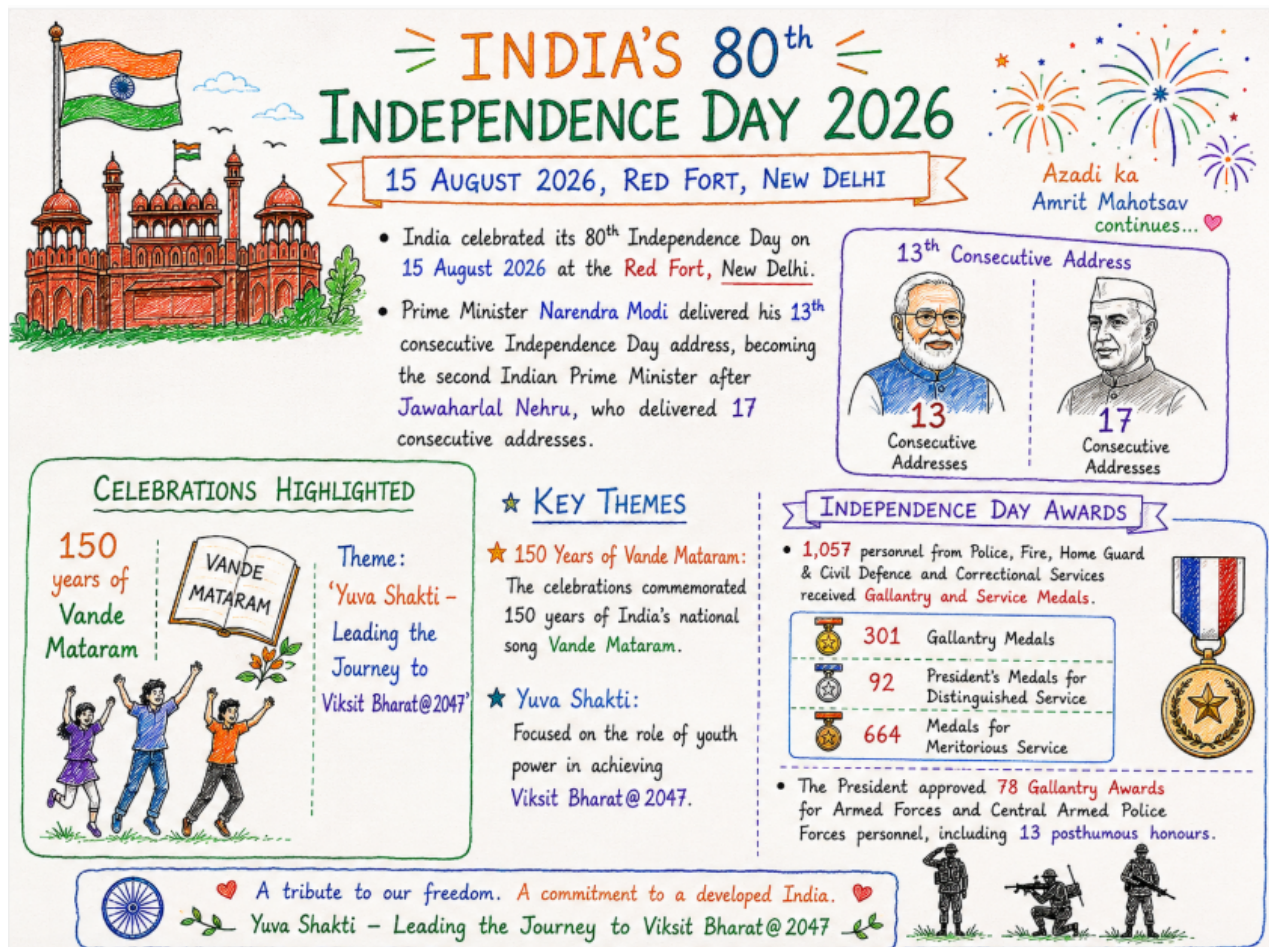
#### **Major Announcements**

- Train **1 crore** young Indians in **Artificial Intelligence** skills over the next year.
- Launch a nationwide talent hunt for sporting talent among children aged **5–15 years**.
- Establish a free online coaching network for competitive examinations.
- Create a **Civil Defence** network to address modern security challenges.
- Increase the target of **Lakhpati Didis** to **6 crore**.
- Target **100 GW** of **nuclear power** capacity by **2047**.
- Start **five** new nuclear reactors within the current decade.

#### **Independence Day Awards**

- **1,057** personnel from Police, Fire, Home Guard & Civil Defence and Correctional Services received **Gallantry and Service Medals**.
  - **301** Gallantry Medals

- **92** President's Medals for Distinguished Service
- **664** Medals for Meritorious Service
- The **President** approved **78** Gallantry Awards for **Armed Forces** and **Central Armed Police Forces** personnel, including **13** posthumous honours.



## Topic: History

### August 14 and 15: The Story Behind India and Pakistan's Independence Dates

#### Context

- **India** and **Pakistan** celebrate their independence on **15 August** and **14 August**, respectively, despite the **Indian Independence Act, 1947** originally establishing **15 August 1947** as the appointed day for both Dominions.

#### Indian Independence Act, 1947

- The **Indian Independence Act, 1947**, enacted by the **British Parliament**, legally created two independent Dominions — **India** and **Pakistan**.
- The Act received **Royal Assent** on **18 July 1947** and fixed **15 August 1947** as the appointed day for both Dominions.

### Why Was 15 August Chosen?

- British Prime Minister **Clement Attlee** had initially tasked **Lord Mountbatten** with transferring power by **June 1948**.
- After arriving in **India** in **March 1947**, **Mountbatten** concluded that the political situation was deteriorating and that delaying the transfer could result in administrative collapse and widespread civil conflict.
- He therefore advanced the transfer of power by **10 months** to **August 1947**.
- **Mountbatten** selected **15 August** because it was the second anniversary of **Japan's** surrender in **Singapore** on **15 August 1945**, when he was the **Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia Command**.

### Why Does Pakistan Celebrate on 14 August?

- **Mountbatten** was the last **Viceroy** of undivided British **India** and could not physically attend ceremonies in both countries on the same day.
- He travelled to **Karachi** on **14 August 1947** to address **Pakistan's Constituent Assembly** and formally transfer executive power to **Muhammad Ali Jinnah**.
- He was sworn in as the **Governor-General** of independent **India** in **New Delhi** on the morning of **15 August**.
- **14 August 1947** also coincided with the **27th night of Ramadan (Laylat al-Qadr)**, which reinforced the choice of **14 August** as **Pakistan's** national day from **1948**.

## Topic: Reports and Indices

### NITI Aayog Releases Report on India's Manufacturing Sector

#### Context

- In **August 2026**, **NITI Aayog** released the report '**Key Sectors to Position India as a Global Manufacturing Hub**', providing a data-driven assessment of **India's** manufacturing sector.

#### Aim of the Report

- Identifies sectors where targeted interventions can enhance competitiveness, strengthen domestic capabilities, increase value addition, reduce import dependence and promote export-oriented manufacturing.
- Supports **India's** ambition to become a global manufacturing hub and achieve **Viksit Bharat**.

#### 12 Key Manufacturing Sectors

- Automobiles
- Electronics
- Steel
- Capital goods

- Defence and drones
- Chemicals
- Solar photovoltaic
- Textiles
- Pharmaceuticals and medical devices
- Telecom equipment
- Leather and footwear
- Food processing

### **Four High-Potential Sectors**

- Chemicals
- Textiles
- Telecom and networking equipment
- Solar photovoltaic manufacturing

### **Methodology**

The study followed a four-phase approach:

- Sector shortlisting based on market size and growth prospects.
- Assessment of market potential, competitiveness and strategic relevance.
- Benchmarking best practices from leading manufacturing countries.
- Development of sector-specific recommendations and an actionable roadmap.



## Topic: Science and Technology

### SraVaani

#### Context

- Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Science's SPIRE Lab**, in collaboration with **ARTPARK** and with support from **Google**, have released **SraVaani**.

#### What is SraVaani?

- **SraVaani** is a multilingual Indian speech recognition model trained on **65** Indian languages and dialects.
- It covers **20 Scheduled Languages** and **45** regional languages and dialects.

#### Language Coverage

- Designed for pan-India language coverage, including languages from the Northeast, eastern, western, northern, southern and central regions.
- Supports languages such as **Garo, Angika, Chakma, Kokborok, Tulu, Bundeli** and **Bajjika**, along with **English** and **Sanskrit**.

#### Significance

- Addresses the limited representation of several Indian languages in existing speech recognition systems.
- Could expand access to speech-AI technologies for around **25 crore** people, based on the **2011 Census**, whose languages are inadequately supported by current systems.

## India's First Fully Commercial Earth Observation Satellite Constellation

#### Context

- **Indian Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre** approved and signed an agreement for **India's** first indigenous, fully commercial **Earth Observation** satellite constellation under the **Public-Private Partnership** model.

#### About the Project

- The constellation will be developed by **Allied Orbits Private Limited Consortium**, led by **PixxelSpace India Private Limited**, along with **Dhruva Space Private Limited, PierSight Space Private Limited** and **SatSure Analytics India Private Limited**.
- It will design, build, own and operate **12** satellites.
- The satellites will have **panchromatic, multispectral, hyperspectral** and **Synthetic Aperture Radar** capabilities.
- The project will include indigenous ground infrastructure.

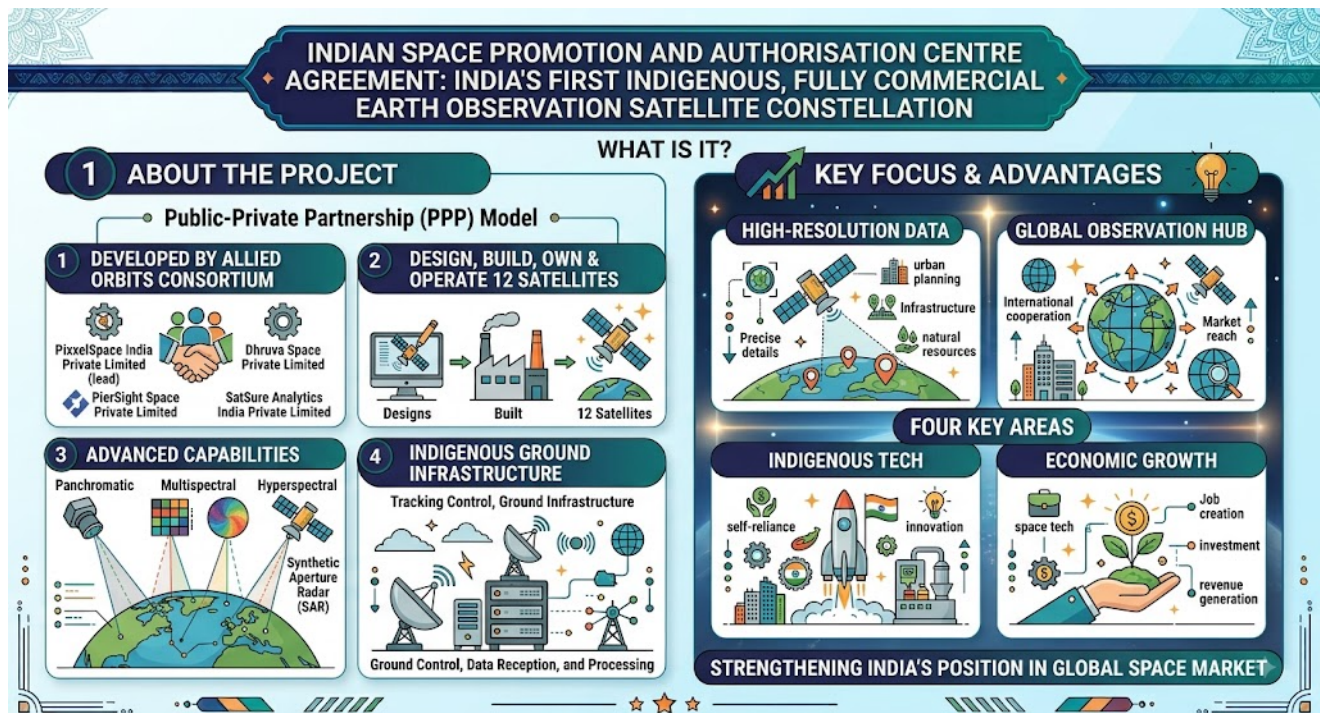
#### Investment & Timeline

- The consortium will invest more than **₹1,200 crore**.

- The constellation is expected to be developed and operationalised by **2029**.

### Significance

- The **Public-Private Partnership** framework enables **Non-Government Entities** to develop and operate **Earth Observation** constellations.
- Strengthens **India's** space capabilities, commercial space ecosystem and self-reliance.



## Vital Chemotherapy Drugs are in Short Supply in India

### Context

- **India** is facing a critical nationwide shortage of **cisplatin** and **carboplatin**, two widely used chemotherapy drugs, due to rising global platinum raw material costs, disruptions in West Asian shipping routes, and domestic price caps.
- The shortage has resulted in delays or interruptions in life-saving cancer treatment.
- The government temporarily increased the ceiling prices of both drugs by **50%** to encourage domestic manufacturers to restart production.

### About Cisplatin and Carboplatin

- **Cisplatin** is a chemotherapy drug used to treat solid tumours and certain blood cancers.
- **Carboplatin** is a second-generation platinum compound used mainly to treat solid tumours.
- Both are widely used in treating ovarian, head and neck, lung, gall bladder, urinary bladder, breast and testicular cancers.

### **Chemotherapy**

- Chemotherapy uses powerful drugs to destroy fast-growing cells, including cancer cells.
- It may be used alone or in combination with other treatments.
- While effective against various cancers, chemotherapy can also cause side effects.

### **Topic: Polity**

## **Constitutional Limits on the Power of Arrest**

### **Context**

- The **Supreme Court**, in **Vihaan Kumar v. State of Haryana (2025)**, held that every arrested person must be properly and meaningfully informed of the grounds of arrest.

### **Constitutional Safeguard**

- **Article 22(1)** provides the right to be informed of the grounds of arrest and the right to consult and be defended by a lawyer.
- Failure to communicate the grounds of arrest violates **Article 22(1)** and **Section 47** of the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023**.
- Under **Article 22(2)**, an arrested person must be produced before the nearest **Magistrate** within **24 hours**, excluding travel time.

### **Arrest Memo**

- Under **Section 58** of the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023**, the arrest memo must contain the time of arrest.
- Merely communicating arrest details to relatives or maintaining ambiguous records does not fulfil the constitutional requirement.

### **Arrest vs Detention**

- Detention refers to temporary custody, generally for investigation.
- Arrest is formal police custody based on the alleged commission of an offence.
- Non-cognisable offences generally require a warrant for arrest, while arrest in cognisable offences can be made without a warrant.

### **Important Supreme Court Judgements**

- **Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar (2014)**: The **Supreme Court** issued guidelines to prevent unnecessary arrests and held that arrest should not be automatic, particularly where punishment is less than seven years.
- **Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)**: Linked **Articles 14, 19 and 21**, emphasizing protection against arbitrariness and procedural unfairness.

## Parliamentary Disruptions in India

### Context

- The **Parliamentary Affairs Minister** reported productivity of only **19%** in the **Lok Sabha** and **39%** in the **Rajya Sabha** after the **Monsoon Session**, reviving concerns over legislative disruptions.

### Meaning of Parliamentary Disruption

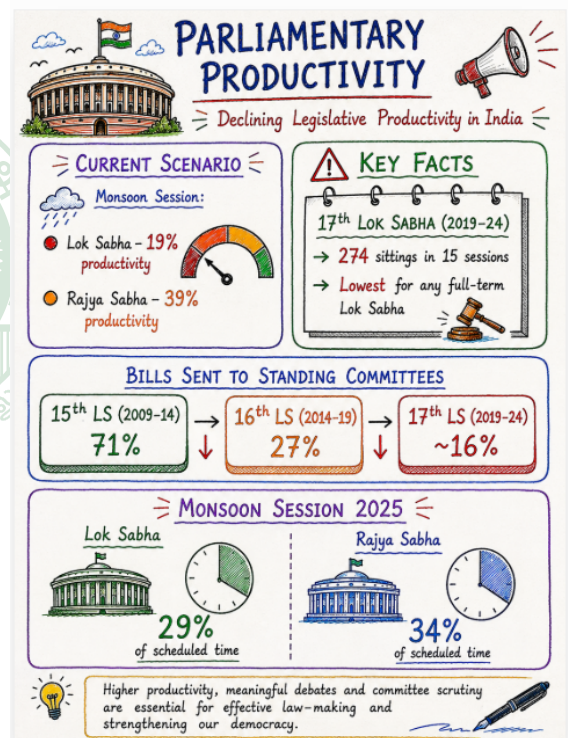
- Refers to repeated interruptions, adjournments, protests, sloganeering or other actions that prevent the Houses from conducting scheduled business.
- While disruption can be a legitimate tool for the Opposition to highlight urgent issues, persistent disruption undermines **Parliament's** deliberative and accountability functions.

### Major Instances of Past Disruptions

- Winter Session 2010:** **2G spectrum** controversy and demand for a **Joint Parliamentary Committee**; productivity fell to **5%** in **Lok Sabha** and **2%** in **Rajya Sabha**.
- Winter Session 2013:** Protests over **2G Joint Parliamentary Committee** findings and **Telangana**; productivity was **6%** and **19%**, respectively.
- Interim Budget Session 2014:** Productivity stood at **21%** in **Lok Sabha** and **27%** in **Rajya Sabha**.
- Monsoon Session 2015:** **Lalit Modi** and **Vyapam** controversies; productivity was **46%** in **Lok Sabha** and **9%** in **Rajya Sabha**.
- Winter Session 2016:** **Demonetisation** protests reduced productivity to **15%** and **18%**.
- Budget Session 2018:** **Cauvery** dispute, **Andhra Pradesh's** special-category-state demand and **PNB** allegations; productivity was **21%** and **27%**.
- Monsoon Session 2021:** **Pegasus** allegations and farm-law protests; productivity was **21%** and **29%**.
- Budget Session 2023:** **Adani** controversy, **Rahul Gandhi's** remarks abroad and subsequent disqualification; productivity was **33%** in **Lok Sabha** and **24%** in **Rajya Sabha**.

### Declining Legislative Productivity

- The **17th Lok Sabha (2019–2024)** held only **274** sittings across **15** sessions, the lowest for any full-term **Lok Sabha** in Indian history.



- Bills referred to **Parliamentary Standing Committees** declined from **71%** in the **15th Lok Sabha (2009–14)** to **27%** in the **16th Lok Sabha (2014–19)** and around **16%** in the **17th Lok Sabha (2019–24)**.
- During the **Monsoon Session 2025**, the **Lok Sabha** functioned for **29%** and the **Rajya Sabha** for **34%** of their scheduled time.

### **Why Disruptions Matter**

- Legislative scrutiny suffers: Bills may receive inadequate debate and committee examination.
- Executive accountability weakens: **Question Hour** and policy discussions are lost.
- Public money is wasted: Parliamentary time is a valuable public resource.
- Federal concerns receive less space: The **Rajya Sabha** represents the interests of States.
- Democratic deliberation declines: **Parliament** is meant to reconcile competing interests through debate.

### **Key Concerns**

- Increasing political polarisation and confrontation.
- Frequent use of disruption as a parliamentary strategy.
- Limited opportunities for structured Opposition expression.
- Reduced referral of important Bills to parliamentary committees.
- Insufficient incentives for maintaining parliamentary order.
- Risk of legislation being passed without adequate deliberation.

## **Topic: Schemes and Initiatives**

### **NCLT Launches e-Inspection and e-Certified Copy Services**

#### **Context**

- In **August 2026**, the **National Company Law Tribunal** launched **e-Inspection** and **e-Certified Copy Services** in **New Delhi** under the **e-Courts 2.0** initiative.
- The services were virtually inaugurated by **Justice Anupinder Singh Grewal**, President of the **National Company Law Tribunal**.

#### **About the Services**

- Enable online inspection of case records and digital issuance of certified copies.
- Registered users can submit requests through the **National Company Law Tribunal** e-Filing portal and access approved documents digitally.
- Aims to provide faster, convenient and transparent access to judicial records.

### **Digital Transformation**

- Forms part of the **National Company Law Tribunal's** broader digital transformation programme.
- Includes a revamped website to strengthen digital infrastructure and improve user experience.

### **Efficiency & Case Management**

- A data-driven mechanism monitors case pendency and enables workload redistribution and constitution of **Special Benches**.
- Improved case registration and listing guidelines aim to reduce delays and improve case management.
- The system reduces physical visits and provides a transparent and trackable process.

### **About National Company Law Tribunal**

- The **National Company Law Tribunal** is a quasi-judicial body dealing with matters relating to companies and insolvency.
- Established on **1 June 2016** under **Section 408** of the **Companies Act, 2013**.

## **Topic: Important Days**

### **Partition Horrors Remembrance Day – 14 August 2026**

- **Partition Horrors Remembrance Day (Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas)** is observed annually on **14 August** to remember the victims of the **Partition** of British India in **1947**.
- The day honours the courage, resilience and sacrifices of millions affected by **Partition**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** officially designated **14 August** as **Partition Horrors Remembrance Day** in **2021**.
- The first observance was held on **14 August 2021**.
- **2026** marks the **6th** annual observance of **Partition Horrors Remembrance Day**.
- The observance aims to preserve the memory of the human suffering, displacement and violence associated with the **Partition**.

## **International Highlights**

### **Romania**

#### **Context**

- **Romania** declared a **30-day** energy alert after severe drought caused the **Danube River** to reach historic low levels.
- The low water levels forced the shutdown of **Unit 1** of the **Cernavodă Nuclear Plant**, which supplies nearly **10%** of **Romania's** electricity.

### About Romania

- **Romania** is a country in Southeastern Europe and a member of both the **European Union (EU)** and **NATO**.
- **EU Membership: 2007**
- **NATO Membership: 2004**
- Capital: **Bucharest**

### Location

- Located in Southeastern Europe, around the **Transylvanian Basin** and **Carpathian Arc**.
- Has a coastline along the **Black Sea**.

### Bordering Countries

- **Ukraine** – North/Northeast
- **Moldova** – East
- **Bulgaria** – South
- **Serbia** – Southwest
- **Hungary** – West



### Key Geographical Features

- **Carpathian Mountains:** The **Carpathian Arc** dominates **Romania's** landscape. It includes the Eastern, Southern and Western **Carpathians**.
  - Highest Peak: **Mount Moldoveanu** in the **Făgăraș Massif**.
- **Danube River:**
  - Forms part of **Romania's** southern border with **Serbia** and **Bulgaria**.
  - Important for navigation, hydropower and nuclear-plant cooling.
- **Danube Delta:**
  - Located where the **Danube** empties into the **Black Sea**.
  - One of Europe's major wetland ecosystems.
  - Recognised as a **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**.
- **Black Sea:** **Romania** has access to the **Black Sea** through its eastern coastline.

### Environmental Significance

- **River-Cooled Power Plants:** Severe drought and low river flows can reduce the availability of cooling water, forcing nuclear and thermal power plants to reduce generation or shut down.
- **Energy Security:** Drought can simultaneously affect hydropower and nuclear generation, increasing pressure on the regional electricity grid.

- **Climate Risk:** The event highlights the vulnerability of water-dependent energy infrastructure to increasing drought and water scarcity.

