

Daily Current Affairs

20 August 2026

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Daily Current Affairs Quiz 20 August 2026

Q1. The Gaj Gaurav Awards 2026 recognised seven mahouts and elephant handlers from which protected area for their bravery during severe flash floods?

- (a) Kaziranga National Park, Assam
- (b) Jaldapara National Park, West Bengal
- (c) Gir National Park, Gujarat
- (d) Periyar National Park, Kerala

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) Jaldapara National Park, West Bengal

Explanation:

- The Gaj Gaurav Awards 2026 were conferred by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) during the national celebrations of World Elephant Day in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- Seven mahouts and elephant handlers from Jaldapara National Park, West Bengal, were honoured for their exceptional courage during severe flash floods.
- Bikash Kharia and Rajiv Oraon rescued and protected six stranded captive elephants.

Information Booster:

- Ajibul Haque, Ajit Gabur, Momtaz Alam, Amasur Kharia and Dilip Munda helped guide 13 displaced wild one-horned rhinoceroses to elevated safe areas.
- The awards recognise outstanding contributions to elephant conservation, management and protection.
- The event was presided over by Kirti Vardhan Singh, Union Minister of State, MoEFCC.

Additional Knowledge:

- Jaldapara National Park is located in Alipurduar district of West Bengal.
- It is particularly known for its population of the Indian one-horned rhinoceros.
- World Elephant Day is observed annually on 12 August to raise awareness about elephant conservation.

Q2. Which private consortium has been approved by IN-SPACe to develop India's first fully commercial Earth Observation satellite constellation under the PPP model?

- (a) Skyroot Aerospace Consortium
- (b) Allied Orbits Private Limited Consortium
- (c) Agnikul Cosmos Consortium
- (d) NewSpace India Limited Consortium

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) Allied Orbits Private Limited Consortium

Explanation:

- IN-SPACe approved and signed an agreement with the Allied Orbits Private Limited Consortium for India's first indigenous, fully commercial Earth Observation (EO) satellite constellation.
- The project will be developed under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- The consortium will design, build, own and operate 12 satellites with advanced EO capabilities.

Information Booster:

- The consortium is led by PixxelSpace India Private Limited and includes Dhruva Space, PierSight Space and SatSure Analytics India.
- The constellation will feature panchromatic, multispectral, hyperspectral and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) capabilities.
- The project involves an investment of over ₹1,200 crore.

Additional Knowledge:

- The constellation is expected to be developed and operationalised by 2029.
- IN-SPACe functions under the Department of Space and facilitates greater participation of private entities in India's space sector.
- The project is aimed at strengthening India's self-reliant space ecosystem and Earth Observation capabilities.

Q3. Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, observed annually on August 14 in India, was officially designated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which year?

- (a) 2019
- (b) 2020
- (c) 2021
- (d) 2022

Ans.(c)

Sol. Correct Answer: (c) 2021

Explanation:

- Partition Horrors Remembrance Day (Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas) is observed every year on August 14.
- It commemorates the victims of the Partition of British India in 1947 and honours the courage and sacrifices of those affected.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially designated August 14 as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in 2021.

Information Booster:

- The first observance of Partition Horrors Remembrance Day took place on 14 August 2021.
- The day highlights the suffering, displacement and hardships faced by millions during Partition.
- 14 August 2026 marks the 6th annual commemoration.

Additional Knowledge:

- The Partition of British India took place in 1947, leading to the creation of India and Pakistan.
- 14 August is also observed as Independence Day in Pakistan.
- The day serves as a reminder of the human cost of Partition and promotes remembrance of the victims.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the India–Nepal MoUs for High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs):

1. India and Nepal signed MoUs for the implementation of eight HICDPs with a combined estimated cost of NPR 803 million.
2. The projects will be implemented across seven districts in four provinces of Nepal.
3. The projects focus exclusively on the health sector and will be financed through loans provided by the Government of India.

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.(a)

Sol. Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. India and Nepal signed MoUs for eight HICDPs with a combined estimated cost of NPR 803 million.
- Statement 2 is correct. The projects will be implemented across 7 districts in 4 provinces of Nepal.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The initiatives cover health, education, agriculture and digital transformation, and are supported through grant assistance from the Government of India, not loans.

Information Booster:

- The projects are being implemented under India's High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) framework.
- Implementation will involve local government bodies and institutions in Nepal.
- Major initiatives include digitalisation of B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences (BPKIHS) and construction of 10-bed and 15-bed hospitals.

Additional Knowledge:

- Other projects include a Belbari Multiple Campus building and agricultural facilities.
- Agricultural initiatives include production centres, livestock centres, agriculture promotion facilities and cold storage units.
- The MoUs were signed by the Embassy of India in Kathmandu, Nepal's Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives, Federal Affairs and General Administration, and the respective implementing agencies.

Q5. The 'Sandhya Kiran' scheme, approved in August 2026 to provide ₹5 lakh annual cashless healthcare coverage to eligible state pensioners and their families, was launched by which state?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Telangana

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) Karnataka

Explanation:

- The Karnataka Cabinet approved the Sandhya Kiran scheme, a contributory cashless healthcare initiative under Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka (AB-ArK).
- It provides an annual family health cover of ₹5 lakh to eligible state pensioners below 70 years and their families.
- The scheme covers secondary, tertiary and emergency treatments at empanelled hospitals.

Information Booster:

- Around 4.93 lakh beneficiaries are expected to be covered under the scheme.
- The contribution rate is 1.25% for service pensioners and 0.75% for family pensioners.
- The funding follows a 70:30 beneficiary-government sharing model.

Additional Knowledge:

- The Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust is responsible for implementing the scheme.
- It manages beneficiary registration, hospital empanelment, cashless treatment and claims processing through the AB-ArK system.
- Contribution rates can increase by 0.05 percentage points if healthcare utilisation exceeds 85%.

Q6. India's 80th Independence Day celebrations in 2026 prominently commemorated which of the following?

- (a) 100 years of the Indian Constitution
- (b) 150 years of Vande Mataram
- (c) 75 years of the Republic of India
- (d) 100 years of the Quit India Movement

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) 150 years of Vande Mataram

Explanation:

- India celebrated its 80th Independence Day on 15 August 2026 at the Red Fort, New Delhi.
- The celebrations marked 150 years of the national song "Vande Mataram" and highlighted 'Yuva Shakti'.
- The theme emphasised the role of India's youth in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

Information Booster:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi hoisted the National Flag and addressed the nation from the Red Fort.
- The ceremony included a 21-Gun Salute and an aerial display by Mi-17 helicopters.
- Around 5,000 guests participated in the celebrations.

Additional Knowledge:

- BSF's Operation Alert was conducted along the western border from 10–17 August 2026.
- A total of 1,057 personnel received Gallantry and Service Medals on Independence Day 2026.
- The Har Ghar Tiranga, Ghar-Ghar Tiranga campaign was also observed through a Tiranga Rally in Delhi.

Q7. According to the NITI Aayog report "Key Sectors to Position India as a Global Manufacturing Hub", which of the following is NOT among the four high-potential sectors identified to drive India's manufacturing growth?

- (a) Chemicals
- (b) Textiles
- (c) Pharmaceuticals and medical devices
- (d) Solar PV manufacturing

Ans.(c)

Sol. Correct Answer: (c) Pharmaceuticals and medical devices

Explanation:

- The NITI Aayog report identified four high-potential sectors with significant potential to drive India's manufacturing growth and strengthen its position in global value chains.
- These are Chemicals, Textiles, Telecom and Networking Equipment, and Solar PV Manufacturing.
- Pharmaceuticals and medical devices is one of the 12 key manufacturing sectors but is not among the four high-potential sectors specifically highlighted.

Information Booster:

- The report identified 12 manufacturing sectors for targeted interventions to strengthen India's position as a global manufacturing hub.
- The study followed a four-phase approach, including sector selection, assessment, international benchmarking and development of sector-specific recommendations.
- The report was released by Ashok Kumar Lahiri, Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog.

Additional Knowledge:

- Other sectors covered include automobiles, electronics, steel, capital goods, defence and drones, leather and footwear, and food processing.
- The report aims to enhance competitiveness, domestic capabilities, value addition and export-oriented manufacturing.

Q8. Natarajan Chandrasekaran, who is set to step down as Chairman of Tata Sons upon completion of his current term in February 2027, was first appointed to the position in which year?

- (a) 2015
- (b) 2017
- (c) 2019
- (d) 2022

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) 2017

Explanation:

- Natarajan Chandrasekaran was appointed as the Executive Chairman of Tata Sons in February 2017, succeeding Cyrus Mistry.
- His current term is scheduled to end on 20 February 2027, after which he will not seek reappointment.
- He was reappointed for a second five-year term in 2022.

Information Booster:

- Chandrasekaran joined Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) as an intern in 1987.
- He became CEO and Managing Director of TCS in 2009.
- He has played a major role in expanding the Tata Group into areas such as aviation, electronics and semiconductors.

Additional Knowledge:

- Tata Sons is the principal holding and investment company of the Tata Group.
- It was founded in 1868 and incorporated as a company in 1917.
- Its headquarters is located in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Q9. Major General Sunil Kumar Razdan, who passed away in August 2026, was known as the Indian Army's first:

- (a) Para Commando
- (b) Wheelchair-borne General
- (c) Woman General
- (d) Field Marshal

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) Wheelchair-borne General

Explanation:

- Major General Sunil Kumar Razdan (Retd.) was the Indian Army's first wheelchair-borne General.
- He was a recipient of the Kirti Chakra and Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM).
- As a Lieutenant Colonel, he led a 1994 counter-terrorist operation in Jammu & Kashmir against Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists and rescued hostages despite suffering severe injuries.

Information Booster:

- He belonged to the 7th Battalion, Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) — 7 PARA SF.
- He was born on 8 October 1954 in Happy Valley, Shillong, Meghalaya.
- He passed away on 13 August 2026 in New Delhi at the age of 70.

Additional Knowledge:

- Kirti Chakra is India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award, awarded for exceptional courage and sacrifice.
- Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) recognises distinguished service of an exceptional order.
- Razdan's career is notable for his resilience and continued service despite severe operational injuries.

Q10. In August 2026, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) hosted the Meeting of Heads of BRICS Competition Authorities in which Indian city?

- (a) Jaipur
- (b) Udaipur
- (c) Bhubaneswar
- (d) Mumbai

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) Udaipur

Explanation:

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) hosted the Meeting of Heads of BRICS Competition Authorities in Udaipur, Rajasthan, under India's BRICS Chairship 2026.
- The meeting focused on strengthening cooperation on fair competition and addressing emerging challenges in competition law and policy.
- CCI presented a joint study on the emerging competition landscape in the renewable energy sector among BRICS countries.

Information Booster:

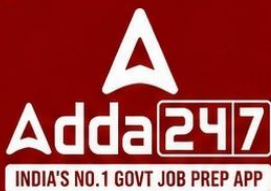
- The meeting concluded with a Joint Statement titled "Strengthening Cooperation to Promote Fair Competition, including in RE Markets."
- India hosted the 10th BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting in Jaipur, Rajasthan, focusing on PartNIR initiatives.
- The 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting was held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, from 5–7 August 2026.

Additional Knowledge:

- The 16th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting was held in Jaipur on 6–7 August 2026.
- Members adopted the Jaipur Consensus to study a BRICS Invoice Discounting Mechanism for improving trade-finance access for small businesses.
- BRICS WAVES Bazaar 2026 was held in Mumbai on 6–7 August 2026.

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