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Wednesday, 12 August 2026

1. Recently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the 'Bank in a Box' technology platform primarily aimed at modernising which of the following?

- (A) Urban Cooperative Banks
- (B) Regional Rural Banks
- (C) Payments Banks
- (D) Small Finance Banks

2. Recently, the Lok Sabha passed the Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026, that proposes the establishment of which body for overseeing the administration of national tribunals?

- (A) National Judicial Council
- (B) National Tribunals Commission
- (C) Central Tribunal Authority
- (D) National Adjudication Commission

3. What is the name of recently launched digital platforms is designed to integrate more than 60 maritime services under a unified digital ecosystem?

- (A) Sagar Setu
- (B) e-NAVIK
- (C) e-Samudra
- (D) Sagar Aankalan

4. According to the 16th Asiatic Lion Population Estimation, what was the estimated population of Asiatic lions in India in 2025?

- (A) 674
- (B) 756
- (C) 891
- (D) 923

5. The proposed change of the name of Kerala to Keralam is being carried out under which Article of the Constitution of India?

- (A) Article 4
- (C) Article 5

- (B) Article 1
- (D) Article 3

6. In August 2026, India gifted five young birds to the United Nations Office at Geneva, reviving a tradition dating back to 1981, which birds were gifted?

- (A) Peacocks
- (B) Flamingos
- (C) Cranes
- (D) Hornbills

7. Which song has been designated to be sung first at all official events in Tamil Nadu following a unanimous Assembly resolution in August 2026?

- (A) Vande Mataram
- (B) Tamil Thai Vazhthu
- (C) Jana Gana Mana
- (D) Semmozhi Tamil

8. Which Indian physicist was recently named a recipient of the 2026 Dirac Medal by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics?

- (A) Deepak Dhar
- (B) Ashoke Sen
- (C) Umesh Waghmare
- (D) Ajay Sood

9. Which police force recently received the President's Colour, also known as Nishaan, becoming the 18th State or Union Territory police force to receive the honour?

- (A) Goa Police
- (B) Chandigarh Police
- (C) Delhi Police
- (D) Puducherry Police

10. Which country, along with Australia, is leading Exercise Talisman Sabre 2027 in which India is also participating?

- (A) Japan
- (B) Saudi Arabia
- (C) France
- (D) United States

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

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MUGHAL EMPIRE – BATTLE OF CHAUSA AND KANNAUJ (1539–1540 A.D.)

1. BATTLE OF CHAUSA (1539 A.D.)

Date	26 June, 1539 A.D.
Place	Chausa, near Buxar (Bihar), at the confluence of Ganga and Karmanasa rivers
Sides	Humayun (Mughal) vs Sher Shah Suri (Afghan)
Result	Decisive victory of Sher Shah Suri

BACKGROUND

- Humayun went on a campaign to Bengal in 1538 and captured Gaud (the capital of Bengal).
- Sher Khan (later Sher Shah) strengthened his power in Bihar and eastern India.
- When Humayun returned, Sher Khan surrounded him at Chausa.

EVENTS OF THE BATTLE

- Sher Khan pretended to talk of peace and launched a sudden surprise attack.
- The Mughal army was completely scattered and heavy losses were suffered.
- Humayun jumped into the Ganges and saved his life.
- A water carrier (Bhishti) named Nizam carried Humayun across the river on his water skin (mashk).

SIGNIFICANCE / RESULT

- After this victory, Sher Khan took the title "Sher Shah".
- He issued coins in his own name and got the Khutba read in his name (declaration of independence).
- It was the first major step towards the establishment of the Suri Empire.
- Humayun had to return to Agra and later went into exile (1540–1555).

2. BATTLE OF KANNAUJ/BILGRAM (1540 A.D.)

Date	17 May, 1540 A.D.
Also Known As	Battle of Bilgram
Place	Kannauj, on the banks of River Ganga (present-day Uttar Pradesh)
Sides	Humayun (Mughal) vs Sher Shah Suri (Afghan)
Result	Decisive and final victory of Sher Shah Suri

BACKGROUND

- After the defeat at Chausa, Humayun tried to unite his brothers (Kamran, Askari, Hindal), but they did not give full support.
- Kamran Mirza returned to Lahore and did not help Humayun.
- Humayun faced Sher Shah with a large but disorganized army.

EVENTS OF THE BATTLE

- Both armies faced each other across the Ganga for about a month.
- The Mughal army had indiscipline and internal conflicts, while Sher Shah's army was well organized.
- Sher Shah launched a decisive attack and the Mughal army was completely routed.
- Humayun again jumped into the river; Bhishti Nizam saved his life.

SIGNIFICANCE / RESULT

- This victory established the Suri Empire completely in India.
- Humayun had to leave Agra and Delhi and went into exile for 15 years (1540–1555).
- During exile, he lived in Sindh, Rajasthan (Amar Kot, where Akbar was born in 1542), Kandahar and Persia (Iran).
- Sher Shah Suri ruled from Delhi and founded the Suri Dynasty; he died in 1545 in an accident at Kalinjar Fort.

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY

Aspect	Battle of Chausa (1539 A.D.)	Battle of Kannauj (1540 A.D.)
Year	1539 A.D.	1540 A.D.
Place	Chausa, near Buxar, Bihar	Kannauj, Uttar Pradesh
Winner	Sher Shah Suri	Sher Shah Suri
Result	Sher Shah declared independence	Humayun was completely expelled from India
Humayun's Condition	Barely escaped	Barely escaped again
Long-term Impact	Beginning of Suri power	Complete establishment of Suri Empire

QUICK FACTS

- Real name of Sher Shah Suri was Farid Khan.
- Sher Shah is famous for his administrative reforms like Grand Trunk Road, Rupiya currency system and Sarais.
- Akbar was born in Amar Kot (Sindh) in 1542 during Humayun's exile.
- Humayun regained Delhi in 1555 with the help of the Persian king Shah Tahmasp, but died in 1556 after falling from the stairs.
- The story of Bhishti Nizam is a symbol of loyalty and devotion in Mughal history.

IMPORTANT FACTS / KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Sher Shah ruled from 1540 to 1545.



Built the Grand Trunk Road (Sadak-e-Azam).



Introduced the Rupiya coin system.



Constructed Sarais for the convenience of travelers.



Akbar was born in 1542 at Amar Kot (Sindh).



Humayun died after falling from stairs in 1556.

DAILY GENERAL AWARENESS QUIZ

DIRECTOR

Lalit Mohan Dasadhikari

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Wednesday, 12 August 2026

1. HAL revives Su-30MKI production at Nashik. In context to the same tell us, India has bought Sukhoi -30 MKI fighter plane from which country?

- (A) Russia (B) USA
(C) Germany (D) France

2. Reservation: Centre Tells Supreme Court SC, ST, OBC Quotas Can't Be Reworked on Income Alone. In context to the same tell us, which Article of the Constitution gives the President the power to specify a race, caste, or tribe of a state to be included in the list of Scheduled Castes?

- (A) Article 341 (B) Article 323
(C) Article 348 (D) Article 350

3. India and Saint Kitts & Nevis sign agreement on India Stack. In context to the same tell us, which body of water is Saint Kitts and Nevis located in?

- (A) Mediterranean Sea (B) Red Sea
(C) Caribbean Sea (D) Aegean Sea

4. Central Electricity Authority plans infra to evacuate 60-70 Gw power. In context to the same tell us, Central Electricity Authority comes under which ministry of the government of India?

- (A) Ministry of Mines (B) Ministry of Coal
(C) Ministry of Power (D) Ministry of Electronics

5. Scientists drill Deepest Rock Sample from Earth's Mantle below the Atlantic seabed. In context to the same tell us, which layer of the Earth is located between the crust and the outer core?

- (A) Crust (B) Lithosphere
(C) Inner Core (D) Mantle

6. Lake Mead Hits 90-Year Low as Colorado

River Water Crisis Deepens.

Consider the following statements regarding the Colorado River:

- (1) The Colorado River rises in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, United States.
(2) It flows generally west and south before emptying into the Gulf of California.
(3) It flows through seven U.S. states and two Mexican states.

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

7. Thoti Tribe of Telangana Faces Rapid Decline Amid Shrinking Population.

Consider the following statements regarding the Thoti tribe:

- (1) The Thoti community is concentrated mainly in southern Telangana.
(2) It is classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).
(3) Traditionally, Thotis have served as village messengers and ballad singers

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. Odisha Begins Second Phase of Tiger Translocation to Similipal Tiger Reserve.

Consider the following statements regarding Similipal Tiger Reserve:

- (1) It is located in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha.
(2) It includes the Barehipani and Joranda waterfalls.
(3) It is situated in the Kalahandi district of Odisha.

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

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

TOPIC OF THE DAY

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Wednesday, 12 August 2026

Official Naming of 27 Strategic Locations in Arunachal Pradesh along the India–China LAC

Why in News?

India has rejected China's attempts to give imaginary names to locations in Arunachal Pradesh and has officially recorded **27 strategic locations and passes** near the LAC — including **Longju, Maja, Thag La, and Dzo La** — on the Survey of India's official map with standardized names.

Expository: -

Key Border Locations-

- The list includes **Longju**, which was the primary flashpoint of initial tension on the India–China border in **1959**, and also includes **Thag La**, where the conflict of the **1962 India–China War** began.

Strategic Passes-

- Bisa, Dzo La, Rizha La, Pukur La, and Thag La** have been formally marked, underlining the strategic importance of the high-altitude terrain of Arunachal Pradesh.

Strategic Importance of Arunachal Pradesh-

- Arunachal Pradesh's international borders touch **China (Tibet Autonomous Region)** in the north, **Bhutan** in the west, and **Myanmar** in the east, while **Assam and Nagaland** lie to its south.
- The state's capital is **Itanagar**, and it is the **largest state** in Northeast India (by area).
- It was earlier known as "**NEFA**" (**North East Frontier Agency**); under the **North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971**, it was made a Union Territory, and it attained full **statehood in 1987**.

Geopolitical Security Shield-

- Being the largest state in Northeast India, it acts as a broad **security shield** for the **Brahmaputra Valley**.
- The state lies in the **upper catchment area** of the major tributaries of the Brahmaputra River (such as **Subansiri, Kameng, and Lohit**). Chinese dominance here could pose a challenge to the **water and food security** of Northeast India and Bangladesh.
- The Brahmaputra River is known in Tibet as the **Yarlung Tsangpo** — China's plan to build a **mega dam (super dam)** on it is a major concern for India regarding control of water flow.
- Control over high-altitude passes such as **Thag La** and **Bum La** plays a crucial role in determining **military dominance** in the region.
- Other strategic passes — **Sela Pass** and the **Kibithu-Walong** area, which were major battlefields in the **1962 war**.

- Sela Tunnel** — a strategically important tunnel built to provide all-weather connectivity from Tawang to the rest of Arunachal Pradesh.

The Tawang Factor-

- Tawang is the birthplace of the **6th Dalai Lama**. China fears that India's control over Tawang gives New Delhi influence over future matters related to **Tibetan Buddhist geopolitics** and the **succession of the Dalai Lama**.
- China claims the entirety of Arunachal Pradesh (approximately **90,000 sq km**), including Tawang, and refers to it as "**Southern Tibet / Zangnan**."

McMahon Line and the Border Dispute-

- India determines its border based on the **McMahon Line** (fixed at the **Simla Convention of 1914**), while China rejects it, calling it a legacy of **British imperialism**.
- This line is named after the British administrator **Sir Henry McMahon**, who fixed this border line between representatives of India (then British India) and Tibet at the **Simla Convention of 1913-14**.

Biodiversity and Ecological Significance -

- Arunachal Pradesh is part of the **Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity Hotspot**.
- Namdapha National Park** — a tiger reserve, famous for its diversity ranging from **snow leopards** to **tropical wildlife**.



MAP OF THE DAY - BHARAT

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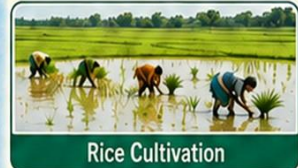
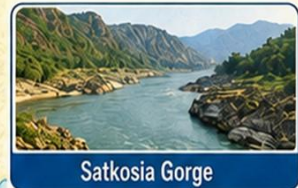
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MAHANADI – LIFELINE OF CHHATTISGARH AND ODISHA

ORIGIN & OVERVIEW

- **Origin:** Sihawa Hills, Dhamtari district, Chhattisgarh
- **Length:** about 851 km
- **Basin area:** about 1.42 lakh sq km
- An east-flowing Peninsular river; drains into the Bay of Bengal
- Once called the “Sorrow of Odisha” because of floods



BASIN & COURSE

- **Main course:** Chhattisgarh and Odisha
- **Catchment:** Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh
- **Basin boundaries:** Central Indian hills in the north, Maikal Range in the west and Eastern Ghats in the south-east

MAJOR TRIBUTARIES



DAMS & PROJECTS



- Hirakud Dam, Sambalpur — on the Mahanadi; one of the world's prominent long earthen/multipurpose dams
- Gangrel (Ravishankar Sagar), Dudhawa, Sondur, Hasdeo Bango and Tandula are major projects

MAHANADI WATER DISPUTE



- Water-sharing dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh
- Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal constituted: 12 March 2018

GEOGRAPHICAL & ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE



- Fertile delta and rice cultivation
- Irrigation, hydropower, drinking water and flood control
- Major cities: Raipur, Durg–Bhilai, Sambalpur and Cuttack
- Near Cuttack, the river divides into distributaries to form an extensive delta

ECOLOGY



- Satkosia Gorge and Tiger Reserve lie along the Mahanadi
- Hirakud Reservoir–Debrigarh region is important for biodiversity and migratory birds
- Bhitarkanika lies in the nearby Brahmani–Baitarani delta; it is not part of the Mahanadi basin
- Gahirmatha coast is famous for mass nesting of Olive Ridley turtles

EXAM FACTS



- Ancient name of the Mahanadi: Chitrotpala
- Hirakud Reservoir lies behind Hirakud Dam
- Major delta distributaries: Kathajodi, Kuakhai, Devi and Birupa
- One of India's major inter-state rivers

MAP OF THE DAY - WORLD

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Wednesday, 12 August 2026

ZAMBIA – THE HEART OF AFRICA

CONTINENT & LOCATION

- Zambia is a landlocked country in Southern Africa; it has no direct access to the sea.

CAPITAL

- Lusaka – Zambia's capital and largest city, located in the south-central part of the country.

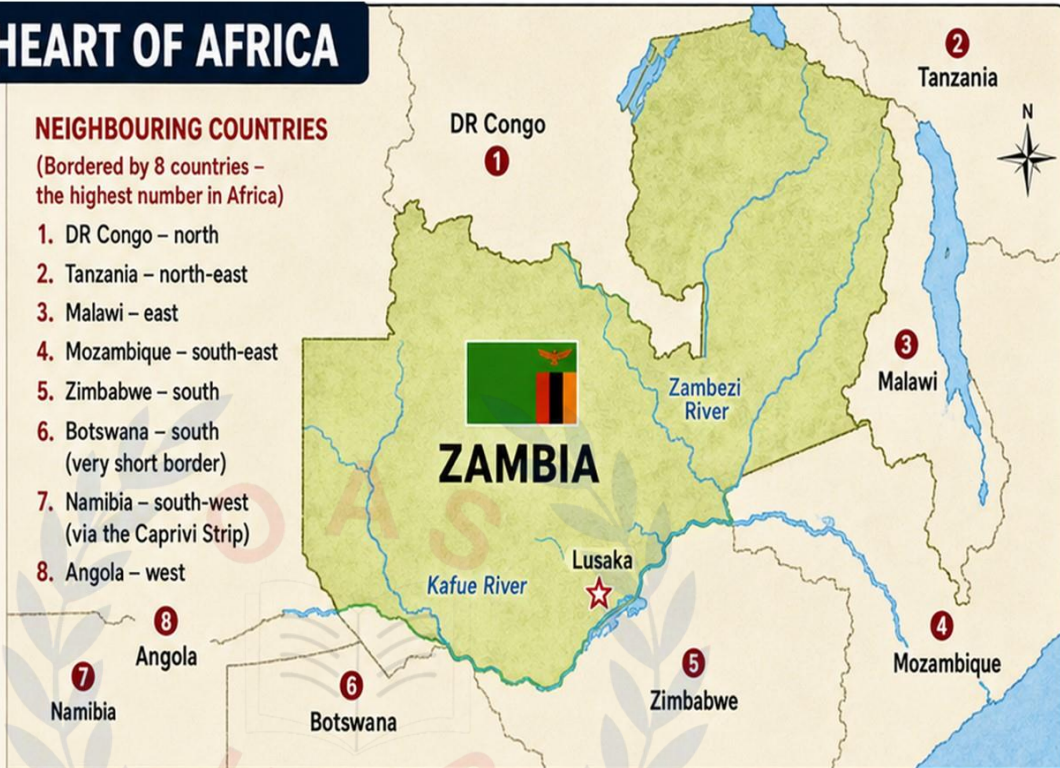
MAJOR RIVERS

- Zambezi River – Africa's fourth-longest river and Zambia's lifeline.
- Victoria Falls lies on it at the Zambia–Zimbabwe border; locally called "Mosi-oa-Tunya" (The Smoke That Thunders).
- Kariba Dam on the Zambezi forms Lake Kariba, one of the world's largest man-made lakes, shared by Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- Other river: Kafue River, a tributary of the Zambezi.

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

(Bordered by 8 countries – the highest number in Africa)

- DR Congo – north
- Tanzania – north-east
- Malawi – east
- Mozambique – south-east
- Zimbabwe – south
- Botswana – south (very short border)
- Namibia – south-west (via the Caprivi Strip)
- Angola – west



RELIEF / PLATEAU REGION

- Zambia lies mainly on a high plateau, averaging 1,000–1,600 metres.
- The Copperbelt Plateau in the north-central region contains major copper deposits; copper is central to Zambia's economy.
- It forms part of the Central African Plateau.
- Plateau relief supports savanna vegetation and grasslands.



IMPORTANT POINTS FOR UPSC



Zambia is world-famous for copper and cobalt (Copperbelt region).



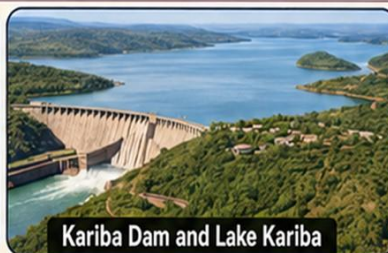
Victoria Falls is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Member of SADC (Southern African Development Community).



Formerly Northern Rhodesia; independent in 1964.



WHY IN THE NEWS?

Justice Ayesha Malik, of Indian origin, became the first woman judge of Zambia's Supreme Court.



JUSTICE AYESHA MALIK



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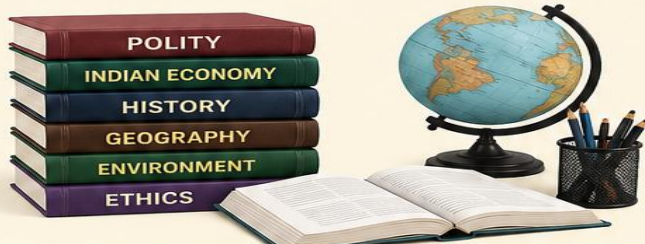
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