

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

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Tuesday, 18 August 2026

1. Which organisation recently flagged a 98% shortfall in the achievement of the forest-cover target under the Green India Mission (GIM)?

- (A) NITI Aayog
- (B) Comptroller and Auditor General of India
- (C) Forest Survey of India
- (D) Central Pollution Control Board

2. Which of the following correctly describes Samudra Manthan recently approved by the Union Cabinet?

- (A) National Deep-Sea Mining Mission
- (B) National Maritime Security Scheme
- (C) National Blue Economy Mission
- (D) National Offshore Exploration Scheme

3. Which two countries recently launched the 'Secure Green Land Corridor' across the Rub' al Khali (Empty Quarter) for freight movement?

- (A) Oman and Saudi Arabia
- (B) Oman and Qatar
- (C) Saudi Arabia and the UAE
- (D) Oman and Yemen

4. What nuclear power capacity target has India set for 2047?

- (A) 50 GW
- (B) 75 GW
- (C) 100 GW
- (D) 125 GW

5. Recently, India has opened its nuclear energy sector to private Indian firms and foreign partners through which Act?

- (A) Nuclear Energy Development Act, 2026
- (B) Atomic Energy Act, 1962

(C) SHANTI Act, 2025

(D) Nuclear Safety Act, 2025

6. Who was conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for 2025 for her contribution to Odissi?

- (A) Shubhada Varadkar
- (B) Sonal Mansingh
- (C) Madhavi Mudgal
- (D) Ranjana Gauhar

7. Which country won its maiden overall title at the Commonwealth Fencing Championships 2026?

- (A) Canada
- (B) England
- (C) Australia
- (D) India

8. Which state government approved the phased rollout of SAMASTA, an integrated community digital health platform for digitising health records?

- (A) Kerala
- (B) Karnataka
- (C) Tamil Nadu
- (D) Telangana

9. Recently, the Government of India organised which global flag-hoisting relay across 54 Indian diplomatic missions and posts in 54 countries to mark the 80th Independence Day?

- (A) Har Ghar Tiranga
- (B) Suryapath Tiranga
- (C) Tiranga Vishwa Yatra
- (D) Tiranga Setu

10. India has hosted the 12th BRICS Environment Ministers Meeting in which city?

- (A) Mumbai
- (B) Bengaluru
- (C) New Delhi
- (D) Hyderabad

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

DAILY STATIC GK ONE-LINERS

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BIOTECHNOLOGY: IMPORTANT FACTS



BASIC FACTS ABOUT BIOTECHNOLOGY

- Biotechnology is the science of using living organisms and biological processes to develop useful products.
- **Genetic Engineering** involves making changes in the genes of organisms.
- The structure of DNA was proposed by **James Watson and Francis Crick** in 1953.
- **DNA** is the carrier of genetic information in human beings.
- **Gene** is the basic unit of heredity.
- **Recombinant DNA (rDNA)** technology is the basis of modern biotechnology.
- **PCR** technique was developed by **Kary Mullis**.
- **PCR** is used to make **millions of copies of DNA**.
- **CRISPR-Cas9** is called the "**molecular scissors**" for gene editing.
- The **2020 Nobel Prize** was awarded for the development of CRISPR technology.



AGRICULTURE RELATED FACTS

- **Bt Cotton** is India's first commercially approved GM crop.
- **Bt Cotton** contains a gene from the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*.
- **Golden Rice** is a genetically modified crop enriched with Vitamin-A.
- **Biofertilizers** help in improving soil fertility.
- **Rhizobium** is a nitrogen-fixing bacterium.



MEDICAL RELATED FACTS

- The world's first artificial insulin was produced using rDNA technology.
- **Monoclonal antibodies** are used in the treatment of cancer.
- **Stem cells** have the ability to transform into different types of cells.
- **Gene therapy** is an emerging technique for the treatment of genetic disorders.
- **mRNA vaccines** are an important achievement of modern biotechnology.



ENVIRONMENT RELATED FACTS

- In **bioremediation**, microorganisms remove pollutants.
- **Biofuels** are fuels made from biological materials.
- **Biopesticides** are an eco-friendly means of pest control.
- Biotechnology helps in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



IMPORTANT FACTS RELATED TO INDIA

- Department of Biotechnology (DBT) was established in 1986.
- Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) promotes biotechnology startups.
- The objective of **Genome India Project** is to create a genetic database of Indians.
- **BioE3** policy has been launched to promote the bioeconomy.
- India is one of the leading vaccine producing countries in the world.



IMPORTANT ONE-LINERS (FOR UPSC PRELIMS)

- **DNA** stands for – Deoxyribonucleic Acid.
- **RNA** stands for – Ribonucleic Acid.
- **CRISPR** is used for – Gene editing.
- **PCR** is used for – DNA amplification.
- **Bt Cotton** – India's first GM crop.
- **Rhizobium** – Nitrogen-fixing bacterium.
- **Stem Cell** – Undifferentiated cell.
- **Gene Therapy** – Treatment of genetic disorders.
- **Bioremediation** – Biological method for pollution control.
- **Genome Sequencing** – Determination of complete genetic sequence of an organism.



DAILY GENERAL AWARENESS QUIZ

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Tuesday, 18 August 2026

1. Gramin Gyan Setu App Launched To Interconnect Libraries In Gandhinagar. In context to the same tell us, who is widely recognized as the 'Father of Library Science in India'?

- (A) W.C. Berwick Sayers (B) S.R. Ranganathan
(C) B.S. Kesavan (D) Melvil Dewey

2. Indian Railways Approves Kavach 4.0 for Izzatnagar Division. In context to the same tell us, which organization lead the development of the indigenous 'Kavach' system for Indian Railways?

- (A) RDSO (B) ISRO
(C) DRDO (D) BEL

3. India Targets 100 GWe Nuclear Energy Capacity By 2047. What is the role of India's Kamini reactor located at Kalpakkam?

- (A) First commercial heavy-water power plant
(B) Primary breeder reactor for Plutonium export
(C) First fusion experimental reactor in Asia
(D) World's only operating reactor using Uranium-233 fuel

4. Karnataka Bans Tobacco And Nicotine For One Year. In context to the same tell us, What is the immediate physiological effect of nicotine on the cardiovascular system?

- (A) Decrease in heart rate and blood pressure
(B) Increase in heart rate and blood pressure
(C) Severe reduction in cardiac output
(D) Dilation of peripheral blood vessels

5. Parliament Passes MMDR Amendment Bill 2026 For Mineral Exploration. In context to the same tell us, which pathfinder element is commonly analyzed in geochemical soil sampling to locate deeply buried hydrothermal Gold (Au) deposits?

- (A) Lead (Pb) (B) Aluminum (Al)
(C) Arsenic (As) (D) Magnesium (Mg)

6. Parliament Clears Historic Bill to Formally Rename Kerala as 'Keralam'.

Consider the following statements regarding the constitutional procedure for altering the name of a State

in India:

- (1) A Bill to rename a State requires the prior recommendation of the President before its introduction in Parliament.
(2) The views expressed by the concerned State Legislature on the renaming Bill are binding on Parliament.

(3) Such a Bill must be passed by a special majority under Article 368.

Which of the above is/are incorrect?

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

7. Rare Total Solar Eclipse Darkens Skies from Greenland to Spain, Unlocking Solar Corona Insights. Consider the following statements regarding the mechanics and occurrence of solar eclipses:

- (1) A solar eclipse can occur during both New Moon and Full Moon phases depending on node alignment.
(2) The Moon's orbital plane is inclined by approximately 5° relative to the Earth's ecliptic plane.
(3) Solar eclipses occur only during specific "eclipse seasons" when the New Moon crosses the ecliptic plane.

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. India Reaffirms Elephant Conservation Commitment at World Elephant Day 2026 in Visakhapatnam.

With reference to Project Elephant and Elephant Reserves in India, consider the following statements:

- (1) Project Elephant is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in 1992 to protect elephants, their habitats, and corridors.
(2) Elephant Reserves in India possess statutory backing directly under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, similar to Tiger Reserves under NTCA.
(3) The Gaj Yatra campaign was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to raise awareness about elephant corridors.

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

TOPIC OF THE DAY

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Tuesday, 18 August 2026

Arab League

Why in News?

Recently, **Lebanon** formally abolished the death penalty, becoming the **first Arab country** to abolish capital punishment by law. The **Lebanese Parliament** converted existing death sentences into **life imprisonment**.

Expository: -

Introduction-

- The **Arab League**, also known as the **League of Arab States (LAS)**, is an **intergovernmental pan-Arab organisation** of Arab countries.
- It was established on **22 March 1945 in Cairo, Egypt**.
- Its establishment was based on the **Alexandria Protocol of 1944**.

Members-

- The Arab League currently has **22 member countries**.
- These include **Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen**.

Suspension of Syria-

- In **2011, Syria was suspended from the Arab League** following violent action against anti-government protests.
- The Arab League accused Syria of **failing to comply with its peace plan**.
- The plan included the **withdrawal of military forces, release of political prisoners and dialogue with opposition groups**.
- Due to continued violence, Syria's suspension remained in force, resulting in **economic and diplomatic consequences**.

Readmission of Syria-

- Syria's later readmission was seen as a sign of **easing relations between Syria and other Arab countries**.



- It was viewed as the **beginning of a gradual process towards resolving the Syrian crisis**.

- A committee involving **Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq** was proposed to help Syria achieve various objectives.

Objectives-

- To strengthen and coordinate the **political, cultural, economic and social programmes** of member countries.
- To **mediate disputes between member states and between them and third parties**.
- Through the **Joint Defence and Economic Cooperation Treaty**, signed on **13 April 1950**, member states were committed to **coordinating military defence measures**.

MAP OF THE DAY - BHARAT

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Tuesday, 18 August 2026

MALAPRABHA RIVER



CURRENT AFFAIRS CONTEXT

The Malaprabha River, flowing through **Guledgudda Taluk (Bagalkot district), Karnataka**, recently dried up, causing severe drinking water and irrigation crisis for people living on its banks — farmers and villagers. This incident highlights the recurring **water-scarcity** problem in North Karnataka and issues related to **river management** and water allocation policies.



A view of Malaprabha River



RIVER INTRODUCTION

Type	: Major tributary of the Krishna River
Flowing State	: Karnataka (entirely)
Source	: Kanakumbi village, Belagavi (Belgaum) district
Source Mountain Range	: Western Ghats (Sahyadri)
Source Elevation	: Approximately 792 metres
Total Length	: 304 km
Confluence	: Kudala Sangama (Bagalkot district) – joins Krishna River
Flow Direction	: First east , then north-east



DRAINAGE BASIN

- Malaprabha River is a part of the **Krishna Basin**, one of the largest river systems in peninsular India.
- It is one of the **east-flowing rivers** originating from the **Western Ghats**, similar to Godavari, Krishna and Cauvery, which flow towards the **Bay of Bengal**.



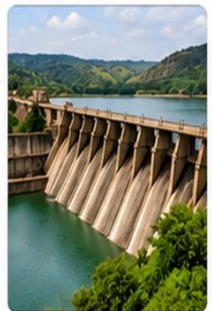
TRIBUTARIES

- Bennihalla
- Hirehalla
- Tuprihalla



DAM PROJECT

- Renuka Sagar Dam**
- Location** : Navilutirtha, Saundatti Taluk, Belagavi district
- Year of Construction** : 1972–74
- Height** : Approximately **43 metres**
- Purpose** : Irrigation, drinking water supply (especially to Hubballi–Dharwad region)



CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AT SOURCE

The **Sri Mauli Devi Temple** located at **Kanakumbi** represents the source of River Malaprabha. This region has been significant since prehistoric times and is today an important pilgrimage site.



HERITAGE & CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Malaprabha River valley is world-famous for ancient Chalukya architecture located on its banks:

AIHOLE

Known as the
"Cradle of Temples".



PATTADAKAL

A **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, famous as the coronation place of the Chalukya dynasty.



BADAMI

The capital of the Badami Chalukyas, famous for its cave temples.



MAP OF THE DAY - WORLD

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Tuesday, 18 August 2026

MALAYSIA – GEOGRAPHY, NEIGHBOURS & IMPORTANCE

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Malaysia is unique as it is divided into **two geographically separated parts** with the South China Sea in between.

1. Peninsular Malaysia

– Located on the Malay Peninsula, connected to Asian mainland.

2. East Malaysia (on Borneo Island)

– Consists of Sabah and Sarawak states on the island of Borneo.



WHY IN DISCUSSION?

- 'Udar Shakti' primarily refers to a bilateral Air Force exercise between India and Malaysia.

BORDERING COUNTRIES

Peninsular Malaysia (Western Part)

- **North** – Thailand (land border)
- **South** – Singapore (separated by strait; connected via Johor–Singapore Causeway)
- **West** – Malacca Strait (across which lies Indonesia – Sumatra Island)

East Malaysia (Sabah–Sarawak)

- **Indonesia** (Kalimantan region) – land border (longest border on Borneo Island)
- **Brunei** – Sarawak surrounds this country into two parts
- **Maritime Boundary** – Philippines (South China Sea / Sulu Sea)

SUMMARY TABLE – LAND & MARITIME NEIGHBOURS

Country	Type of Boundary	Related Part of Malaysia	Remarks
 Thailand	Land	Peninsular Malaysia	Northern land boundary
 Singapore	Maritime (Strait)	Peninsular Malaysia (South)	Separated by Johor Strait
 Indonesia	Land + Maritime	Both parts (Sumatra by sea, Kalimantan by land)	Important neighbour on both sides
 Brunei	Land	East Malaysia (Sarawak)	Surrounded by Sarawak
 Philippines	Maritime	East Malaysia (Near Sabah)	Maritime boundary in South China Sea / Sulu Sea
 Vietnam	Maritime	Nearby Maritime Region	In South China Sea

IMPORTANT WATERWAY – MALACCA STRAIT



- Situated between Malaysia and Indonesia (Sumatra).
- One of the world's **busiest and strategically most important waterways**.
- Connects the Indian Ocean and South China Sea (Pacific Ocean).
- Vital for trade and energy supply (oil tanker route) of many countries including India, China, Japan.
- **Importance for India:** Plays a crucial role in India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific strategy.

INDIA-MALAYSIA RELATIONS



- Malaysia is a member of **ASEAN**.



- Key partner in India's **Act East Policy**.



Strong historical and cultural ties – large Tamil-origin population resides in Malaysia.

KEY FACTS

- Capital: **Kuala Lumpur**
- Official Language: Malay
- Currency: Malaysian Ringgit
- Political System: Federal Parliamentary Monarchy
- ASEAN Member Since: 1967
- Strategic Location: At the crossroads of major sea lanes connecting Asia and the world.



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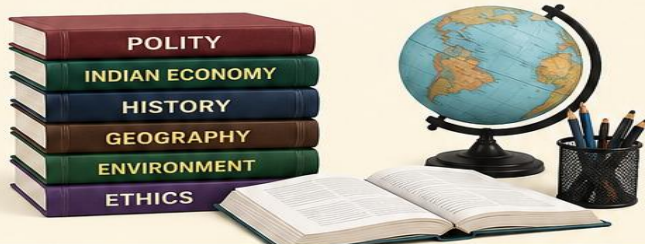
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