

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

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Friday, 21 August 2026

1. Zhuque-3, recently in news, was developed by which country?

- (A) Japan (B) China
(C) India (D) Russia

2. Ind-Ra recently raised India's FY27 growth forecast to what level?

- (A) 6.5% (B) 6.7%
(C) 6.8% (D) 7.0%

3. Which organisation recently proposed a Unique Identification number for registered medical practitioners in India?

- (A) ICMR (B) NMC
(C) AIIMS (D) MoHFW

4. Sadbhavana Diwas is observed in memory of which former Prime Minister on 20 August?

- (A) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
(B) Lal Bahadur Shastri
(C) Jawaharlal Nehru
(D) Rajiv Gandhi

5. The BRICS Youth Council Meeting and Youth Summit 2026 were held in which city?

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

6. Akshay Urja Day has recently observed on which day of August 2026 in

India?

- (A) 17 August (B) 18 August
(C) 19 August (D) 20 August

7. In which city was West Bengal's first Kaushal Mahotsav held?

- (A) Kolkata (B) Siliguri
(C) Balurghat (D) Durgapur

8. The 2026 Hunger Hotspots report is jointly published by which organisations?

- (A) FAO and WFP
(B) WHO and UNICEF
(C) FAO and WHO
(D) WFP and UNDP

9. What maximum gap did the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare recommend between the landing price and MRP of a medicine or medical device?

- (A) 10% (B) 15%
(C) 20% (D) 25%

10. Which state signed an agreement with Digital Bharat Nidhi for the Amended BharatNet Programme in August 2026?

- (A) Chhattisgarh (B) Jharkhand
(C) Maharashtra (D) Odisha

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

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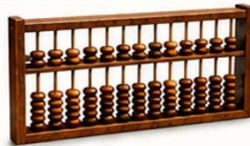
Friday, 21 August 2026

HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF COMPUTERS



1. EARLY CALCULATING DEVICES

- The development of computers began with ancient calculating devices.
- Around 3000 BCE, the Abacus was used for calculations.
- In the 17th century, Blaise Pascal invented the Pascaline and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz developed a mechanical calculating machine.



Abacus



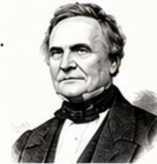
Pascaline (Pascal)



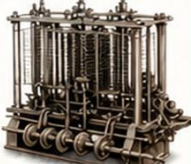
Leibniz Calculating Machine (Leibniz)

2. FOUNDATION OF MODERN COMPUTING

- In 1822, Charles Babbage proposed the concept of the Difference Engine.
- In 1837, he designed the Analytical Engine, which is considered the basis of modern computers.
- Therefore, Charles Babbage is known as the "Father of Computer".
- Ada Lovelace wrote the first algorithm for the Analytical Engine, thus she is regarded as the world's first programmer.



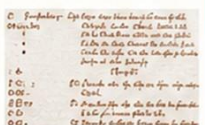
Charles Babbage (Father of Computer)



Analytical Engine



Ada Lovelace (World's First Programmer)



First Algorithm (Notes by Ada Lovelace)

3. ELECTROMECHANICAL ERA

- In 1890, Herman Hollerith developed a punch card based tabulating machine.
- This technology accelerated data processing and later became the foundation of IBM.
- Electromechanical computers were developed during the 1930s and 1940s.



Herman Hollerith



Punch Card Based Tabulating Machine

4. FIRST ELECTRONIC COMPUTER

- In 1946, ENIAC was built, which is considered the first general-purpose electronic digital computer.
- It used approximately 18,000 vacuum tubes.
- EDVAC adopted the stored-program concept, which is a key feature of modern computers.



ENIAC (1946)



EDVAC

5. GENERATIONS OF COMPUTERS

First Generation (1940-1956)



- Vacuum tube based.
- Examples: ENIAC, UNIVAC

Second Generation (1956-1963)



- Transistor based.
- Examples: IBM 1401, IBM 7090

Third Generation (1964-1971)



- Integrated Circuit (IC) based.
- Examples: IBM 360, PDP-8

Fourth Generation (1971-Present)



- Microprocessor based.
- Examples: IBM PC, Macintosh

Fifth Generation (Present and Beyond)



- Based on Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning and parallel processing.

6. MODERN SCENARIO

- Today, computer technology is advancing in the direction of quantum computing, cloud computing, big data and artificial intelligence.
- Modern computers play a vital role in governance, education, science, defense and industry due to their high speed, large storage capacity and ability to make automatic decisions.



Quantum Computing

Uses the principles of quantum mechanics to perform extremely fast computations.



Cloud Computing

Provides storage, processing power and software as services over the internet.



Big Data

Collecting, storing, analysing and extracting valuable insights from huge data.



Artificial Intelligence

Enables machines to think, learn, reason and make decisions like humans.



Governance (E-Governance)



Education



Science



Defense



Industry

FROM SIMPLE CALCULATIONS TO INTELLIGENT COMPUTING – A JOURNEY OF HUMAN INNOVATION

DAILY GENERAL AWARENESS QUIZ

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Friday, 21 August 2026

1. West Bengal Launches Ayushman Bharat Health Insurance Scheme. In context to the same tell us, what is the minimum age limit set for senior citizens to get universal health coverage under AB-PMJAY without income caps?

- (A) 60 years (B) 65 years
(C) 70 years (D) 75 years

2. India Launches First Guide to Grasslands at UNCCD COP17. In context to the same tell us, In which city was the COP17 climate conference held in 2011?

- (A) Paris (B) Durban
(C) Cancun (D) Kyoto

3. NCC Flags Off All India Girls High Altitude Trek Aparajita. In context to the same tell us, who is the first female amputee in the world to scale Mount Everest?

- (A) Arunima Sinha (B) Malavath Purna
(C) Anshu Jamsenpa (D) Krushnaa Patil

4. Ministry of Youth Affairs Announces National Sports Awards 2025. In context to the same tell us, what is the current cash prize provided to the recipient of the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award?

- (A) ₹10 Lakh (B) ₹15 Lakh
(C) ₹20 Lakh (D) ₹25 Lakh

5. India Sets Up Panel On Teesta Barrage Project. In context to the same tell us, The Teesta Barrage Project is linked with which major river via a main link canal to supply irrigation water to Malda and Dinajpur districts?

- (A) Torsa (B) Jaldhaka
(C) Sankosh (D) Mahananda

6. Supreme Court to Review Legal Limits on Nuclear Disaster Compensation Under SHANTI Act, 2025. Consider the following statements regarding international nuclear liability frameworks:

(1) India is a State Party to the Paris Convention and the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage.

(2) India ratified the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC) in 2016.

(3) The Paris Convention was established under the aegis of the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency, whereas the Vienna Convention is an IAEA framework
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. Pan-India Crackdown: Security Agencies Bust ISI-Backed Bhatti Network, Arrest Over 200 Across 14 States.

Consider the following statements regarding India's legal and institutional setup to counter cyber-enabled threats:

(1) Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 empowers the Central Government to block public access to online content threatening national security or sovereignty.

(2) The Information Technology Rules, 2021 require all primary social media intermediaries to store end-to-end encrypted user messages on government servers.

(3) Under the Information Technology Rules, 2021, Significant Social Media Intermediaries are obligated to enable the identification of the first originator of information in specified legal scenarios.

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. Starlink has received a Unified Licence to provide satellite internet services in India.

With reference to Satellite-based Internet services, consider the following statements:

(1) In India, satellite internet services require no licensing from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

(2) Satellite internet can provide connectivity in remote and rural areas where terrestrial networks are difficult to deploy.

(3) Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites reduce latency significantly compared to traditional Geostationary Orbit (GEO) satellites.

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

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TOPIC OF THE DAY

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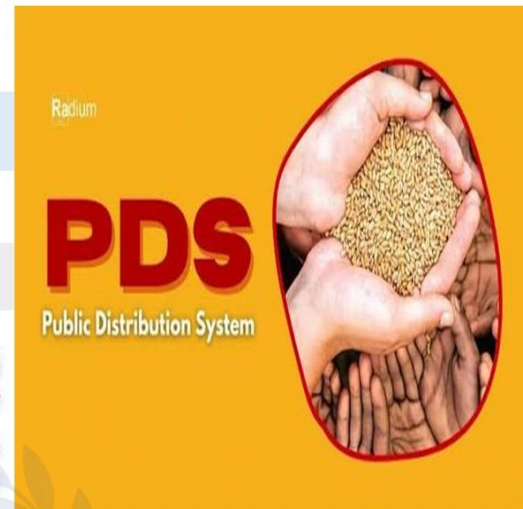
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Friday, 21 August 2026

Public Distribution System (PDS).

Why in News?

The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, **Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, has launched a **CBDC-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** initiative in **Chandigarh**. Its objective is to enhance **transparency, efficiency and accountability** in the delivery of benefits under the **Public Distribution System (PDS)**.



Expository: -

Introduction

- The **Public Distribution System (PDS)** is a major **food security system** in India, operating under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**.
- Under this system, the Central Government, through the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)**, undertakes the **procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation to States/Union Territories** of foodgrains.
- Through the PDS, essential commodities such as **wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene** are mainly distributed.

Development of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India

- **During the Second World War:** The **Public Distribution System (PDS)** was introduced in India as a rationing measure. In its initial years, foodgrain distribution mainly depended on imports.
- **1960s:** In response to food shortages, the PDS was expanded, and the **Agricultural Prices Commission** and the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** were established to strengthen domestic procurement and storage of foodgrains.
- **1970s:** The PDS evolved into a **universal distribution system** for providing subsidised foodgrains.
- **By 1992:** The PDS was a general entitlement scheme for all consumers and did not specifically target any particular section.
- **June 1992:** The **Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS)** was introduced to improve the reach of foodgrain distribution in remote, hilly, inaccessible and disadvantaged areas.
- **June 1997:** The **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)** was launched with a special focus on the poor.
- **Categories under TPDS:** Beneficiaries were mainly divided into two categories—

- **Below Poverty Line (BPL) families**
- **Above Poverty Line (APL) families**
- **December 2000:** The **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** was launched to provide food security to the poorest families.
- **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY):** Its objective was to provide highly subsidised foodgrains to the poorest and most food-insecure sections of the population below the poverty line.
- **September 2013:** Parliament enacted the **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013**, which gave food security a legal entitlement.

How Does the PDS System Work?-

- The Central Government procures foodgrains from farmers at the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)**.
- The procured foodgrains are **stored by the Food Corporation of India (FCI)**.
- The Central Government makes foodgrains available to States and Union Territories at predetermined prices.
- The responsibility for transporting foodgrains to State depots primarily lies with the Central Government.
- Thereafter, State Governments distribute foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries through **Fair Price Shops**.

Role of Aadhaar-

- The **integration of Aadhaar with TPDS** helps in better identification of beneficiaries.
- It helps reduce **inclusion and exclusion errors** by identifying fake and duplicate beneficiaries.
- Aadhaar-based authentication has been introduced to improve **transparency and efficiency** in the foodgrain distribution system.

MAP OF THE DAY - BHARAT

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Friday, 21 August 2026

ARAVALLI MOUNTAIN RANGE - COMPLETE FACTS

1. INTRODUCTION



The Aravalli is one of the world's oldest fold mountain ranges, formed during the **Pre-Cambrian era** (about **2.5 billion years** old).



2. GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT (Extent)

- Length: About **692–800 km** (from Palanpur in Gujarat to Delhi).
- It passes through four states:
 - ♦ **Gujarat** (south-western end – near Palanpur)
 - ♦ **Rajasthan** (main stretch, from south-west to north-east)
 - ♦ **Haryana**
 - ♦ **Delhi** (northern end – Raisina Hill, Delhi Ridge is its extension)

MAJOR PEAKS



- ♦ **Guru Shikhar (1,722 m)** – highest peak, near Mount Abu (Sirohi district), and the highest peak of Aravalli.
- ♦ **Ser** – the second highest peak.
- ♦ **Jarga Hills** – near Udaipur.
- ♦ **Achalgarh, Kumbhalgarh hills** are also notable.

3. DIRECTION AND SHAPE



- It extends in a **south-west to north-east** direction.
- It divides Rajasthan into two unequal parts:
 - ♦ Eastern Rajasthan (fertile plains)
 - ♦ Western Rajasthan (Thar Desert)

6. CLIMATE & ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE



- Acts as a natural barrier that prevents the **Thar Desert** from advancing eastward.
- Helps divert monsoon winds towards the Delhi-Haryana region (though its role in causing rainfall is limited, as it runs parallel to the monsoon winds).
- Wildlife sanctuaries like **Sariska** and **Mount Abu** are located in this region.

5. GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE



- Composed mainly of quartzite, gneiss, schist and marble (metamorphic) rocks.
- These mountains are highly eroded, hence they are low in height.
- Mineral resources: **Copper** (Khetri), **Zinc-Lead** (Zawar, Rajpura-Dariba), **Marble** (Makrana), **Mica**, etc.

7. ROLE AS WATER DIVIDE



- It is the source / watershed for several rivers: **Banas, Sabarmati, Luni, Sakhi, Som**, etc.
- Rivers flowing westwards (like Luni) drain into the **Rann of Kachchh**.
- Rivers flowing eastwards (like Banas) join the **Chambal** and ultimately become part of the **Ganga system**.

8. ECONOMIC & STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

- Centre for mining activities (illegal mining is a major environmental concern).
- Historically, strategic location for the construction of forts (**Kumbhalgarh, Chittorgarh**, etc.).
- Delhi Ridge (Delhi Ridge) is important for the natural environment and groundwater recharge of Delhi, and is also called the **"Lungs of Delhi"**.

9. CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES (Very Important for UPSC)

- Illegal mining is causing the hills of Aravalli to disappear.
- This increases the risk of **desertification** – Thar Desert may expand eastwards.
- The Supreme Court and NGT have repeatedly ordered a ban on mining and protection of Aravalli.
- Aravalli Green Wall Project** – a recent initiative to develop a green belt along Aravalli, on the lines of Africa's **"Great Green Wall"**.
- Declining groundwater level and loss of biodiversity are also major concerns.

KEY POINT: Aravalli is not just an ancient mountain range but a lifeline for Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana and Gujarat in terms of ecology, water resources, climate balance and economy. Its conservation is essential for the environment and future generations.



MAP OF THE DAY - WORLD

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PETERMANN GLACIER – KEY FACTS

1. LOCATION

- Located in **northwestern Greenland**, east of the **Nares Strait**.
- Nares Strait: A narrow marine channel between **Greenland** and **Ellesmere Island (Canada)** in the far north of the Arctic.

2. IMPORTANCE

- One of the largest glaciers that connects the **Greenland Ice Sheet** to the **Arctic Ocean**.
- Drains approximately **4%** of the total Greenland Ice Sheet.

3. BASIC FACTS

Aspect	Details
Area	1,295 square km
Named after	German cartographer August Heinrich Petermann
Type	Marine-terminating glacier
Behavior	Calves large icebergs / ice islands from time to time
Recent trend	Ice flow has accelerated

4. LINK WITH CLIMATE CHANGE



- Land-based glaciers of Greenland are a major contributor to **global sea level rise**.
- Scientific estimate: If Petermann Glacier collapses completely, sea level may rise by about **30 centimeters**.
- Reason: Inflow of **warm ocean water** beneath the glacier, which is increasing the rate of melting.

5. RECENT EVENT (4 AUGUST 2026)



- A massive iceberg of **76.4 square km** broke off from Petermann Glacier.
- This is the largest loss of floating ice of the glacier **since 2012**.
- It is also the largest calving event in the Arctic region **since 2020**.

Petermann Glacier



A large iceberg calved from Petermann Glacier.





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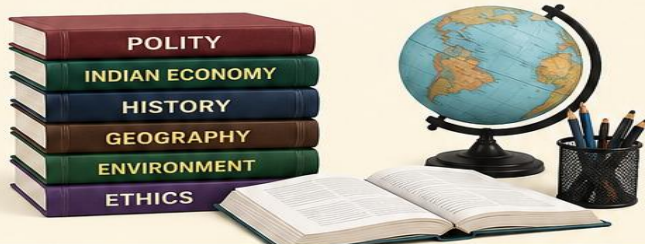
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