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Monday, 31 August 2026

1. Where was the new Banas Bio-CNG Model Plant inaugurated in August 2026?

- (A) Anand (B) Vinchhiwadi
(C) Dama (D) Palanpur

2. World Sanskrit Day 2026 was observed on 28 August, which coincided with which Hindu lunar calendar observance?

- (A) Chaitra Purnima (B) Magha Purnima
(C) Kartik Purnima (D) Shravana Purnima

3. In August 2026, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order to rename which Great Lake as "Lake America"?

- (A) Lake Erie (B) Lake Huron
(C) Lake Michigan (D) Lake Ontario

4. Who became the first Indian player to win the Grand Chess Tour?

- (A) Divya Deshmukh (B) D. Gukesh
(C) R. Praggnanandhaa (D) Arjun Erigaisi

5. India signed a Letter of Offer and Acceptance on 28 August 2026 to procure which U.S.-made anti-tank missile system?

- (A) Stinger (B) Javelin
(C) Hellfire (D) TOW

6. Who won the FIDE-rated rapid chess championship in Bengaluru with 8.5 points from nine rounds?

- (A) Apoorv Kamble (B) Vaidyanathan Kannan
(C) Sammed Jaykumar (D) Vishak Enna

7. What is the theme of India's BRICS Chairship in 2026?

- (A) One Earth, One Family, One Future
(B) Strengthening Multilateralism for Global Peace
(C) Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability
(D) Partnership for Global Growth and Development

8. Which institution signed an MoU with NaBFID in August 2026 to support rural-linked infrastructure and agricultural value-chain projects?

- (A) SIDBI (B) NABARD
(C) RBI (D) NHB

9. The Ministry of Education's UDISE+ 2024-25 report highlighted a major milestone in India's school education system; what does UDISE+ stand for?

- (A) Unified District Information System for Education Plus
(B) United District Information Service for Education Plus
(C) Unified Digital Information System for Educational Planning
(D) Universal District Information System for Education

10. Which organisation released the National Annual Report and Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025?

- (A) Ministry of Women and Child Development
(B) National Human Rights Commission
(C) National Commission for Women
(D) NITI Aayog

1-{B} - 2-{D} - 3-{D} - 4-{C} - 5-{B} - 6-{A} - 7-{C} - 8-{B} - 9-{A} - 10-{C}

Monday, 31 August 2026

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS OF INDIA

THE LIFELINES OF GROWTH, CONNECTIVITY & PROGRESS

1 INTRODUCTION

National Highways (NH) are the primary arterial network of India, connecting states, metros, ports, industrial hubs, border areas and economic centres.



As per government data on 4 February 2026, India's NH network has reached **1,46,572 km**, while in March 2014 it was **91,287 km** — an increase of about **61%**.

2 CONSTITUTIONAL & ADMINISTRATIVE BASIS



- Under Entry 23, Union List (Seventh Schedule of the Constitution), roads declared as National Highways by Parliament are under the jurisdiction of the Central Government.



- National Highways Act, 1956 is the key legislative foundation.



- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) is the nodal ministry for development and maintenance.



- NHAI was constituted under the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

3 MAJOR NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

NH	MAJOR ROUTE	GEOGRAPHICAL SIGNIFICANCE
NH-44	Srinagar – Kanyakumari	India's longest NH; North-South connectivity
NH-27	Porbandar – Silchar	Major corridor from West to East India
NH-48	Delhi – Jaipur – Mumbai – Bengaluru – Chennai	Major industrial & economic corridor
NH-19	Delhi – Agra – Kanpur – Prayagraj – Kolkata direction	Major transport route across the Gangetic plains
NH-16	Kolkata – Chennai	Important East Coast economic corridor

4 NEW NUMBERING SYSTEM



- In 2010, a new numbering system for National Highways was adopted.



- Generally, North-South NHs are given even numbers (Even Number) and East-West NHs are given odd numbers (Odd Number).



- Auxiliary/Spur routes are given three-digit numbers related to the parent NH.

5 ECONOMIC & STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE



Logistics Efficiency:
Reduces time and cost of freight transport.



National Security:
Ensures movement of troops and logistics in border areas.



Industrial Development:
Connects industrial corridors, ports and markets.



Regional Balance:
Improves connectivity in Northeast, tribal and LWE-affected regions.



Agriculture:
Farm-to-Market connectivity strengthens.



Tourism & Religious:
Improves access to tourist and religious destinations.

6 KEY GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES



Bharatmala Pariyojana: Economic Corridors, Inter-Corridors, Feeder Routes, border and coastal connectivity. As of June 2025, **26,425 km** awarded and **20,378 km** constructed.



PM GatiShakti: GIS-based integrated multimodal infrastructure planning.



FASTag / Digital Tolling: Digitisation of toll collection system.



Multimodal Logistics Parks (MMLPs):
Efforts to reduce logistics cost and time.



By end of 2025, operational access-controlled High-Speed Corridors/Expressways have reached **3,052 km**, up from only **93 km** in 2014.

7 MAJOR CHALLENGES



Land acquisition and rehabilitation.



Cost and time overruns in projects.



Road accidents and Black Spots.



Landslides and ecological damage in hilly regions.



Fragmentation of wildlife corridors.



Maintaining quality of roads with high construction pace.



Infrastructure resilience against floods, heavy rainfall and landslides due to climate change.

8 LATEST DATA



2014
91,287 km



2025
1,46,560 km



February 2026
1,46,572 km

Thus, the NH network has expanded by about **61%** as compared to 2014.

9 CONCLUSION



National Highways are not just transport infrastructure, but the backbone of India's economic integration, national security, regional development and global competitiveness.

Future policy should focus not only on more kilometres of construction, but on **Green Highways + Road Safety + Multimodal Connectivity + Climate-Resilient Infrastructure + Logistics Efficiency.**



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Monday, 31 August 2026

1. PNGRB Approves 1,800 Km LPG Pipelines Worth ₹7,000 Crore. In context to the same tell us, which of the following was India's first cross-state LPG transmission pipeline, constructed by GAIL?

- (A) Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur (HVJ) Pipeline
- (B) Jamnagar-Loni LPG Pipeline
- (C) Vizag-Secunderabad LPG Pipeline
- (D) Mangalore-Hassan-Bengaluru LPG Pipeline

2. India And Seychelles Strategic Cooperation In Fisheries And Blue Economy. In context to the same tell us, which SDG explicitly targets the conservation resources (Life Below Water)?

- (A) SDG 12
- (B) SDG 13
- (C) SDG 14
- (D) SDG 15

3. Guwahati To Host India Open In 2028. In context to the same tell us, which prestigious international badminton tournament is recognized as the world's premier men's team championship?

- (A) Thomas Cup
- (B) Uber Cup
- (C) Sudirman Cup
- (D) BWF World Tour Finals

4. International Day For Slave Trade Remembrance Observed On August 23. In context to the same tell us, which country was the first to start the Trans-Atlantic slave trade in the 15th century?

- (A) Portugal
- (B) France
- (C) Great Britain
- (D) Spain

5. Ministry Of Mines Launches Critical Minerals Innovation Hackathon 2026. In context to the same tell us, In which South American country did India's joint venture entity KABIL acquire lithium blocks for exploration and mining?

- (A) Chile
- (B) Brazil
- (C) Bolivia
- (D) Argentina

6. Ice-Rock Avalanche and Rare Western Disturbance Suspected in Nepal's Deadly Flash Floods.

Analyse the following statements regarding the geological and climatic drivers of disasters in the Himalayan region:

(1) Elevation-Dependent Warming accelerates permafrost thaw, which weakens the rock matrix and increases the risk of ice-rock avalanches.

(2) Historical "seismic gaps" along active fault zones reduce disaster risk by continuously dissipating accumulated tectonic stress.

(3) Localized cloudbursts combined with steep river gradients trigger high-velocity flash floods and debris flows.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3)
- (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (2) and (3)
- (D) None of the above

7. Supreme Court Advocates Greater Collegium Transparency to Boost Public Trust and Merit.

Analyse the following statements regarding the evolution and structure of the Collegium System in India:

(1) The Collegium system is defined in the text of Article 124 of the Constitution of India.

(2) In the Second Judges Case (1993), the Supreme Court interpreted "consultation" as "concurrence," thereby originating the Collegium system.

(3) The Supreme Court Collegium consists of the Chief Justice of India and four other senior-most judges of the Supreme Court.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3)
- (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (2) and (3)
- (D) None of the above

8. UPI Completes A Decade of Growth: Powers India's Digital Infrastructure and Expands to 11 Nations.

Analyse the following statements regarding the evolution and features of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI):

(1) UPI was launched on a pilot basis in April 2016 by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

(2) UPI 2.0 introduced features such as invoice in the inbox, signed intent and QR, and overdraft account linking.

(3) Bhutan was the first foreign country to deploy UPI for cross-border digital transactions.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3)
- (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (2) and (3)
- (D) All of the above

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TOPIC OF THE DAY

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Monday, 31 August 2026

PM CARES Fund

Why in News?

PM CARES Fund has released its **Audit Reports for 2023–24 and 2024–25**. The reports revealed an **idle corpus of ₹8,452 crore**, while only **₹87.85 lakh** was spent in **2024–25**. This raised questions regarding the utilisation of the fund.

Expository: -

PM CARES Fund –

- The **Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund)** was established on **28 March 2020**, under the chairmanship of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- The **Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund**, popularly known as the **PM CARES Fund**, was established by the Government to deal with any **emergency or crisis situation**, including the **COVID-19 pandemic**.
- The Fund is a **Public Charitable Trust**, with the **Prime Minister as its Chairperson**. Other members include the **Defence Minister, Home Minister and Finance Minister**.
- The Fund enables **micro-donations**, allowing a large number of people to contribute even the smallest amounts.
- The Fund will strengthen **disaster management capabilities** and encourage **research on the protection of citizens**.

Objectives of PM CARES Fund:

- To provide and support any type of **relief or assistance** related to a **public health emergency** or any other kind of **emergency, disaster or crisis**, whether **man-made or natural**, including the creation or maintenance of healthcare or pharmaceutical facilities, other essential infrastructure, funding for relevant research, or any other form of support.
- To provide **financial assistance** to the affected population, make grants or payments of money, or take such other steps as may be deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees.
- To undertake any other activities consistent with the above objectives.

PM CARES Fund: Important Facts

- The Fund will be utilised to deal with **contingencies or emergency situations** arising in the country.

- Voluntary Contributions:** The Fund does not receive any **budgetary support** and is entirely made up of **voluntary contributions** from **individuals or organisations**.
- Donations to PM CARES Fund are Tax-Exempt:** Donations made by individuals to the PM CARES Fund are eligible for **100% tax exemption** under **Section 80G** of the **Income Tax Act, 1961**.
- Contributions to PM CARES Fund are treated as CSR Expenditure:** Donations made by organisations to the PM CARES Fund are counted as expenditure on **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** activities under the **Companies Act, 2013**.

Existing Similar Fund: Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)

- The Fund was **established in 1948** by the then Prime Minister **Jawaharlal Nehru** to assist people **displaced from Pakistan**.
- At present, the Fund is mainly used to deal with natural disasters** such as **floods, cyclones and earthquakes**. In addition, it is also used for **medical treatments such as kidney transplantation, cancer treatment and acid attacks**.



MAP OF THE DAY - BHARAT

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Monday, 31 August 2026

KEN-BETWA RIVER LINKING PROJECT (KBRL)



The Ken-Betwa River Linking Project (KBRL) recently became the focus of protests by tribal communities in Madhya Pradesh over concerns related to displacement, rehabilitation, compensation and environmental impacts.



ABOUT: The Ken-Betwa River Linking Project is India's first river-linking project and the first of 30 proposed links under the National Perspective Plan, formulated in 1980.



IMPLEMENTING AGENCY: The project is being implemented through the Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) established for the project.



OBJECTIVE: It aims to transfer surplus water from the Ken River in Madhya Pradesh to the Betwa River in Uttar Pradesh, both of which are tributaries of the Yamuna.



PHASES:

- **PHASE I:** Construction of the Daudhan Dam complex, Low-Level Tunnel, High-Level Tunnel, Ken-Betwa Link Canal and powerhouses.
- **PHASE II:** Development of the Lower Orr Dam across the Orr River (a tributary of the Betwa), along with the Bina Complex Multipurpose Project and Kotha Barrage.



POWER GENERATION: It is expected to generate **103 MW** of hydropower and **27 MW** of solar power.



SIGNIFICANCE: Bundelkhand is a drought-prone region spanning parts of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The project seeks to:

- Improve drinking-water availability
- Provide reliable irrigation
- Support agricultural and regional development
- Reduce distress migration

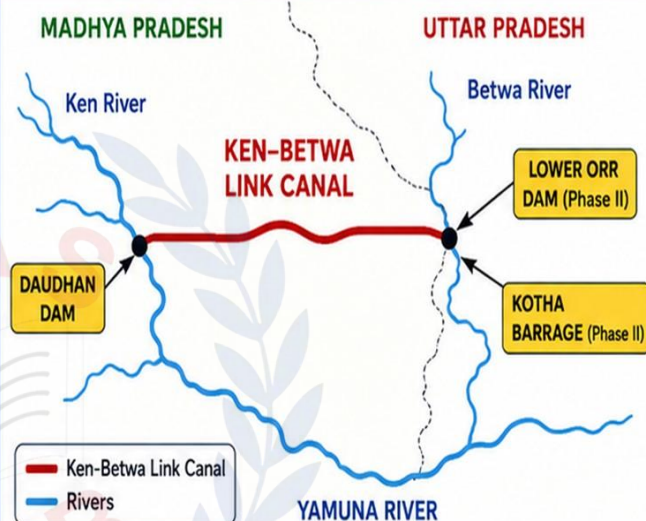


ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS: The project has raised concerns regarding its impact on the Panna Tiger Reserve. The Daudhan reservoir is expected to submerge about **4,141 hectares** of its core area and **1,314 hectares** of its buffer area.



GOVERNMENT RESPONSE: The Madhya Pradesh government approved an additional **₹300 crore** for rehabilitation under the Majhgaon and Runjh irrigation projects. A fresh survey identified around **750 additional families** for inclusion in the rehabilitation plans.

PROJECT MAP – WATER TRANSFER ROUTE



EXPECTED BENEFITS

- ✓ Enhanced irrigation in Bundelkhand region
- ✓ Improved availability of drinking water
- ✓ Boost to agriculture and allied sectors
- ✓ Socio-economic development of the region
- ✓ Reduction in distress migration
- ✓ Hydropower and solar power generation

SIGNIFICANCE FOR BUNDELKHAND



Bundelkhand, lying in parts of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, is drought-prone and water-scarce. The project is expected to bring sustainable water availability, promote agricultural and industrial growth, and improve the overall quality of life in the region.



KEY FACTS



National Perspective Plan (NPP): Formulated in 1980, it proposes linking of 30 rivers.



Ken and Betwa are tributaries of the Yamuna River.



The project is technically, socially and environmentally one of the most debated river-linking projects in India.



It is a major step towards water security, but needs careful balance between development and environmental conservation.

MAP OF THE DAY - WORLD

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Monday, 31 August 2026

BHOTEKOSHI RIVER: IMPORTANT FACTS

Recent Flood (26 August 2026) in Rasuwa District, Nepal

LOCATION MAP



WHY IN NEWS?

On 26 August 2026, a devastating flood occurred in Nepal's Rasuwa district near the Nepal-China border, involving the **Bhotekoshi River**.



WHY IMPORTANT FOR INDIA?

Nepal's Himalayan river systems ultimately connect to India's **Gandak** and **Ganga** river systems.

ABOUT BHOTEKOSHI RIVER

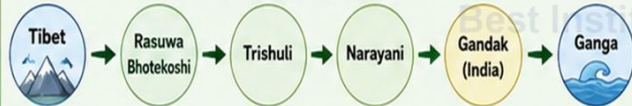
- Bhotekoshi is a major river system originating from the high Himalayan region of Tibet and Nepal.
- In Nepal, the name "Bhotekoshi" is used for **two different rivers**.
- These two rivers belong to two different river systems.
- Rasuwa Bhotekoshi** → Part of Trishuli-Narayani-Gandak river system.
- Sindhupalchok Bhotekoshi** → Part of Sun Kosi-Saptakoshi-Kosi river system.



1. RASUWA BHOTEKOSHI

- Enters Nepal from the Tibet-Nepal border into Rasuwa district.
- Flows through the Himalayan region and joins the **Trishuli River** system.
- Trishuli is a part of the **Narayani River** system.
- Narayani River enters India as the **Gandak River**.
- Gandak River ultimately joins the **Ganga River**.
- The devastating flood of 26 August 2026 is related to this Rasuwa Bhotekoshi River.**

RIVER FLOW SEQUENCE



2. SINDHUPALCHOK BHOTEKOSHI

- Originates near Zhangzangbo Glacier in Tibet.
- Known as Poiku or Boku in China.
- Enters Nepal in Sindhupalchok district.
- Joins the **Sun Kosi River**.
- Sun Kosi, Arun Kosi and Tamur Kosi rivers meet at Triveni to form the **Saptakoshi**.
- Saptakoshi enters India through the **Chatra Pass**.
- In Bihar, it is known as the **Kosi River**.
- Kosi River ultimately joins the **Ganga River**.

RIVER FLOW SEQUENCE



COMPARISON AT A GLANCE

Feature	Rasuwa Bhotekoshi	Sindhupalchok Bhotekoshi
Origin	Tibet-Nepal border (Rasuwa district)	Zhangzangbo Glacier, Tibet (Poiku/Boku in China)
Nepal District	Rasuwa	Sindhupalchok
Joins	Trishuli River	Sun Kosi River
Major System	Trishuli-Narayani-Gandak	Sun Kosi-Saptakoshi-Kosi
Enters India as	Gandak River	Kosi River (via Chatra Pass)
Ultimately Joins	Ganga River	Ganga River

KEY FACTS

- Both Bhotekoshi rivers originate in the high Himalayas connected to Tibet.
- They follow different courses and belong to different river basins.
- They are vital for Nepal's ecology, hydropower and irrigation.
- Floods in these rivers can impact downstream areas in Nepal and Northern India.
- Understanding these river systems is important for water management and disaster preparedness.

IMPORTANT FOR EXAM

- Two different rivers share the same name "Bhotekoshi" in Nepal.
- Rasuwa Bhotekoshi → Trishuli-Narayani-Gandak-Ganga
- Sindhupalchok Bhotekoshi → Sun Kosi-Saptakoshi-Kosi-Ganga
- Connected to Himalayas, Tibet, Nepal, India.
- Important in Geography, Environment, Disaster Management and International Rivers.

★ **Remember:** Rasuwa Bhotekoshi Flood (26 Aug 2026) → Trishuli-Narayani-Gandak-Ganga System

Sindhupalchok Bhotekoshi → Sun Kosi-Saptakoshi-Kosi-Ganga System



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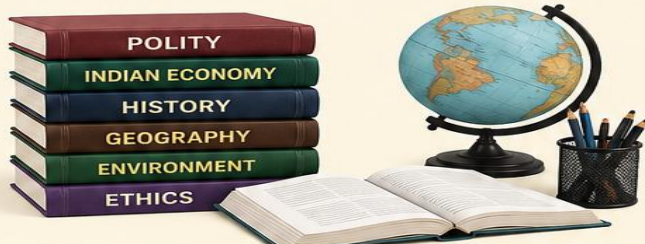
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