

Daily Current Affairs

18 August 2026

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Daily Current Affairs Quiz 18 August 2026

Q1. Exercise 'Udara Shakti 2026', commenced in August 2026, is a bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and which country's air force?

- (a) Indonesia
- (b) Malaysia
- (c) Singapore
- (d) Thailand

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) Malaysia

Explanation:

- Exercise Udara Shakti 2026 is a bilateral exercise between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF).
- The 2026 edition was conducted at Subang Air Base, Selangor, Malaysia, from 10 to 14 August 2026.
- The exercise focuses on enhancing interoperability, operational coordination and defence cooperation between the two air forces.

Information Booster:

- The first edition of Udara Shakti was held from 13 to 16 August 2022 at Kuantan Air Base, Malaysia.
- The IAF deployed four Dassault Rafale fighters and two Boeing C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.
- The RMAF participated with Su-30MKM, F/A-18D Hornet and Airbus A400M aircraft.

Additional Knowledge:

- The flying phase of Udara Shakti 2026 was conducted from 11 to 13 August 2026.
- The exercise provides an opportunity for both air forces to strengthen joint operational capabilities and tactical coordination.

Q2. In August 2026, Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) delivered the second vessel of the HS EcoFreighter series, 'MS Maria', to a shipping company based in which country?

- (a) France
- (b) Germany
- (c) Norway
- (d) Netherlands

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) Germany

Explanation:

- Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) delivered MS Maria, the second of eight HS EcoFreighter series Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs), to Germany-based HS Schiffahrts UG & Co KG.
- The vessel is designed for worldwide trading and can transport a wide range of cargo.
- CSL had earlier delivered the first vessel of the series, MS Heinz, on 12 January 2026.

Information Booster:

- MS Maria has a cargo capacity of 7,000 DWT (Deadweight Tonnage).
- The vessel is an ice-class vessel, suitable for operations in challenging maritime conditions.
- It can carry project cargo, heavy cargo, steel coils, containers, timber, paper and dry bulk cargo.

Additional Knowledge:

- The vessel was designed by Groot Ship Design, Netherlands.
- It was built according to the classification rules of Det Norske Veritas (DNV).
- Its Groot Crossbow bow design is intended to improve speed performance and fuel efficiency.

Q3. World Organ Donation Day 2026 was observed on August 13 to commemorate which landmark achievement?

- (a) First successful heart transplant
- (b) First successful liver transplant
- (c) First successful living-donor kidney transplant
- (d) First successful bone marrow transplant

Ans.(c)

Sol. Correct Answer: (c) First successful living-donor kidney transplant

Explanation:

- World Organ Donation Day is observed annually on August 13 to raise awareness about organ donation and encourage people to become donors.
- The day commemorates the first successful living-donor kidney transplant, performed in 1954.
- The transplant was carried out by American surgeon Dr. Joseph E. Murray and his team at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston.

Information Booster:

- The kidney was donated by Ronald Lee Herrick to his identical twin brother Richard Lee Herrick.
- Richard was suffering from chronic kidney failure.
- Peter Bent Brigham Hospital is now known as Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Additional Knowledge:

- Joseph E. Murray and E. Donnall Thomas jointly received the 1990 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.
- The award recognised their discoveries concerning organ and cell transplantation in the treatment of human disease.

Q4. Former Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji, who passed away in August 2026 at the age of 97, is particularly associated with which major international economic development?

- (a) China's establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- (b) China's accession to the World Trade Organization
- (c) China's launch of the Belt and Road Initiative
- (d) China's adoption of the Yuan as a global reserve currency

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) China's accession to the World Trade Organization

Explanation:

- Zhu Rongji served as the Premier of the People's Republic of China from 1998 to 2003 under President Jiang Zemin.
- He played a pivotal role in negotiating China's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), which was achieved in 2001.
- His premiership was marked by major economic reforms, including restructuring state-owned enterprises, strengthening fiscal systems and improving economic efficiency.

Information Booster:

- Zhu Rongji was born in 1928 in Hunan Province, China and died in Beijing in August 2026 at the age of 97.
- Before becoming Premier, he served as Mayor of Shanghai and later as Vice Premier of China.
- He is regarded as one of the key figures behind China's economic modernisation and deeper integration with the global economy.

Additional Knowledge:

- China joined the WTO on 11 December 2001, following prolonged negotiations.
- Zhu was known for his strong emphasis on economic discipline, reform of state-owned enterprises and controlling inflation.
- He retired as Premier in 2003.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the India–SACU Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) negotiations:

1. India and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) for negotiations towards a Preferential Trade Agreement in August 2026.
2. The negotiations seek preferential market access in sectors including engineering goods, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, textiles and agriculture.
3. SACU consists of five African countries and is headquartered in Windhoek, Namibia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 2 and 3
- (c) Only 1 and 3
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans.(d)

Sol. Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. India and SACU signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) for PTA negotiations in August 2026 at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Statement 2 is correct. The negotiations cover sectors such as engineering goods and machinery, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, textiles, agriculture and agri-processing.
- Statement 3 is correct. SACU comprises Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Eswatini, with its headquarters in Windhoek, Namibia.

Information Booster:

- The India–SACU ToR marks India's first such ToR with the African region.
- The proposed PTA includes provisions on trade in goods and market access, rules of origin, customs procedures and trade facilitation.
- Other proposed areas include trade remedies, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade and dispute settlement.

Additional Knowledge:

- SACU was established in 1910 and is described as the world's oldest customs union.
- India is expected to support the SACU region through affordable medicines and IT talent development.
- A key function of SACU is maintaining a common external tariff and sharing customs revenues.

Q6. In August 2026, the Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with which organisation to advance multilingual, voice-first AI solutions for inclusive governance?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India
- (b) NITI Aayog
- (c) Digital India Corporation
- (d) National Informatics Centre

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) NITI Aayog

Explanation:

- The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) and NITI Aayog signed the SoI to promote multilingual and voice-first AI solutions for inclusive governance and citizen-centric public services.
- The collaboration is being pursued through the BHASHINI for Seva/Sanchalan initiative.
- DIBD operates under the Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Information Booster:

- The agreement aims to integrate AI-powered language technologies with NITI Aayog's digital platforms and services.
- Key BHASHINI platforms mentioned include BHASHINI Udyat, Mitra, AppMitra, Sahayogi and Pravakta.
- The partnership focuses on improving translation models, language technology integration and communication workflows.

Additional Knowledge:

- NITI TARA stands for Toolkit for Analysis, Review & Action.
- SMRITI stands for System for Meeting Recording, Information & Transcription Interface.
- These initiatives support data-driven governance and improved administrative workflows.

Q7. In August 2026, Union Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the new premises of which organisation at Sharada Sadan in Fort, Mumbai?

- (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- (b) National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC)
- (c) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- (d) National Housing Bank (NHB)

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC)

Explanation:

- Amit Shah inaugurated the new premises of NUCFDC at Sharada Sadan, Fort, Mumbai.
- The inauguration took place during the 'Sahkar Nav-Kranti' programme, focused on strengthening and modernising Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs).
- The programme emphasised technology, cybersecurity and banking infrastructure for UCBs.

Information Booster:

- NUCFDC stands for National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation.
- It serves as an umbrella organisation for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs).
- The event was held at the BSE International Convention Centre, Mumbai.

Additional Knowledge:

- A book titled 'Operational Risk Management – A Practical Guide to Urban Co-operative Banks' was released during the programme.
- The book was written by G. P. Mistry, former RBI Deputy General Manager.
- UCBs provide banking and financial services primarily in urban and semi-urban areas.

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding IIHT SUTRA 2026:

1. IIHT SUTRA 2026 was the first national conclave of the Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology (IIHTs).
2. The conclave was organised by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) under the Ministry of Textiles.
3. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with IIM Sambalpur to promote leadership development, entrepreneurship, innovation and faculty development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 2 and 3
- (c) Only 1 and 3
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans.(d)

Sol. Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. IIHT SUTRA 2026 was the first national conclave of the Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology.
- Statement 2 is correct. The conclave was organised by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles.
- Statement 3 is correct. The MoU with IIM Sambalpur focuses on leadership development, entrepreneurship, innovation, faculty development and institutional capacity building.

Information Booster:

- The conclave was held at the Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.
- Its theme was "IIHTs: Weaving the Future of the Indian Handloom Sector – Educate. Innovate".
- Three MoUs were signed with Grasim Industries Limited, NITRA and IIM Sambalpur.

Additional Knowledge:

- Grasim Industries Limited will collaborate on curriculum enrichment, internships, industry exposure and skill development.
- NITRA will support collaborative research, testing, innovation, technical assistance and capacity building.
- The publication "Handloom Change Makers" was released to highlight the achievements of eminent IIHT alumni.

Q9. Scientists from the University of Delhi discovered three new cascade frog species in August 2026. Which of the following is NOT one of the newly discovered species?

- (a) Ammachi's Cascade Frog
- (b) Sendenyu Cascade Frog
- (c) Beautiful Cascade Frog
- (d) Nepal Cascade Frog

Ans.(d)

Sol. Correct Answer: (d) Nepal Cascade Frog

Explanation:

- Scientists led by Prof. S. D. Biju from the University of Delhi discovered three new cascade frog species in Northeast India.
- The newly discovered species are Ammachi's Cascade Frog (*Amolops ammachi*), Sendenyu Cascade Frog (*Amolops sendenyi*), and Beautiful Cascade Frog (*Amolops bella*).
- Nepal Cascade Frog (*Amolops nepalicus*) was among the species newly recorded in India, not a newly discovered species.

Information Booster:

- Ammachi's Cascade Frog was discovered in Jampui Hills, Tripura.
- It was named after Padmini Varkey, popularly known as "Ammachi".
- The research involved over 15 years of fieldwork covering more than 300 frog populations.

Additional Knowledge:

- The study combined DNA sequencing and morphological analysis for species identification.
- Five cascade frog species newly recorded in India included Marbled, Nepal, Wangyal's, Medog and Pianma Cascade Frogs.
- The findings were published in the Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University.

Q10. On August 12, 2026, Union Minister Amit Shah launched the 'Gramin Gyan Setu' application to interconnect libraries across which Lok Sabha constituency?

- (a) Ahmedabad
- (b) Gandhinagar
- (c) Surat
- (d) Vadodara

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) Gandhinagar

Explanation:

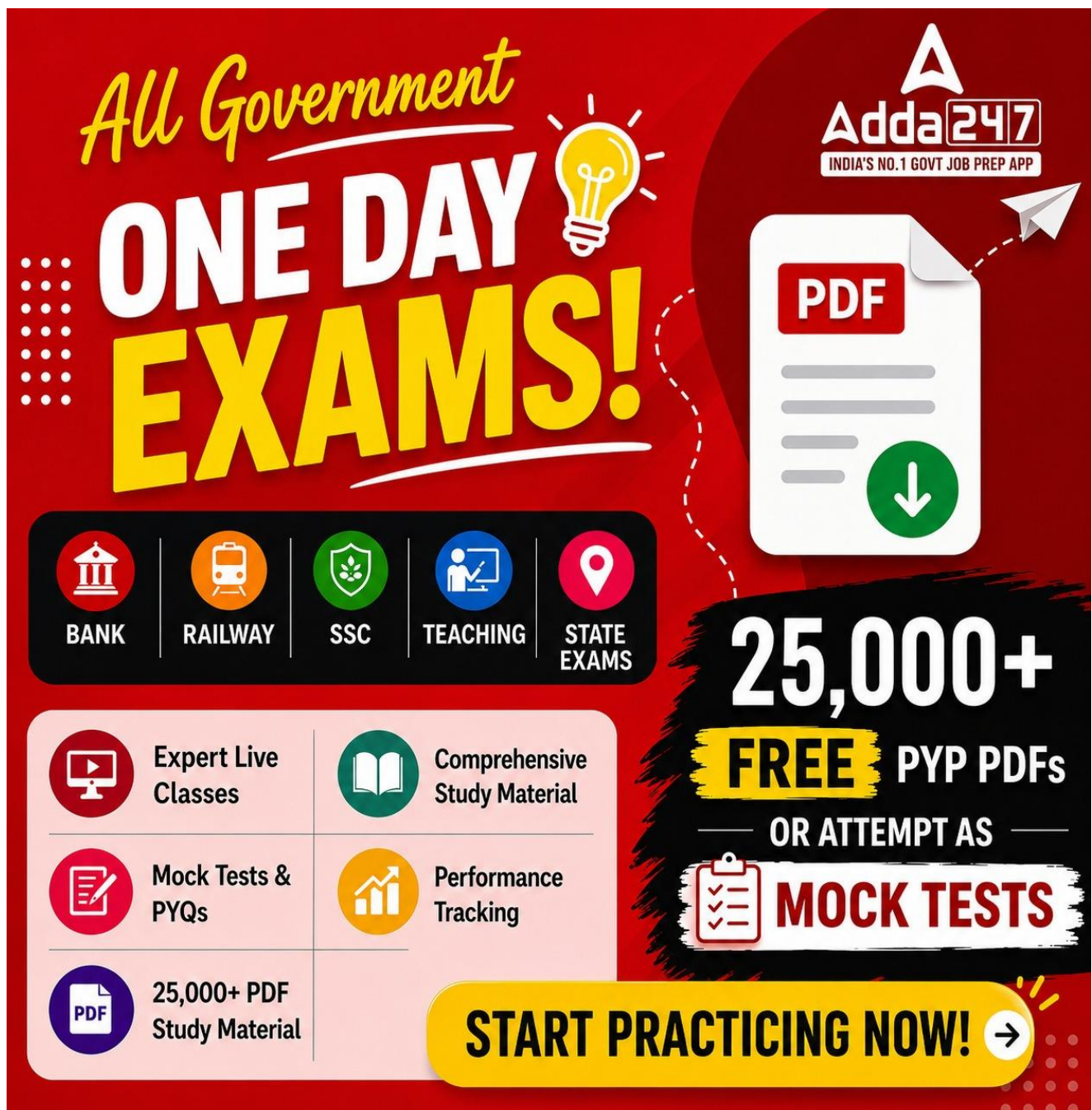
- Union Minister Amit Shah launched the 'Gramin Gyan Setu' app through video conferencing on August 12, 2026.
- The initiative aims to integrate libraries across the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency of Gujarat.
- It enables children in villages to access a wider collection of books, promoting reading, learning and knowledge accessibility.

Information Booster:

- The app was launched on the birth anniversary of Padma Shri S. R. R. Ranganathan, observed as National Library Day.
- Around 63 village libraries have been established, while 752 libraries have been connected through the app.
- Four libraries with approximately 2.8 lakh books have been linked to rural libraries.

Additional Knowledge:

- MPLADS-funded vans will visit villages every fortnight.
- The vans will collect issued books and deliver books requested through the app.
- S. R. R. Ranganathan is widely regarded as the Father of Library Science in India.



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