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Friday, 14 August 2026

- Who has been appointed by Russia as its arbitrator in the investment treaty arbitration filed by Ukraine's state-owned Oschadbank?
(A) Stavros Brekoulakis (B) D. Y. Chandrachud
(C) Dyalá Jiménez (D) Pinna Goldberg
- According to the Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2025, which state was the largest milk producer in India during 2024–25?
(A) Uttar Pradesh (B) Rajasthan
(C) Gujarat (D) Madhya Pradesh
- Which city has been approved as the new location of the Uttarakhand High Court?
(A) Dehradun (B) Rudrapur
(C) Haridwar (D) Haldwani
- What is the official theme of International Youth Day 2026?
(A) Youth for Global Action
(B) Local Youth Actions for the SDGs
(C) Different Contexts, Common Aspirations
(D) Youth Building a Better Future
- Which sports federation had its recognition suspended by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on 12 August 2026?
(A) Wrestling Federation of India
(B) Table Tennis Federation of India
(C) Badminton Association of India
(D) Athletics Federation of India
- Who will confer the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards for the years 2024 and 2025?
(A) Chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi
(B) Prime Minister of India
(C) Vice-President of India
(D) President of India
- What was the primary objective of the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities (Second Amendment) Order, 2026?
(A) To regulate Ganga floodplains
(B) To manage Ganga water resources
(C) To control Ganga pollution
(D) To develop Ganga waterways
- Which country declared a national state of emergency following a 7.4-magnitude earthquake in August 2026?
(A) Colombia (B) Ecuador
(C) Peru (D) Chile
- NETRA-2026, recently organised by DRDO, was primarily associated with which field?
(A) Space medicine (B) Naval engineering
(C) Electronic warfare (D) Military logistics
- The recently launched autobiography *Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles* is based on whose life?
(A) Pranab Mukherjee
(B) Ram Nath Kovind
(C) A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
(D) K. R. Narayanan

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

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Friday, 14 August 2026



UNITED NATIONS & ITS MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS



1. UNITED NATIONS (UN)



UNITED
NATIONS

1. Headquarters – New York, USA
2. Established on – 24 October 1945
3. Formed after World War II to maintain international peace and security.
4. At the time of its establishment, it had 51 founding member states; now the membership is 193.
5. The UN Charter was signed at the San Francisco Conference in June 1945.
6. The six main organs of the UN are –

Six Main Organs

- General Assembly
- Security Council
- Economic and Social Council
- Trusteeship Council
- International Court of Justice
- Secretariat

2. UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)



UNSC

1. Headquarters – New York, USA
2. Established in 1945 under the UN Charter.
3. Main function – to maintain international peace and security.
4. It has 5 permanent members with veto power.

5 Permanent Members (with Veto Power)



USA



UK



FRANCE



RUSSIA



CHINA

5. In addition, there are 10 non-permanent (elected) members for a term of 2 years by the General Assembly.
6. Resolutions of the UNSC are legally binding on all UN member states.

3. UNESCO



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

1. Headquarters – Paris, France
2. Established on – 16 November 1945
3. Full Form – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
4. It promotes international cooperation in the fields of education, science, culture and communication.
5. It prepares and declares the list of World Heritage Sites.
6. It is one of the major UN agencies whose headquarters is outside New York. (This is a frequently asked fact in UPSC.)

4. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)



1. Headquarters – New York, USA
2. Established in – 1965
3. It is the UN's largest development agency.
4. It publishes the Human Development Index (HDI) and the Human Development Report every year.
5. It assists developing countries in poverty reduction, sustainable development and good governance.
6. It plays a key role in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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5. UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)



1. Headquarters – New York, USA
2. Established in – 1946
3. Full Form – United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (Original name)
4. Objective – to protect children's health, education and rights worldwide.
5. Award – Nobel Peace Prize in 1965 for its humanitarian work.
6. Works in more than 190 countries and territories for child welfare.

Quick Facts (At a Glance)

Organization	Established	Headquarters	Main Function
United Nations (UN)	1945	New York, USA	Maintain international peace and security
UN Security Council (UNSC)	1945	New York, USA	Maintain international peace and security
UNESCO	1945	Paris, France	Cooperation in education, science, culture and communication
UNDP	1965	New York, USA	Development assistance, HDI, SDGs
UNICEF	1946	New York, USA	Child health, education and rights



Important Facts for Exams

- UN established – 24 October 1945
- UN Charter signed – June 1945
- Total UN member states – 193
- UNSC has 5 permanent members – USA, UK, France, Russia, China (with veto power)
- UNESCO headquarters – Paris (outside New York)
- UNICEF won Nobel Peace Prize – 1965
- UNDP established – 1965

DAILY GENERAL AWARENESS QUIZ

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Friday, 14 August 2026

1. 12th bilateral Mitra Shakti Military Exercise Commences in Sri Lanka. In context to the same tell us, when was the first Mitra Shakti military exercise held?

- (A) 2012 (B) 2010
(C) 2008 (D) 2006

2. Supreme Court Collegium Recommends Appointment Of Chief Justices In Four High Courts. In context to the same tell us, who was the first Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court?

- (A) Justice Bhagwati Prasad Beri
(B) Justice Chand Mal Lodha
(C) Justice Kamal Kant Verma
(D) Justice Shivaraj V Patil

3. Every year since 2012, 12 August is observed around the world as World Elephant Day. In context to the same tell us, which is the 33rd and latest Elephant Reserve of India as of 2026?

- (A) Mysore Elephant Reserve
(B) Nilgiri Elephant Reserve
(C) Rayala Elephant Reserve
(D) Terai Elephant reserves

4. Every year since 2010, the 12th of August has been observed as International Youth Day. In context to the same tell us, National Youth Day is observed in India to commemorate the birth anniversary of whom?

- (A) Swami Vivekanand (B) Mahatma Gandhi
(C) Jawahar Lal Nehru (D) Bhagat Singh

5. Union Cabinet Approves ₹29,054 Crore Revamped Khelo India Scheme (2026–31) to Build Grassroots Talent Pool for 2036 Olympics. In context to the same tell us, which sport was introduced for the first time in the Summer Olympics during the 2024 Paris Olympics?

- (A) Kabaddi (B) Cricket
(C) Baseball (D) Breaking

6. Lok Sabha Delimitation: Centre Revives Electoral Reform Debate Ahead of 2029 Elections.

Consider the following statements regarding the freeze on delimitation in India:

(1) The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976, froze the total number of Lok Sabha seats based on the 1971 Census.

(2) The 84th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2001, extended the freeze until the first Census after 2026.

(3) The 2002 Delimitation Commission altered the inter-State allocation of Lok Sabha seats on the basis of the 2001 Census.

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. Zaskar Glaciers Slow and Thin Amid Climate Change, Threatening Long-Term Water Security in Upper Indus Basin.

With reference to the geographical setting of Zaskar Valley, consider the following statements:

(1) Zaskar's location on the northern flank of the Great Himalayan Range contributes to its cold and dry climatic conditions.

(2) The rain-shadow effect limits the amount of precipitation reaching the valley.

(3) Despite being a high-altitude region, Zaskar has a humid climate because of its proximity to the Himalayan ranges.

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. Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve Faces Eviction Drive Following Supreme Court Directive Based on CEC Findings.

With reference to the Forest Rights Act, 2006, consider the following statements:

(1) Title rights cover only land actually occupied and cultivated by the concerned family.

(2) Recognition of title rights permits the allotment of new forest land for future cultivation.

(3) Title rights under the Act are subject to a maximum area of 4 hectares.

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

TOPIC OF THE DAY

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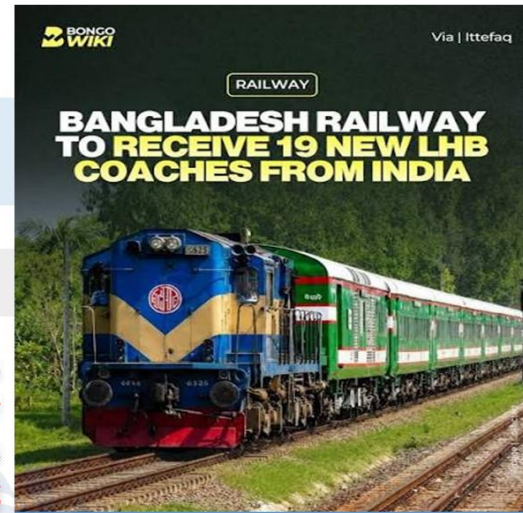
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Friday, 14 August 2026

RCF Kapurthala exported its first rake of 19 LHB coaches to Bangladesh.

Why in News?

Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala is expected to dispatch its **first rake of 19 LHB broad-gauge passenger coaches for Bangladesh Railway on 12 August 2026**. This project marks an important achievement in **India's indigenous railway manufacturing** and **India-Bangladesh railway cooperation**.



Expository: -

Basic Introduction:-

- **Rail Coach Factory** is a major coach manufacturing unit of Indian Railways located in **Kapurthala, Punjab**.
- It was established in **1985** with an investment of approximately **₹423 crore**.
- Its foundation stone was laid on **17 August 1985** by the then Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi**.
- Its main objective was to **increase the coach manufacturing capacity of Indian Railways and generate employment opportunities** for the youth of Punjab.
- It is located on the **Jalandhar-Firozpur railway route**.
- Other major production units of Indian Railways include the **Integral Coach Factory at Chennai, Modern Coach Factory at Raebareli, and Diesel Locomotive Works at Varanasi**.

Major Products and Production:-

- Rail Coach Factory mainly manufactures **modern high-speed passenger coaches** and **Mainline Electric Multiple Unit coaches**.
- In **2021-22**, the factory produced a total of **1,862 coaches**.
- These included **1,840 modern high-speed coaches** and **22 electric multiple-unit coaches**.
- Modern high-speed coaches are based on **German technology**.
- Compared with conventional coaches, they are **lighter, safer, and provide better protection in the event of an accident**.
- They are suitable for speeds of approximately **130 to 160 kilometres per hour**.

Expansion in Vande Bharat Express Production, March 2026-

- In **March 2026**, Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, manufactured a **16-coach Vande Bharat train** for the first time.
- Earlier, such Vande Bharat trains were manufactured only at the **Integral Coach Factory, Chennai**.

- On **31 March 2026**, the Kapurthala factory rolled out its first **16-coach Vande Bharat Chair Car train**.
- Before entering regular passenger service, the train will undergo **oscillation trials**.
- The production of Vande Bharat trains began in **2018** with **two trainsets**.
- Before this expansion, a total of **97 Vande Bharat Chair Car trains** had been manufactured.
- The expansion of production to Kapurthala is an important step towards **increasing the manufacturing capacity of Indian Railways and decentralising the production system**.
- This initiative also strengthens the **Make in India** programme.

Coach Export for Bangladesh Railway, August 2026-

- On **12 August 2026**, Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, prepared its first rake of **19 modern broad-gauge passenger coaches** for **Bangladesh Railway**.
- In **2024**, Bangladesh Railway placed an order for the manufacture and supply of a total of **200 broad-gauge passenger coaches**.
- These **200 coaches** are to be manufactured in **seven different variants**.
- The first rake includes **three air-conditioned sleeper coaches, three air-conditioned chair car coaches, 11 non-air-conditioned chair car coaches, and two power cars**.
- These coaches are equipped with **improved crash safety, CCTV surveillance, baby-care facilities, and prayer rooms**.

MAP OF THE DAY - BHARAT

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Friday, 14 August 2026

BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS OF INDIA – DETAILED OVERVIEW

1 HIMALAYA



Location/Extent: Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Darjeeling (West Bengal)

Total Area: ~7,50,000 sq. km (including Nepal & Bhutan)

Plant Species: ~10,000+ species, of which ~3,160 are endemic

Major Vegetation: Rhododendron, Oak, Deodar, Blue Pine, Buransh

Key Wildlife:



Snow Leopard



Red Panda



Musk Deer



Himalayan Black Bear



Tibetan Antelope (Chiru)

Major Threats: Deforestation, hydropower projects, unregulated tourism, climate change, landslides

2 INDO-BURMA



Location/Extent: Most of Northeast India (Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya etc.) and Andaman Islands

Total Area: ~23,73,000 sq. km (including Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos etc.)

Plant Species: ~13,500 species, of which more than 7,000 are endemic

Key Wildlife:



One-horned Rhinoceros



Hoolock Gibbon



Bengal Tiger



Elephant



Wild Buffalo



Slow Loris

Special Feature: One of the richest biodiversity regions in the world; very high diversity of orchids and freshwater fishes

Major Threats: Shifting cultivation (Jhum), deforestation, poaching, illegal wildlife trade

3 WESTERN GHATS – SRI LANKA



Location/Extent: Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu (Western Ghats) and Sri Lanka

Total Area: ~1,89,611 sq. km (Indian part)

Plant Species: ~7,400 species, of which ~5,916 are endemic

UNESCO Status: Western Ghats declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site (2012)

Key Wildlife:



Lion-tailed Macaque



Nilgiri Tahr



Malabar Civet



Elephant



Tiger

Major Threats: Dam construction, mining, deforestation, agricultural expansion, urbanization

4 SUNDALAND



Location/Extent: In India – Nicobar Islands (Mainly Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei)

Total Area: ~15,00,000 sq. km (Globally)

Plant Species: ~25,000 species (Globally), high endemism

Key Wildlife:



Nicobar Megapode



Nicobar Pigeon



Sea Turtle



Coconut Crab

Special Feature: Island ecosystems, Coral Reefs (high marine biodiversity)

Major Threats: Tsunamis, sea level rise, illegal logging, invasive species

MAP OF THE DAY - WORLD

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Friday, 14 August 2026

HUNGARY



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

- Hungary is a landlocked country located in Central Europe.
- It is a landlocked country surrounded by land on all sides.
- The **Danube River** flows through Hungary.
- **Lake Balaton** is the largest freshwater lake in Central Europe and is located in Hungary.



CAPITAL: BUDAPEST

(Located on the banks of the Danube)

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES



Hungary is a landlocked country, bordered by 7 countries:

- Austria (West)
- Slovakia (North)
- Ukraine (Northeast)
- Romania (East)
- Serbia (Southeast)
- Croatia (South)
- Slovenia (Southwest)



LANDSCAPE AND CLIMATE

- The Great Hungarian Plain is famous for its vast plains, locally called "**Puszta**".
- It has a **temperate continental climate**, influenced by both continental and maritime factors.



POLITICAL SYSTEM

- Hungary is a parliamentary republic.
- It is a member of the European Union (EU), NATO and the United Nations (UN).
- Currency: Hungarian Forint (HUF)



EU



NATO



UN



HISTORICAL TIMELINE (2026)

- **Peter Magyar's** TISZA Party achieved a major victory in the **2026** parliamentary elections and came to power.
- Peter Magyar became the Prime Minister of Hungary on **9 May 2026**.
- On **11 August 2026**, Hungary joined the Eastern Partnership and proposed to open the door to the country for further cooperation.



HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Treaty of Trianon

After World War I, the Treaty of Trianon (1920) greatly reduced Hungary's territory.



1920

Cold War Period

During the Cold War, Hungary was in the Soviet influence zone (Warsaw Pact).



1945

1956 Revolution

In 1956, Hungarians rose up against Soviet rule, but the revolution was suppressed.



1956

Joined NATO

Hungary joined NATO in 1999.



1999

Joined European Union

Hungary joined the European Union in 2004.



2004

OTHER IMPORTANT FACTS



Population: Approx. 9.6 million



Area: Approx. 93,030 sq. km



Official Language: Hungarian



Major Religion: Christianity



Time Zone: CET (UTC+1)



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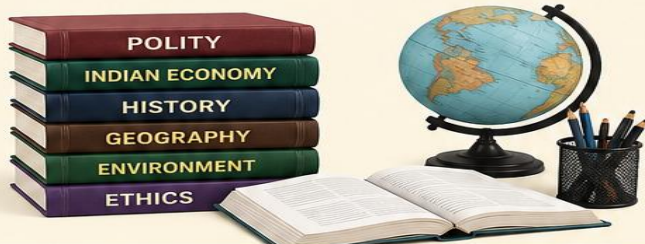
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