

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

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Monday, 17 August 2026

1. Which State Government recently approved the 'Sandhya Kiran' contributory cashless healthcare scheme for its pensioners below 70 years of age?

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

2. Which Union Ministry is primarily associated with the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026?

- (A) Ministry of Finance
(B) Ministry of Home Affairs
(C) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
(D) Ministry of External Affairs

3. The 8th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Ocean and Polar Science and Technology began in which Indian State in August 2026?

- (A) Kerala (B) Tamil Nadu
(C) Odisha (D) Goa

4. How many personnel were awarded Gallantry and Service Medals on the occasion of Independence Day 2026?

- (A) 664 (B) 901
(C) 1,057 (D) 1,301

5. Exercise Udara Shakti 2026, recently commenced by the Indian Air Force, is a bilateral air exercise with which country?

- (A) Malaysia (B) Indonesia
(C) Singapore (D) Thailand

6. With reference to the 'Sapta Dhara' development strategy announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Independence Day 2026, the concept was presented by drawing an analogy with which ancient Indian concept?

- (A) Sapta Sindhu (B) Sapta Lok
(C) Sapta Rishi (D) Sapta Puri

7. On the occasion of National Library Day 2026, which state launched the 'Gramin Gyan Setu' mobile application?

- (A) Rajasthan (B) Gujarat
(C) Maharashtra (D) Haryana

8. Which country has announced its first lunar rover named Jinnah-1?

- (A) Bangladesh (B) Indonesia
(C) Malaysia (D) Pakistan

9. Which documents was released under Project Elephant during the national celebrations of World Elephant Day 2026?

- (A) Elephant Census 2026
(B) 30 Giant Steps
(C) National Elephant Action Plan
(D) Gaj Suraksha Report

10. Which institution has developed a two-stage microalgae cultivation process for carbon dioxide capture, biomass production and bioenergy generation?

- (A) IIT Delhi (B) IIT Bombay
(C) IIT Hyderabad (D) IIT Guwahati

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

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Monday, 17 August 2026



ISRO – SPACE PROGRAMME

Indian Space Research Organisation



1. KEY POINTS

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was established on **15 August 1969**.
- Its headquarters is in **Bengaluru**, Karnataka.
- ISRO is India's premier organization for space research, satellite launch and development of space technology.
- Its objective is to utilize space science and technology for national development and the welfare of the people.



2. ESTABLISHMENT & DEVELOPMENT

- The foundation of India's space programme was laid by the renowned scientist **Vikram Sarabhai**.
- Under his leadership, the journey of space research began in India.
- Later, **Satish Dhawan** and other scientists took it to greater heights.
- ISRO has created a unique identity in the world despite having limited resources.



Vikram Sarabhai
(1919–1971)



Satish Dhawan
(1920–2002)

3. MAJOR SATELLITE PROGRAMMES

ISRO has developed various satellites for communication, weather forecasting, education, agriculture and disaster management. INSAT, GSAT, IRS and NavIC are some of the key satellite systems of India.



INSAT

For communication, meteorology, education and television broadcast



GSAT

For communication services and broadband connectivity



IRS

For remote sensing applications in agriculture, forestry, water resources and land use

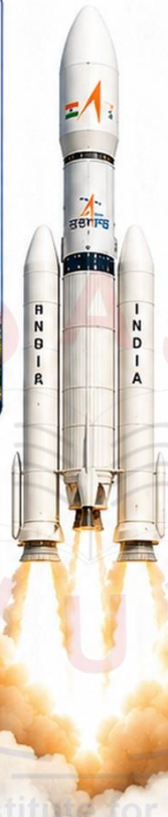


NavIC

India's independent navigation satellite system



These satellites help in weather forecasting, communication, television broadcast and natural resource management.



4. MAJOR SPACE MISSIONS

Chandrayaan-1 (2008)



India's first lunar mission which provided evidence of the presence of water molecules on the Moon.

Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) (2013)



Made India the first country in the world to reach Mars orbit in the very first attempt.

Chandrayaan-3 (2023)



Made India the first country to achieve a successful soft landing near the Moon's south pole.

5. LAUNCH VEHICLES

ISRO has developed PSLV, GSLV and LVM3 launch vehicles.



PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle)

- Highly reliable launch vehicle
- Capable of launching multiple satellites in one mission



GSLV (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle)

- Capable of placing heavier satellites in geostationary orbit
- Used for satellite launches



LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3)

- Heavy lift launch vehicle
- Designed for human missions and deep space exploration



With these launch vehicles, ISRO has successfully launched many foreign satellites for various countries.



6. EXAMINATION USEFUL CONCLUSIONS

- ISRO's space programme is a symbol of India's scientific, technological and strategic strength.
- Missions like **Chandrayaan**, **Mangalyaan**, **Aditya-L1** and **Gaganyaan** are placing India in the forefront of global space powers.
- In competitive examinations, questions related to ISRO's establishment, founders, major missions, satellite programmes and launch vehicles are very important.
- ISRO continues to work towards its vision of **"Space Technology for National Development"**.



ISRO – PIONEERING INDIA'S JOURNEY TO SPACE EXCELLENCE



DAILY GENERAL AWARENESS QUIZ

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Monday, 17 August 2026

1. GeM Marks 10th Foundation Day and Launches Short Code 14550. In context to the same tell us, Government e-Marketplace (GeM) was launched in which of the following years?

- (A) 2014 (B) 2015
(C) 2016 (D) 2017

2. Lebanon Becomes First Arab Country To Abolish Death Penalty. In context to the same tell us, which Article of the Constitution is most directly associated with judicial protection of life and personal liberty in cases involving the death penalty?

- (A) Article 14 (B) Article 19
(C) Article 20 (D) Article 21

3. Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships And Awards For 2024 And 2025. In context to the same tell us, Sangeet Natak Akademi was established in which of the following years?

- (A) 1953 (B) 1954
(C) 1955 (D) 1956

4. Russian President Vladimir Putin has visited the disputed Kuril Islands for the first time. In context to the same tell us, The Kuril Islands are located between which of the following?

- (A) Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean
(B) Pacific Ocean and Sea of Okhotsk
(C) Sea of Japan and East China Sea
(D) Yellow Sea and Pacific Ocean

5. ASI archaeologists recently found remains of a possible Sangam-era irrigation structure in the Kollidam river. In context to the same tell us, which one of the following is correctly associated with the Kollidam River?

- (A) Cauvery Delta (B) Malwa Plateau
(C) Brahmaputra Valley (D) Konkan Coast

6. Regional Parties Under Strain: Electoral Setbacks and Defections Revive Debate Over Their Role in

Indian Politics.

Consider the following statements regarding regional parties in India:

- (1) The term “regional party” is commonly used for parties whose political influence is concentrated in particular States or regions.
(2) “Regional Party” is one of the two formal categories of recognised political parties under the Election Symbols Order, 1968.
(3) A State Party may commonly be described as a regional party.

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. Deepak Dhar Named Co-Recipient of 2026 Dirac Medal for Pioneering Contributions to Statistical Physics.

Consider the following statements regarding the ICTP:

- (1) It was founded in 1964.
(2) It is located in Trieste, Italy.
(3) It was founded by Abdus Salam.

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

8. Supreme Court Clarifies Police Custody Under BNSS: 15-Day Custody Can Be Sought in Parts During Initial Detention Period.

Consider the following statements regarding investigation under the BNSS:

- (1) Section 176 deals with the police report on completion of investigation.
(2) Section 183 deals with recording of confessions and statements.
(3) Section 185 deals with search by a police officer.

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

TOPIC OF THE DAY

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Monday, 17 August 2026

GOBARDhan Scheme

Why in News?

Recently, the **Union Cabinet** approved the **GOBARDhan National Circular Bioenergy Scheme**. The scheme aims to **convert organic waste into clean energy** and **promote rural prosperity**.

Expository: -

About the GOBARDhan Initiative-

- In **February 2018**, the **GOBARDhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) Scheme** was announced by the Finance Minister in the Budget Speech.
- Its objective was to manage **cattle dung and solid waste available on farms** and convert them into **manure, fertilisers, biogas and Bio-CNG**.
- The scheme was officially launched on **30 April 2018** by the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation**.

GOBARDhan National Circular Bioenergy Scheme-

- **Approval:** The scheme was approved in **August 2026**.
- **Administration:** It will be administered by the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**.
- **Main Focus:** Its primary objective is to develop a nationwide **commercial Compressed Biogas (CBG) ecosystem**.
- **Integrated Ecosystem:** The scheme integrates **offtake, price support, capital assistance, pipeline connectivity, credit and technology**.
- **Vision:** It aims to achieve an approximately **ten-fold increase in domestic CBG production**.

Six Growth Engines of the Scheme-

- **Assured CBG Procurement:** City Gas Distribution (CGD) companies will procure CBG to provide a reliable market guarantee.
- This will help achieve the government's target of blending CBG with **CNG used in transport and Piped Natural Gas**, with targets of **3% in 2026-27, 4% in 2027-28 and 5% in 2028-29**.

- **Stable CBG Price Support:** A fixed CBG price of **₹2,110 per MMBtu** has been proposed to ensure a stable and continuous income for CBG producers, along with a **10-year revenue assurance mechanism**.

Climate Benefits-

- By **replacing fossil fuels** and diverting organic waste away from landfills, the scheme is expected to reduce **more than 40 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions**.

Conclusion-

- The **GOBARDhan National Circular Bioenergy Scheme** seeks to transform India's **organic waste into clean energy, rural income and economic value** by integrating **assured demand, stable pricing, capital support, pipeline connectivity and credit assistance**.
- By scaling up the CBG ecosystem, the scheme will contribute to **energy security, wealth creation from waste, farmer prosperity, Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat**.



MAP OF THE DAY - BHARAT

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Monday, 17 August 2026

BAN GANGA RIVER

OVERVIEW

- ◆ The Ban Ganga River originates from the **Bairath Hills of Viratnagar** (Jaipur district, Rajasthan).
- ◆ It flows in the eastern direction through **Jaipur, Dausa** and **Bharatpur** districts and then enters Uttar Pradesh.
- ◆ It is famous by the name "**Arjun ki Ganga**". According to local legend, it was created when **Arjuna** (Pandava) struck the earth with an arrow to quench the thirst of **Bhisma Pitamah**.
- ◆ In **2012**, the Ban Ganga was declared a "**Rundit Sarita**" (beheaded/cut river) as its flow has reduced significantly and it often does not reach its main tributary **Yamuna**, drying up in the plains of Bharatpur.

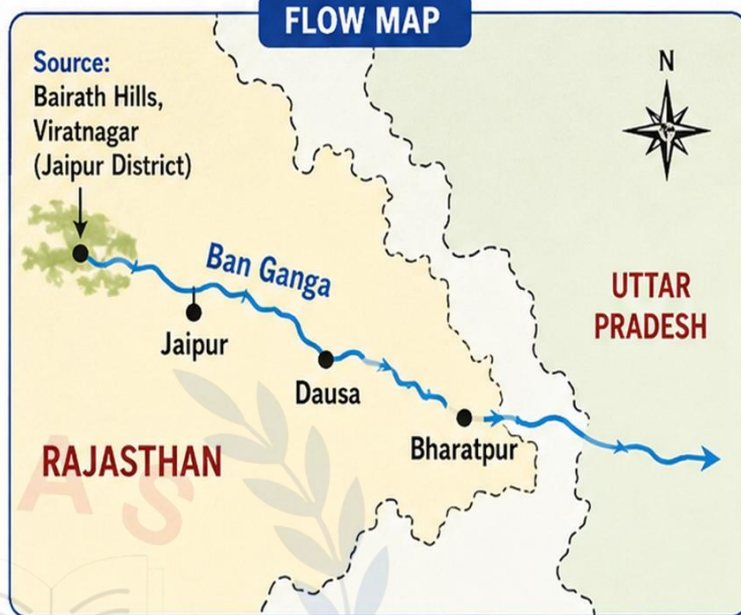
BASIC FACTS

Total Length	Approximately 380 km
Catchment Area	Approximately 8,878 sq km

IMPORTANT FEATURES

- ◆ **Ramgarh Dam**: Built on the Ban Ganga River in **1903**, this dam has historically been the main source of drinking water for **Jaipur city**.
- ◆ **Keoladeo National Park**: The Ban Ganga River, along with the **Gambhir River**, supplies essential water to Keoladeo National Park (formerly Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary), a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- ◆ **Tributaries**: The main tributaries of the Ban Ganga include **Goomti Nala, Suri River** and **Palasan River**.
- ◆ **Historical Significance**: Remains of **Buddhist monasteries** and **Ashokan inscriptions** have been found on the banks of the river in Bairath (Viratnagar), indicating its importance during the **Mauryan period**.

FLOW MAP



KEY POINTS

- ✓ The river flows in the eastern direction.
- ✓ It is known as "**Arjun ki Ganga**" due to the legend associated with **Arjuna**.
- ✓ Declared "**Rundit Sarita**" in **2012** because of reduced flow and incomplete reach to **Yamuna**.
- ✓ Supports the biodiversity-rich wetland ecosystem of **Keoladeo National Park**.
- ✓ Holds archaeological and historical importance from the **Mauryan period**.

AT A GLANCE

Origin	Bairath Hills, Viratnagar (Jaipur District, Rajasthan)
Direction	Flows eastward
States Covered	Rajasthan (Jaipur, Dausa, Bharatpur), then Uttar Pradesh
Main Tributaries	Goomti Nala, Suri River, Palasan River
Important Dam	Ramgarh Dam (1903)
Associated Heritage	Buddhist monasteries and Ashokan inscriptions at Bairath

MAP OF THE DAY - WORLD

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MOLDOVA (REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA)



OVERVIEW

- Moldova is a small landlocked country in Eastern Europe.
- It is bordered by **Ukraine** to the east and **Romania** to the west.



Capital: Chişinău (Chisinau)



Official Language: Romanian



Currency: Moldovan Leu (MDL)



Location: Situated to the east of the Carpathian Mountains and does not have any direct sea coast.



RIVERS AND PHYSICAL FEATURES

- **Prut River** forms most of the western border of Moldova with Romania.
- **Dniester (Nistru) River** flows mainly through eastern Moldova towards the Black Sea.
- Moldovans commonly call the Dniester River by its Romanian name **Nistru**.
- The country has fertile rolling plains, low hills and productive black soil.
- The **Bugeac region** in the south forms a dry steppe landscape.



HOW MODERN MOLDOVA EMERGED

- The medieval Principality of Moldavia once covered lands on both banks of the Prut.
- The Russian Empire occupied its eastern part in **1812** and called it **Bessarabia**.
- During the political changes of **1918**, Bessarabia united with Romania.
- Under the earlier Soviet–German arrangement, the Soviet Union occupied the region in **1940**.
- The Romanian Army regained it during **1941**, but the Soviet Army returned in **1944**.
- The Soviet Union organised most of the territory as the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic.
- Moldova declared its independence from the Soviet Union on **27 August 1991**.



India–Moldova Relations: As a result of Moldova's independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, India and Moldova established diplomatic relations in **1992**.

MAP OF MOLDOVA



IMPORTANT FACTS

- ✓ Located in the northeastern corner of the Balkan Peninsula.
- ✓ The Balkan Peninsula is situated in Southeastern Europe and is named after the **Balkan Mountain Range**.
- ✓ Most of Moldova lies between the winding Prut and Dniester Rivers.
- ✓ It lies to the east of the vast arc of the **Carpathian Mountains**.
- ✓ **Transnistria** is a small breakaway region of Moldova located east of the Dniester River.



BASIC INFORMATION

📍 Area	33,851 sq km
👥 Population (2023 est.)	2.5 million
🏛️ Political System	Parliamentary Republic
🌿 Major Exports	Agricultural products, wine, textiles, machinery
🕒 Time Zone	EET (UTC+2)



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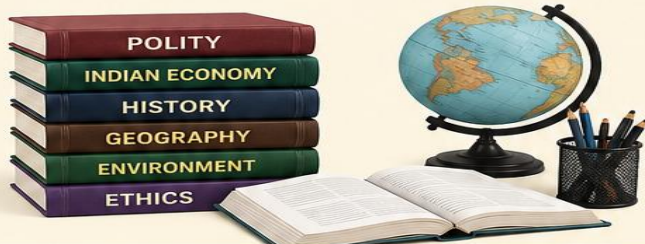
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