

Daily Current Affairs

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Daily Current Affairs Quiz 21 August 2026

Q1. Who launched the RSVC-AMRIT platform developed by NABARD in collaboration with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to strengthen rural innovation and technology transfer?

- (a) Dr. Shaji Krishnan V.
- (b) Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood
- (c) Amitabh Kant
- (d) Suman K. Bery

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood

Explanation:

- Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, launched the RSVC-AMRIT platform on 15 August 2026.
- The platform was developed by NABARD in collaboration with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (OPSA).
- It aims to strengthen rural innovation, technology transfer and adoption of affordable technologies in rural communities.

Information Booster:

- RSVC-AMRIT serves as the digital backbone of the RuTAGe Smart Village Centre (RSVC) ecosystem.
- It connects innovators, startups, technology providers, academic institutions, funding agencies and rural communities.
- NABARD supports 8 RSVCs under the initiative.

Additional Knowledge:

- AMRIT stands for Accelerated Medium for Rural Innovations and Technologies.
- The platform covers technologies related to agriculture, rural enterprises, renewable energy, education, water and sanitation.
- NABARD was established in 1982 and is headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Q2. Chandrashekhar Y. Shilpi, who passed away in August 2026, was renowned primarily for his contribution to which field?

- (a) Classical dance
- (b) Sculpture and traditional craftsmanship
- (c) Hindustani classical music
- (d) Miniature painting

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) Sculpture and traditional craftsmanship

Explanation:

- Chandrashekhar Y. Shilpi was a renowned sculptor and master craftsman from Karnataka, known for preserving traditional Indian sculptural heritage.
- He worked extensively in wood, stone and Panchaloha sculpture, drawing inspiration from classical Indian temple architecture.
- His works reflected traditions associated with the Chalukya, Hoysala, Chola, Rashtrakuta and Pallava styles.

Information Booster:

- He underwent 18 years of Gurukul training in wood sculpture under master craftsman Nadoja Naganna Monappa Badiger.
- His creations included temple doors, pillars, mantapas, wooden halls, ornamental frames and deity idols.
- He served as a member of the Karnataka Shilpakala Academy from 1998 to 2001.

Additional Knowledge:

- He received the National Award for Master Craftspersons in 2024.
- He was also honoured with the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award in 2014.
- His artistic practices followed principles of Shilpa Shastra and Vastu Shastra.

Q3. Which company conducted the maiden flight of Divyastra Mk3, described as India's first indigenous jet-powered loitering munition, in August 2026?

- (a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- (b) Kawa UAV Pvt. Ltd.
- (c) Bharat Dynamics Limited
- (d) Solar Industries India Limited

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) Kawa UAV Pvt. Ltd.

Explanation:

- Kawa UAV Pvt. Ltd. (Hoverit) successfully conducted the maiden flight of Divyastra Mk3 at the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC), Lucknow.
- The system was developed with an indigenous jet engine supplied by DG Propulsion.
- The development represents an effort towards greater indigenisation in defence manufacturing.

Information Booster:

- Divyastra Mk3 is described as India's first indigenous jet-powered loitering munition.
- Unlike conventional propeller-driven systems, it uses jet propulsion.
- The platform was developed entirely in India without imported jet engines or foreign critical subsystems.

Additional Knowledge:

- The maiden flight was achieved within one year of programme initiation.
- The project supports the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative in defence manufacturing.
- UPDIC is one of India's designated defence industrial corridors aimed at promoting defence manufacturing and investment.

Q4. According to NITI Aayog's 2026 report on India's professional services sector, professional services account for approximately what share of India's total services exports?

- (a) 10%
- (b) 15%
- (c) 25%
- (d) 35%

Ans.(c)

Sol. Correct Answer: (c) 25%

Explanation:

- NITI Aayog's report "India's Services Sector: Insights on Regulatory Regime in Professional Services" assesses the regulatory framework governing professional services in India.
- The report states that professional services contribute nearly one-fourth (25%) of India's total services exports.
- It also identifies regulatory barriers that can restrict the sector's growth and global competitiveness.

Information Booster:

- The report is the third report under NITI Aayog's Services Thematic series.
- It proposes a four-pronged strategy to strengthen professional services.
- Key areas include adopting global best practices, leveraging emerging trends and promoting continuous professional development.

Additional Knowledge:

- Major regulatory barriers identified include nationality and residency requirements, educational qualifications and licensing rules.
- Other restrictions relate to recognition of foreign qualifications and permitted forms of business establishment.
- The report was launched by Ashok Kumar Lahiri, Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog, in New Delhi.

Q5. SpaceX set a company record in August 2026 by launching two Falcon 9 rockets with a minimum gap of approximately how much time?

- (a) 18.5 minutes
- (b) 28.5 minutes
- (c) 38.5 minutes
- (d) 48.5 minutes

Ans.(c)

Sol. Correct Answer: (c) 38.5 minutes

Explanation:

- SpaceX launched two Falcon 9 rockets in August 2026 with a record gap of only 38.5 minutes.
- One rocket deployed eight Globalstar satellites into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) from Florida.
- The second carried the classified USSF-366 mission for the United States Space Force from California.

Information Booster:

- The Globalstar mission's first-stage booster B1090 successfully landed at Landing Zone 40, Cape Canaveral.
- B1090 completed its 14th space mission during this launch.
- The USSF-366 booster completed its 18th mission and landed on the droneship "Of Course I Still Love You."

Additional Knowledge:

- Globalstar is a telecommunications company based in Louisiana, USA.
- USSF-366 was a classified national-security mission for the United States Space Force.
- Both launches used Falcon 9, SpaceX's partially reusable orbital launch vehicle.

Q6. Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI) became the first Indian company to secure S400 laboratory approval from which aerospace company?

- (a) Boeing
- (b) Airbus
- (c) GE Aerospace
- (d) Lockheed Martin

Ans.(c)

Sol. Correct Answer: (c) GE Aerospace

Explanation:

- MIDHANI became the first Indian company to receive S400 approval from GE Aerospace.
- The approval allows MIDHANI to conduct chemical, mechanical and metallurgical testing of high-performance metallic materials and aerospace alloys.
- It strengthens India's capabilities in aerospace-grade material testing, qualification and quality assurance.

Information Booster:

- S400 is a specialised material-testing laboratory specification and certification programme developed by GE Aerospace.
- It is used for approving and auditing Certified Material Test Laboratories (CMTLs).
- The approval will support testing of advanced materials such as superalloys and titanium alloys.

Additional Knowledge:

- MIDHANI was established in 1973.
- It is a Miniratna Category-I, Schedule-B PSU under the Ministry of Defence.
- Its headquarters is located in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding the Esports World Cup Chess 2026:

1. Magnus Carlsen won the Esports World Cup Chess title in 2026 for the second consecutive year.
2. Magnus Carlsen defeated Denis Lazavik of Belarus 2–0 in the final to claim the title.
3. Hikaru Nakamura secured third place, while Alireza Firouzja finished fourth in the tournament.

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. Magnus Carlsen successfully defended his Esports World Cup Chess title in 2026, making it his second consecutive championship.
- Statement 2 is correct. Carlsen defeated Denis Lazavik by 2–0 in the final, winning both matches with 3–1 scores.
- Statement 3 is correct. Hikaru Nakamura finished third, while Alireza Firouzja secured fourth place.

Information Booster:

- The 2026 tournament was held in Paris, France, from 11 to 15 August 2026.
- It was the second edition of the Esports World Cup Chess event.
- The inaugural edition was held in 2025 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Additional Knowledge:

- Magnus Carlsen represented Team Liquid in the competition.
- The champion received USD 250,000 as prize money.
- Denis Lazavik received USD 190,000 as the runner-up, while Nakamura earned USD 145,000.

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM):

1. The Jal Jeevan Mission was launched on 15 August 2019 with the objective of providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to every rural household.
2. Under the mission, the targeted water supply is 55 litres per person per day.
3. The funding pattern for the scheme is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States, 50:50 for other States, and 100% Central funding for Union Territories.

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. The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15 August 2019 to provide FHTCs to rural households.
- Statement 2 is correct. The mission targets a supply of 55 litres of water per person per day.
- Statement 3 is correct. The funding ratio is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States, 50:50 for other States and 100% Central funding for Union Territories.

Information Booster:

- JJM is implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, under the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS).
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
- The original target year of 2024 was later extended to December 2028.

Additional Knowledge:

- Rural tap-water coverage increased from 16.7% at the launch of the mission to over 82% by August 2026.
- More than 15.91 crore rural households had tap-water connections.
- Over 2 lakh villages had been declared 'Har Ghar Jal' certified.

Q9. Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli became the first State/UTs to operationalise food subsidy transfers under PMGKAY through which digital payment mechanism?

- (a) Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
- (b) Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)
- (c) National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)
- (d) Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)

Explanation:

- In August 2026, CBDC-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of food subsidies under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) was inaugurated for Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
- Under this system, eligible beneficiaries receive the subsidy directly in their Digital Rupee wallets instead of conventional bank accounts.
- The purpose-bound subsidy can be used to purchase foodgrains from empanelled merchants through a secure and traceable digital payment system.

Information Booster:

- The initiative represents the first large-scale adoption of CBDC in a central government-backed welfare programme.
- PMGKAY was launched in March 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide free foodgrains to vulnerable citizens.
- The programme is managed by the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DoFPD).

Additional Knowledge:

- CBDC stands for Central Bank Digital Currency.
- India's CBDC is commonly known as the Digital Rupee (₹).
- PMGKAY is associated with India's food-security framework and targets more than 80 crore beneficiaries.

Q10. Which organisation launched Cyber Kushti 2026, a national cybersecurity and AI hackathon aimed at testing human judgment in AI-driven cybersecurity scenarios?

- (a) Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)
- (b) National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)
- (c) Digital India Corporation (DIC)
- (d) National Informatics Centre (NIC)

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)

Explanation:

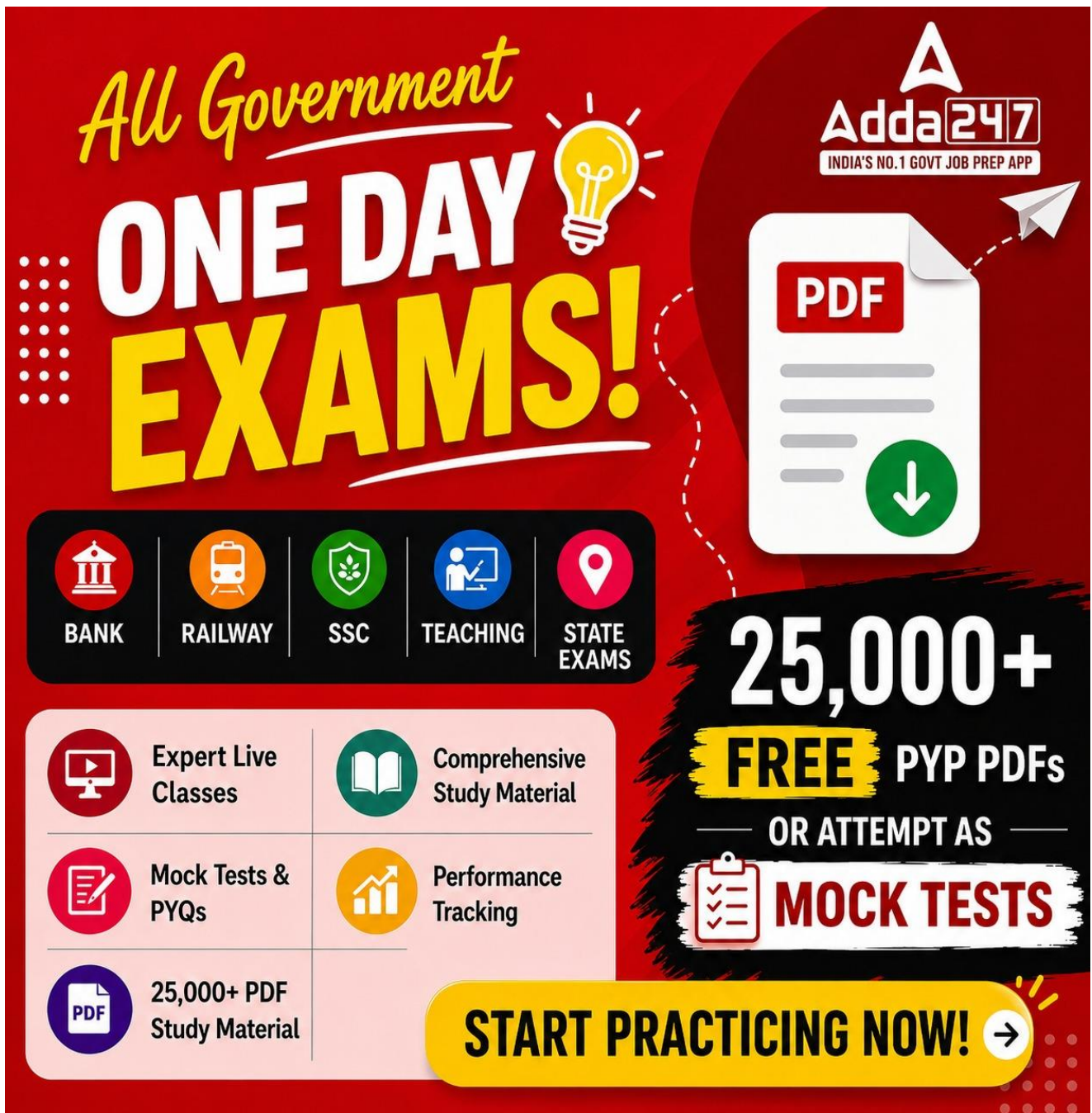
- NIELIT, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), launched Cyber Kushti 2026.
- It is a national cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence (AI) hackathon designed to assess human decision-making in AI-driven security situations.
- The initiative was launched during the 3rd National Conference on Cyber Security, Digital Forensics and Intelligence (NCCDFI 2026) in New Delhi.

Information Booster:

- NIELIT organised the hackathon in collaboration with the ISAC Foundation under the National Security Database (NSD).
- CERT-In is the knowledge partner.
- Participants evaluate AI-generated findings, logs, source code and security scans containing genuine, duplicate and false vulnerabilities.

Additional Knowledge:

- The competition has three rounds: Akhada, Dangal and Kesari.
- Teams consist of three participants and the competition is open to students and independent researchers.
- The winning team receives the title “Cyber Kesari 2026” and a Gada.



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